

Vol. 34 No. 4 Redwater, Thorhild, Smoky Lake, and surrounding areas Wednesday January 24, 2024

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

Family Resource Network program extended for two more years



By Brandie Majeau

The Family Resource Network (FRN) launched in April 2020 replacing the previous Parent Link Centres, creating a newly developed system and structure, and expanding its services and resources for families with children of all ages. Parent Link centres previously focused on free programs for families with young children, ages 0-12 and then

adjusted to ages 0-6. The revision of the new model as Family Resource Network brought uncertainty and unknowns but was also an opportunity to offer expanded services and revise current programming and services.

The Rural Connections Family Resource Network works in partnership with a central hub along with other agencies to

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wjs
Canada

Thorhild County Family Centre

WJS provides free in-home visitations services. Trained Home Visitors provide families with tools to help increase family abilities to manage day-to-day parent stressors and enhance each family's ability to care for their children. They work with families with children aged 0-18 years of age.

Thorhild FRC Programs and Services include:

- Healthy Relationships; parent-teen mediation
- Attachment; enhancing family connection
- Positive Discipline; positive strategies with difficult behaviors; sibling rivalry, youth behavioral issues
- Mentoring and Youth Development
- Life Skills; communication skills, conflict resolution, co-parenting

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Winter Reflections: An opportunity of volunteerism

By Brandie Majeau

With the holiday season wrapped up, the overall prevailing mood is time to slow down and take a breath and reset after the cumulation of a busy year ending with the burst of seasonal frenetic chaos. The arrival and progression of winter typically invites a hibernation mode or the popular term "wintering" which invites the body to follow a natural cycle and rhythm of the seasons, allowing for a period of rest during which a person recharges, pauses, and emerges fresh in the spring, sustaining mental health and balance in a demanding world.

During this period, life often slows down for a moment as well. Winter activities and sports are prevalent, but many events and organizations take a break before gearing up for another year. This process opens to moments of self-reflection and engages the mind to seek possibilities for new directions and decisions in life. As people turn

inward and search for ways to improve their mental and physical health, something simple is often overlooked.

Volunteering is the backbone of community organizations and a community, with many relying solely on a volunteer platform for its success and sustainability. Innumerable clubs and non-profit associations run with a staff comprised completely of unpaid workers. One might wonder how does this tie into the calmness and meditation of "wintering." With busy schedules and hectic lifestyles, volunteering may seem like one more thing to squeeze onto the calendar, however, when making small short-term commitments, volunteerism has been known to provide many health benefits.

Countless studies and research have shown that volunteering is a wonderful way to connect with others as well as improve mood and relieve stress. It can also

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THORHILD

**February 13th
2nd Tuesday
10 am - 1 pm**
Thorhild Family
Medical Centre
801 1 ST.

SMOKY LAKE

**February 15th
3rd Thursday,
10 am - 1 pm**
PharmaChoice
134 White Earth St.,
Smoky Lake, AB

REDWATER

**February 13th
2nd Tuesday
10 am - 12 pm**
Diamond Spring
Lodge
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MARCH 21, 2024**

starslottery.ca
1-855-STARS-68



Draw: March 28, 2024. Licence 665859. Tickets must be purchased in Alberta.
Must be 18+ to purchase. Please play responsibly.

H.A. Kostash School



Last month, during a typical school day, the first-grade students under the guidance of H. A. Kostash showcased a collection of delightfully eccentric hairstyles.



KID'S CORNER



STUDENT

Vayda

second grade

H.A. Kostash School

Vayda is a 7 year old, second grade student at HAK in Smoky Lake. She is very kind, reliable and hard working. She always tries her best and helps with whatever is needed. She is a strong writer, storyteller and reader. She enjoys seeing her new pony and reading to her brothers. One day she hopes to become a veterinarian and a singer.

Sponsored by  Smoky Lake Thorhild

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of **Melvin Ronald Clark** who died on **July 26, 2022**

If you have a claim against this Estate, you must file your claim by February 24, 2024.

with Andrew Lawson

at PUTNAM LAW LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
9702 - 100 Street
Morinville, Alberta T8R 1G3

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

60010 RR202 THORHILD COUNTY

\$340,000



80 acres of good quality farm land to be subdivided off the quarter. South half.

5008 50 AVE REDWATER

\$129,900

**REDUCED**

Close to Redwater school, shopping, Rec Centre, golf and banks. 845 square foot basement less 2 bedroom bungalow built in 1990. Main floor laundry, large kitchen, dining area, 4pce. bath and two good sized bedrooms. 8 x 26 foot covered front veranda. Large lot with back alley and garden shed. Some renovations and flooring are still needing completion. With a few minor improvements this is a dynamite starter home or empty nester, senior living with no stairs.

60217 HWY 63 THORHILD COUNTY

\$424,900

**PENDING**

Beautiful bungalow sitting on 11.89 acres! This home is over 1320 SQFT with main floor laundry, updated kitchen consisting of granite countertops, newer cabinets and appliances. Large dining area and living room with wood burning fireplace, 3 bedrooms on the main level including primary with 2 piece ensuite. Main 4 piece bathroom and loads of closet space on this level. Newer flooring and windows throughout the whole main floor. In the basement you will find a large rec room with bar area, 3 piece bathroom, 2 additional bedrooms, tons of storage and utility room with newer HE furnace. Outside is a mature yard with amazing landscaping and a huge garden area. New west facing pressure treated front deck and east facing rear patio with HOT TUB. Massive double garