

A sister publication to **The Free Press**, Morinville, Alberta



A hidden gem

Cody Madu and Bob Legge cheerfully posed for a photo when they stopped by. Legge mentioned this may be his chance at becoming famous.

By Brandie Majeau

When Laura Webb opened the doors of Hidden Gem's Tavern, located in Egremont, AB, in October of 2019, she always knew she wanted a place filled with live entertainment, good food and

clientele that appreciated what was there and kept them coming back. In the past couple of weeks, they have hosted several bands and a sold-out Valentine's Day supper. It's fair to say that her vision is coming to fruition. When

cook/bartender Kelly Banchak mentioned to Webb his desire to work closer to home, his skills in the kitchen and customer service made him an invaluable asset to the establishment.

Webb stated that while pub food is

always on the menu, she delights in offering meal specials that are created from fresh, unprocessed ingredients. Racks of ribs, steak sandwiches, chicken breasts, etc., served with sides like

Continued on **page 3**

War in Ukraine continues, as do fundraisers to support Ukraine

By Irene van der Kloet

It has been just over a year since Russia started its war against Ukraine, but despite Russia's targeted efforts, Ukraine still stands, supported by equipment and donations from other countries. From the start of the war, the world came together to send goods to Ukraine to relieve the suffering. Many fundraisers were initiated. A recent fundraiser was held at the Ag Complex in Smoky Lake to support Kosiv, a city in the southwest of Ukraine twinned with Smoky Lake. Special guests at this gala were the Ukrainians that came to the Smoky Lake region after the war started


and were welcomed into the community, some of them in traditional Ukrainian garments. Michelle Wright, master of ceremonies, opened the gala: "Welcome all of you to this gala and fundraiser for Kosiv, our twin city in Ukraine. The committee organizing this fundraiser comprised people from the region, and this event would not have been possible without the help of all volunteers. We sold out: 100 tickets were sold for this gala, and thank you all for that; it means a lot for us to be able to help Kosiv. All the funds raised tonight will go directly to the Humanitarian Aid

Continued on **page 8**

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



This beautiful quilt was donated by the Smoky Lake Baptist Church and sold for \$375.

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Opening for the Season April 1st!!

Special Easter Market April 8th


2023 Organizational Meeting
March 9th 7:00 at the Complex
Anyone interested in the Market is welcome to attend!

Farmers' Market

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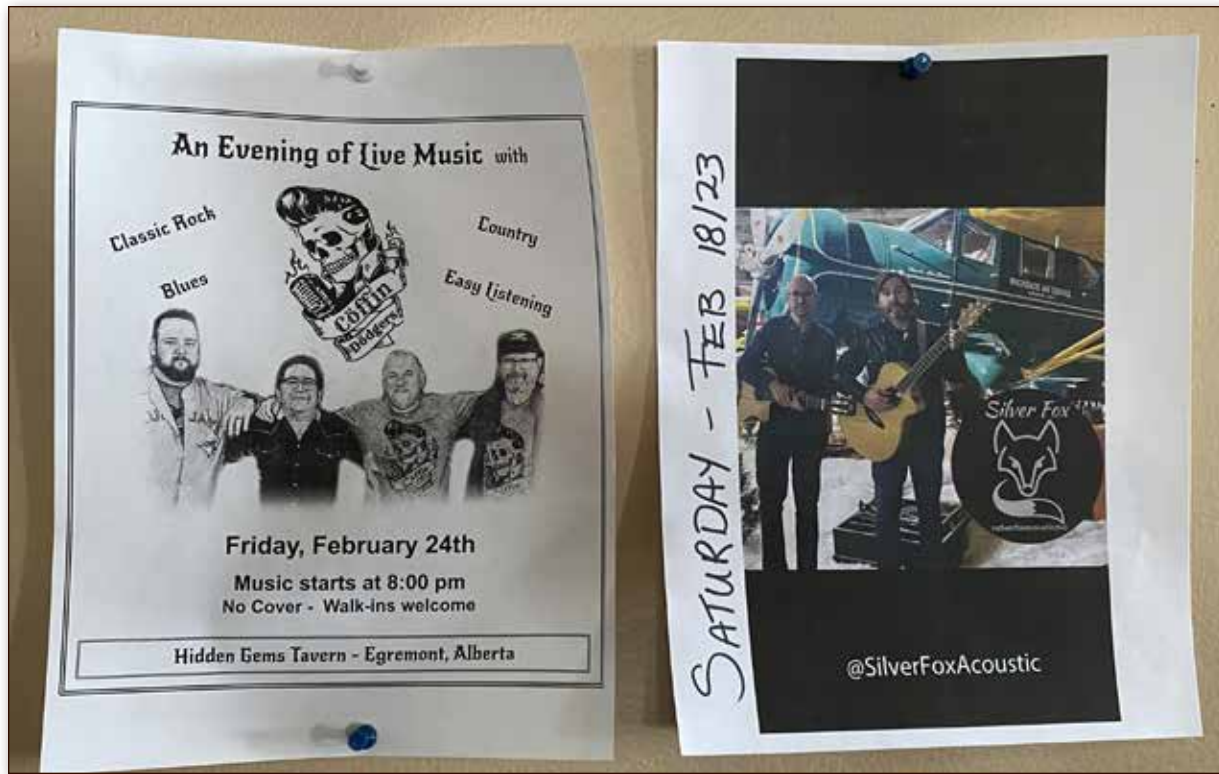


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Continued from page 1

roasted potatoes and grilled vegetables, have all been previous specials, as well as homemade soups. For a smaller community, you may laugh at needing to make reservations for the advertised specials, but it is how they ensure they have enough for everyone. "Don't forget about the bread," Banchak chimed in. The accompanying bread is always fresh and homemade. Fresh bread can also be ordered and purchased to take home. Anything coming out of the kitchen is a source of joy for both Webb and Banchak.

The same can be said about the entertainment. As Webb spoke about the past few acts that have come through, her face became animated. She spoke about how disappointing it is that

smaller communities are losing the enjoyment of live entertainment. Through rising costs or dwindling numbers of customers, it often isn't feasible to host such events. While she tries to continually bring in new (and old favorite) acts, she has found that some are hard to sustain if a professional must be paid. Karaoke is one of those experiences; however, since she has the equipment, anyone is welcome to come to talk to her and host their own karaoke night—providing you can carry somewhat of a tune. And while bands are hired for larger weekend entertainment, she always welcomes local musicians to come in and chat and bring their own talent. Jam for the enjoyment of it, bring your own instrument, use the on-site piano, or simply use

your voice. Webb loves using local artists for big event nights, but also loves any local artists that want to share their gift. Banchak interjected that they love when people get up and dance too, "Kick up their heels!" It shows them that everyone is having a great time.

Local—that word came up many times. Webb mentioned supporting local wherever she can in her shopping. Wanting locals to have a place they can stop in and enjoy, local handymen utilized their skills to build the south-facing patio that lights up on summer nights, local residents that partner with the tavern to offer taxi services when they hold larger events. Local. It is a simple word, but as she spoke, it became a welcoming sense of community.

As with any small

business in smaller communities, there is always a concern that it may be something that fades away. Webb stated that there must be a relationship with your customer base and a reason they keep coming back. She followed to say she continues to host paint nights and other activities and is looking forward to the summer when she plans to host game nights as well. This is an experience; people in rural areas have obligations that fluctuate with the changing seasons. If there is a demand for services, Webb said she will always try to accommodate, but she hopes there is an understanding that if it is a quiet night for her, they may occasionally close early. And always remember, if you've missed the recent entertainment, there is always something else in the works.

Ukrainian dancers compete in Camrose

By Megan Suitor

Members of the Thorhild Ukrainian Dancing Club have been hard at work learning and perfecting their dance routines ahead of a competition in Camrose on the weekend of March 3. This is the first festival of the season for the dance club, with more events planned.

The Culture Fuze Dance Festival is a Ukrainian dance festival that takes place

at the Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre, with Ukrainian dance clubs from across the region



competing in a variety of categories.

The Thorhild club entered two groups in the festival.

"Dancers from Thorhild Ukrainian Dancing Club groups three and four are competing in Camrose throughout the weekend," shared Chelsea Anaka, a spokesperson for the club. "Group three is performing a dance called the Polechka Polis'ka."

All of the dancers are excited to be able to perform and compete in front of an audience. "I'm excited to get to dance and to meet other Ukrainian dancers," shared Olivia Anaka, a

WASKATENAU & DISTRICT MINOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION
Baseball Registration for All Age Groups
 Registration Deadline Date: **March 30, 2023**
 Registration contact: **Bernice Macyk**
780-358-2612

COACHES NEEDED FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

PUBLIC NOTICE
SECURE ENERGY SERVICES INC.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Approval Renewal for existing Redwater Hazardous Waste/Hazardous Recyclable Storage and Processing Facility

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, SECURE Energy has applied to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for a renewal of an existing approval to continue operating the Redwater hazardous waste and recyclables storage and processing facility. The facility receives both oil-field and non-oilfield hazardous and non-hazardous waste and recyclables for the purpose of consolidation, processing and/or treatment prior to being transported offsite for further recycling or disposal. The facility has capacity to store around four million liters of combined hazardous recyclables, hazardous waste, industrial wastewater, and non-hazardous waste. The operation is located at Lots 3, 4, and 5 Block 1, Plan 8122910 (or SW1/4 29- 57-21-W4M) in Red Water, Alberta.

A directly affected person may provide input into certain regulatory decisions, as allowed by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (section 73). Specifically, any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Protected Areas Regulatory Assurance Section Approvals Unit
 5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza 9915 - 108 ST
 EDMONTON, AB T5K 2G8 Fax: (780) 422-0154
 E-mail: aep.epeapplications@gov.ab.ca

The written statement of concern should include the following:

- the application number 020-9716
- describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
- explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activities proposed in the application
- provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- state the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application
- contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer. Please provide a telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Protected Areas will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and notify each filer by letter of the decision to accept or reject their written submission as a valid statement of concern. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at <https://aww.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx>.

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

SECURE Energy Services Inc.
 Attention: Andrea Snodgrass 4811 47th Street East
 Red Water AB T0A 2W0 Telephone: (587) 233-3204
 Fax: (403) 826-4396
 Email: asnodgrass@secure-energy.com

Please ensure the above suggested information relating to the description of your application is correct. Errors may result in the requirements to re-advertise the Public Notice.

dancer in group three.

Groups three and four will be competing in Lloydminster at the end of March, and all four groups will be attending a festival in St.

Albert in May. The club is also looking forward to a performance on April 29 in Redwater to celebrate Thorhild Ukrainian Dancing Club's 50th Anniversary.

Public health inspection reports for public pools now online

Reports for personal services, childcare facilities will be available online soon.

Albertans are now able to search and view public health inspection reports for public pools on ahs.ca/inspections, and will soon be able to do the same for

personal services and childcare facilities.

This additional information will support Albertans in making health and wellness decisions for themselves and their families.

Albertans have had access to food facility inspection reports

online since 2008. While pool, personal service and childcare facilities have always been inspected and reports available upon request, AHS has not previously posted the reports online. New pool facility inspection reports are being

posted and accessible online starting today; personal services facility inspection reports on April 3; childcare facility inspection reports on May 1.

"AHS works with all restaurant, pool, personal service and childcare operators to


ensure the facilities are safe and support the health of Albertans," says Mark Fehr, Executive Director for Safe Healthy Environments with Alberta Health Services (AHS). "By enhancing online access to a broader range of public health inspection reports, this initiative will help Albertans make additional informed choices for themselves and their families."

Posting of the reports is happening in stages to align with capacity to conduct internal audits of information system and to respond to questions that might come from industry representatives.

"AHS has been working with these businesses to ensure they have the resources and information they need before we start posting


Continued on page 5

Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week



March 13 - 17 2023

Substitute teachers are key members of our school communities. Their commitment to our students, and our profession have always been valued, but after these last two years we cannot thank them enough.



- A.T.A. Local #7 -

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HEARING EVALUATIONS

<p>THORHILD March 14th 2nd Tuesday 10-1 pm Thorhild Family Medical Centre 801 1 ST.</p>	<p>SMOKY LAKE March 16th 3rd Thursday, 10-1pm PharmaChoice 134 White Earth St., Smoky Lake, AB</p>	<p>REDWATER March 14th 2nd Tuesday 10-1 pm Diamond Spring Lodge 5619 52 Ave</p>
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD FOR 3 POSITIONS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Nomination Packages can be picked up at Coronado Gas Co-Op office.
Closing date of March 22, 2023

MEETING TO BE HELD AT
CORONADO UNITED CHURCH
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023
STARTING AT 7:00 P.M.
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!

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TUESDAY MARCH 14, 2023 • 1:00 PM

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SIBL SIMMENTALS
 Barclay & Michelle Smith
 Cell: 780-305-6716

KD SIMMENTALS
 Trevor & Kristi Liboiron
 Cell: 403-501-3669



Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Sturgeon County is hosting a free, one-day event for producers who want to create (or renew) an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP).

The EFP is a voluntary, whole farm, self-assessment tool that helps producers identify their environmental risks and develop plans to mitigate those risks.

Producers are required to have an EFP completion letter dated within the last 10 years of the date of application to be eligible for cost-share funding with the On-Farm Stewardship programs of the Canadian Agriculture Partnership.

Please bring a laptop, a light lunch will be provided.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023.
 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., online and in person
 9613 100 Street Morinville

Register by March 15 on www.eventbrite.ca



Continued from page 4 reports publicly online,” says Dr. Kathryn Koliaska, Medical Officer of Health, Safe and Health Environments, AHS. “This includes online engagement sessions with impacted businesses and associations, as well as educational resources and access to inspectors for discussions.”

Visit ahs.ca/eph for

more information on the environmental health teams supporting our communities. Albertans are also encouraged to visit ahs.ca/inspections to ensure they have information they need before choosing or visiting a service provider.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports

and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Our mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans. Our current focus is on reducing emergency department wait-times, improving EMS response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.



Notice of Construction: Radio Tower

Rogers Communications Inc.
 Dated February 28, 2023

1923-2023

Dear Resident,

Rogers Communications Inc. is proposing to install a new radio tower located on municipal property at 57 White Earth Street (Plan 803CL Block R, Smoky Lake Curling Rink).

NOTIFICATION

You are receiving this notification so that you may share any comments on the radio tower and have answers provided. Information on the tower is listed below.

PROPOSAL: 30m Lattice Tri-pole

COORDINATES:

Latitude: 54.111849

Longitude: -112.473059

The antenna must meet the Health Canada Safety Code 6 for safe radiofrequency emission levels.



Sample Photo of Existing Rogers Facility (Lattice Tripole Tower):
 Photo depicts existing facility with top mounted cellular antennas (pin wheel array), microwave transmission dishes, radio equipment, shelter and access road.
Illustration only.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dawn Phillips, CAO - Town of Smoky Lake

Email - cao@smokylake.ca

Address - 56 Wheatland Ave. Smoky Lake, Alberta T0A 3C0

Comments will be accepted up until the end of business on March 29, 2023.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice that the following Development Permit has been approved on February 21, 2023 in accordance with **Land Use Bylaw No. 1272-14** of Smoky Lake County:

Permit Number: DP 002-23

Legal Land Description: Plan 0722038, Block 1, Lot 1

Area: East of Vilna

Division: 2

Land Use District: AGRICULTURE (AG) District

Use Type: Discretionary Use

Proposed Development: Kennel (Animal Breeding and/or Boarding Facility)

For information or viewing this Development Permit, please contact Jordan Ruegg, Development Authority & Planning and Development Manager at 780-656-3730 to arrange an appointment.

Persons wishing to appeal any of the above decisions must do so by filing a written "NOTICE OF APPEAL" along with the \$250.00 appeal fee, to the Clerk of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) 4612 McDougall Drive, Box 310, Smoky Lake, Alberta T0A 3C0, no later than **Tuesday, March 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.** The appeal letter should indicate the development permit number, contact name, phone number, mailing address, and reason(s) for appeal.

Jordan Ruegg
 Development Authority Officer/
 Planning and Development Manager

Helen Sumyk

Helen Sumyk of Thorhild, Alberta passed away peacefully at Red Deer, Alberta on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at the age of 88 years. Helen was born in Spirit River, Alberta to parents, Harry and Antonina Dzioba. Helen will be lovingly remembered by her four sons, Morris Sumyk, William (Joyce) Sumyk, Daniel (Suzanne Gagnon) Sumyk and Henry (Eva) Sumyk, her four daughters, Patricia Henderson, Irene (Faiz Alie Qureshi)



Sumyk, Violet (Bill Mount) Lewis and Barbara Sumyk, her ten grandchildren, her twenty-one great grandchildren and numerous extended family members. Helen was predeceased by her husband, Walter Sumyk, her partner, Alexander Fenske, a daughter, Rose, a son, Bobby, a son-in-law, Leslie Lewis, and her parents. Divine Liturgy and a Funeral was Celebrated at the Ukrainian Catholic Church, 324 - 4 Avenue, Thorhild, Alberta on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Condolences, memories and photos may be shared and viewed at www.parklandfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements in care of Parkland Funeral Home and Crematorium, 6287 - 67 A Street (Taylor Drive), Red Deer. 403.340.4040.

Parkland Funeral Home

6287 - 67A Street, Red Deer, AB, T4P 3V9
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August 6, 1942 - February 28-2023

Please join us in celebrating his life Saturday March 11, 2023, 11:00am at St Clare's Roman Catholic Church. All are welcome.



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NEW LISTINGS
SMOKY LAKE BUNGALOW WITH HEATED GARAGE
Just over 1400 sq.ft move in ready bungalow right in the heart of Smoky Lake. The kitchen was completely renovated in 2012, with new cabinets, built in hidden dishwasher, counter top gas stove, built in microwave and oven, beautiful hood fan, and engineered wood floors. There is a great butler's pantry with cabinets that match the kitchen. 2012 renos also include main floor bathrooms, new moulding and trim, main floor light fixtures, and a high efficiency furnace. The basement is prewired for surround sound for optimal movie night enjoyment. The oversized primary bedroom has 3 closets and 3 pce ensuite. The house boasts RAYOMAX windows and is a spacious open floor plan. Garage and house roof redone in 2009. The oversized 28X30 heated garage, low maintenance deck and a newer fence complete this must see house. Smoky Lake is less than 45 minutes to Edmonton and close to many lakes. **\$299,900. Call Janine 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 pce 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.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

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HEATHER MOELLER: 780-699-7914
TARA FISHER: 780-932-0196
JANINE PEQUIN: 780-349-0361

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PUBLIC HEARING - BYLAW 1615/23
Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Sturgeon County Council is requesting public input on Bylaw 1615/23. This Bylaw proposes to redistrict a portion of land within the NE-05-55-24-4 from AG - Agriculture District to AG2 - Agriculture 2 District.



The Public Hearing will be held on:
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at:
Sturgeon County Council Chambers
9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta
The Public Hearing will also be livestreamed at sturgeoncounty.ca

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 **780-939-8277**.

Speakers participating through videoconference

If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register 24 hours prior to the opening of the Public Hearing (no later than March 13, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.) by contacting Legislative Services at **780-939-8277**. 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 legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions will be accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

Persons wishing to view the Public Hearing without making a submission are invited to attend in person or view the livestream Sturgeon County website at www.sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

Any inquiries regarding the proposed Bylaw should be directed to **Rebecca Schapansky** in Planning and Development Services at rschapansky@sturgeoncounty.ca or **587-404-9866**.

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 Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Officer at 780-939-4321, or foip@sturgeoncounty.ca



www.sturgeoncounty.ca



Pioneer Trail North Foundation

By **Brandie Majeau**

With the establishment of conservation and natural areas, the Alberta government created a volunteer steward program to help manage these areas and promote public involvement. Volunteers observe, record and report what is going on in these areas and are assigned reporting duties based on their interests (e.g., noting various wildlife, reporting natural damage). Richard and Vera DeSmet were the first people to volunteer in all of Alberta. They have 40+ years of experience as stewards of these lands. For the past 20 years their main focus has been on the Halfmoon Lake Natural Area.

When Vera's father alerted them to the sale of a piece of property, then owned by Lafarge, it seemed only right that this area should become an extension of the already existing natural areas. Vera stated that a lot of resources were pooled and people worked tirelessly in fundraising endeavours before the Pioneer Trail North Foundation became Nature's Classroom as it is today. Once the land was purchased by various organizations, each organization received 80 acres as a part of their natural or conservation area. Richard and Vera have now been living on this property for 7 years in an off-grid cabin. It's not a life for everyone, but it is perfect for them. The now Ghost Horse Hills Conservation area was originally slated to be purchased by a

developer, but Richard and Vera were also instrumental in the preservation of that land as well. They had a goal to make it all continuous, with each natural area flowing into the next.

"Pioneer Trail North Foundation is a special place managed by special people that fosters an invaluable relationship between us and our environment." Carmen Cornelius, outdoor facilitator, completely captured what this facility is. The property welcomes you with the name Iskwahtem, a Cree word meaning doorway, and invites you to cross a threshold into which your adventures and connection with the natural world around you begin. It is 80 acres tucked among the 1400 acres that make up the Half-Moon Lake Natural Area and the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Ghost Horse Hills.

Richard stated that their mission is to give young people an experience that will hopefully change their lives. As an extension of their land stewardship work, their goal is to get young people involved. They have adopted a philosophy of passing on the appreciation of land to the younger generation. Since most volunteer stewards are older, there is a need to ensure that young people will follow in their footsteps and take their places. Once Pioneer Trail North Foundation was established, Richard and Vera began their work to utilize the property as a place of education as well as follow the philosophy of nature-scaping, a method

of landscape design that allows people and nature to coexist. "The nature experience is becoming extinct. We try to provide it out here." Richard commented.

On February 25th, a group of local youth and their families spent the day enjoying what they had to offer. Led by Carmen Cornelius, they spent their time learning about outdoor winter survival skills, including what to do in emergency situations, shelter building and fire starting. The afternoon was enjoyed with much laughter as they explored the nature museum, played games, snowshoed and shared true and fictional tales at the story stones. Winter has brought its own special touch to the property, but without the snow, there is also a stone labyrinth and an orienteering course that can be used. Whatever season you choose to visit this magical place, you will always encounter wildlife or signs that it was there as well as the peace and beauty of immersing yourself among the trees and plants. There have been many studies that have shown that health and brain function improve after immersing yourself in the natural world. That is what Pioneer Trail North Foundation strives to offer. Richard and Vera DeSmet greet all visitors with a smile and encourage them to slow down and focus on all the learning opportunities that they have created and nature has to offer, submerging themselves in the healing powers of being outdoors.

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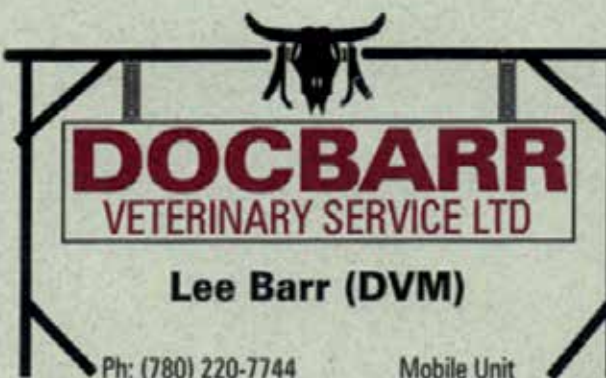


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Continued from page 1

Organization in Kosiv. We support Kosiv and continue to support them through the country's ordeal. We will have a dinner, a live and silent auction and music by the band Tone Traveller. But first, we will show you a video

of Kosiv, a city in the southwest of Ukraine and thank you again, all of you, for supporting the people in Kosiv who live under these difficult circumstances." Her emotional speech was followed by a slide show of Kosiv in better times and a prayer before the excellent

Ukrainian dinner started, prepared by Carmen Bergeron from Vilna. After dinner, it was time for the live auction, led by Danny Gawalko, councillor for Smoky Lake County, who auctioned off the items for the live auction. There were several beautiful quilts, some

made by Dominique Cere, another county councillor and one donated by the Baptist Church. Two large vases with fresh flowers were also auctioned off. Carmen Bergeron donated a dinner for ten people worth \$650. That dinner went for \$800. The band played

and got people on the dance floor throughout the evening. The silent auction items connected with Ukraine: hats and toques with a Ukraine logo, warm winter socks, traditional garments and a quilt. The total amount of funds raised was unknown when article was written.



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Random acts of kindness

By Brandie Majeau

We live in a world that often seems overwhelmed with selfishness and negativity. A small group of local youth has been working together to create a little bit of positivity and random acts of kindness, something our world needs all too much. Kindness Counts is a program offered through the Thorhild County Family Center. It is for ages 8 and up and works with the children in attendance to build personal and collective resiliency. What does it mean to be resilient?

Why is perspective-taking important? What is the importance of their relationship with their community? Their discussions are geared around answering these important questions as well as understanding the importance of gratitude, integrity, inclusiveness and communication skills. Each session wraps up with a random act of kindness that is chosen by these wonderful kids that they then work together to carry out.

In the summer of 2021, the program began, then known as Character Counts. They do



not have a set schedule, but generally they meet during school breaks, PD days and summer holidays. Previous activities have included

creating fun "emergency kits" to give to volunteer firefighters and making cookie flowers to give to seniors that attended Thorhild

Library's spring tea last June. They have also gifted cookie flowers to business owners as well as random people that cross their path. If you

come across a painted rock hidden in town, chances are that was their doing too.

Recently, a Redwater RCMP officer was injured, so when the Kindness Counts Crew gathered on February 17, they packaged treats for the injured officer and his colleagues at the Redwater detachment. They offer a heartfelt thank you to Thorhild County Peace Officer Nagys for delivering the goodies to Redwater for them. And a special thanks to the Kindness Counts Crew and program for making the world a better place.



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BYLAW 1618/23 Proposed Public Notification Bylaw

Notice of Proposed Bylaw and Public Hearing

In accordance with section 606.1 of the Municipal Government Act, Sturgeon County Council is requesting public input on proposed Bylaw 1618/23. The proposed Bylaw prescribes the methods of advertising proposed bylaws, resolutions, meetings, public hearings, and other things required to be advertised by Sturgeon County.

The Public Hearing will be held both in person and via videoconference:

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

(or as soon as practical thereafter) at:
Sturgeon County Council Chambers
9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta T8R 1L9

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 **780-939-8277**.

Speakers participating through videoconference

If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register 24 hours prior to the opening of the Public Hearing (no later than May 8, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.) by contacting Legislative Services at **780-939-8277**. 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 legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions will be accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

Persons wishing to view the Public Hearing without making a submission are invited to attend in person or view the livestream Sturgeon County website at www.sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

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www.sturgeoncounty.ca

Right of Petition

Unless a petition of the electors of Sturgeon County is received, Council may consider passing proposed Bylaw 1618/23.

The proposed Bylaw can be examined on the Sturgeon County website at www.sturgeoncounty.ca or between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday in the office of the Legislative Officer, Sturgeon County Centre, 9613 100 Street, Morinville, Alberta.

A person wishing to file a petition in respect of the proposed bylaw must do so in accordance with Part 7 of the Municipal Government Act and should consult the Alberta Municipal Affairs online publication [Petition to council information for Albertans, elected officials and municipal officers](#).

A petition of electors must be filed with Legislative Services in person between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday in the office of the Legislative Officer, Sturgeon County Centre, 9613 100 Street, Morinville, Alberta. **A petition for a vote of electors on proposed Bylaw 1618/23 must be filed no later than May 15, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.**

Questions?

Any inquiries regarding the proposed Bylaw should be directed to **Jesse Sopko, General Manager of Corporate Services** at jsopko@sturgeoncounty.ca or **780-939-8377**.



Duperron, Frances Sophie (Sanderson) September 20, 1951 ~ February 28, 2023

It is with profound sadness that the family of Frances Sophie Duperron of Thorhild, Alberta announces her sudden passing at the Royal Alexandra Hospital



area in 1980. Life took them back to Fort McMurray over the years but always came back to the Thorhild area.

Over the years, Frances was involved with the Newbrook Fire Department as a

surrounded by her family after a very brief illness at the age of 71.

Frances is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Daniel Duperron, and their daughter, Michelle Garrett (Guy); granddaughters, Madison, Brooklyn and Johannah; grandsons: Dillon, Corbin, and Braiden Duperron.

She was predeceased by her son, Dean in 2018, parents; George and Katie Sanderson, three sisters and one brother of Fort McMurray, Ab.

She was born near Fort McMurray, at Horse Creek. Her parents had a trapline where she learned to live and survive off the land. Learning her Cree heritage proudly. She met and married the love of her life in 1970, started a family in 1971 and raised them prior to moving to the Newbrook

volunteer, and coached softball. She was also active in the music ministry with her church. She was a gifted guitar player and loved to sing. She was often called upon to sing for a wedding or a funeral, or at a local dance.

Frances will be missed dearly by all who knew and loved her. She fought a courageous 2-week fight against cancer. She put a brave face on daily until her last hours. We know she will be reunited with her loved ones and no longer in pain.

A funeral service will be announced later in the Spring.

The family wishes to send a special thank-you to all the staff in the ICU department at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for all the love and care during her short stay. Your care and compassion for Mom was greatly appreciated.



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Proposed Resource Extraction Changes

PUBLIC HEARING –BYLAWS 1607/22 & 1608/22

Amendments to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

In accordance with section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, Sturgeon County Council is requesting public input on proposed Bylaws 1607/22 and 1608/22.

Bylaw 1607/22 proposes to:

- a) Amend the existing Resource Extraction land use district by:
 - adding transportation performance standards to the district;
 - adding Groundwater management requirements & management plans to district;
 - adding community consultation and communication requirements to district and
 - removing the allowance to reduce the prescribed setbacks if agreed to in writing by area residents.
- b) Add a new Resource Extraction Direct Control District to the Land Use Bylaw that allows for:
 - exact setbacks of this new district to be determined on a case-by-case basis at the redistricting stage;
 - built-in flexibility where the regulations can be adapted to the land (and its characteristics) that the zoning will be applied to;
 - a process that allows for public input at the public hearing stage and confirmation of relevant regulations by Council prior to 3rd reading of the relevant bylaw, and
 - a full range of enhanced performance standards applied on a case-by-case basis as Council deems appropriate.

Bylaw 1608/22 provides for the repeal of the Calahoo-Villeneuve Sand and Gravel Extraction Area Structure Plan Bylaw 922/01.

sturgeoncounty.ca

The Public Hearing will be held both in person and via videoconference:
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at:
 Sturgeon County Council Chambers 9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta, T8R 1L9

Important information about Public Hearings

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 or **780-939-8277**.

Speakers participating through videoconference

If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register 24 hours prior to the opening of the Public Hearing (no later than March 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.) by contacting Legislative Services at or **780-939-8277**. 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 legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions will be accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

Persons wishing to view the Public Hearing without making a submission are invited to attend in person or view the livestream Sturgeon County website at www.sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

Any inquiries regarding the proposed Bylaw should be directed to Planning and Development Services at pandd@sturgeoncounty.ca or **780-939-8275**.

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 Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Officer at 9613-100 Street, Morinville, AB T8R 1L9, 780-939-4321, or foip@sturgeoncounty.ca





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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Wednesday, April 25th, 2023 | Where: Newbrook Hall | Time: Meeting @ 7:00pm

Meeting Details

• 2022 FINANCIAL RESULTS • ELECTION OF DIRECTORS* • REPORTS

Call For Nominations

DIRECTOR NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE ADMIN OFFICES IN BOYLE AND THORHILD. DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS MARCH 31st, 2023.

Director voting if required will take place prior to the annual meeting from April 17th-21st. Voting stations will be set up at all North Corridor Co-op locations from 8am-6pm.

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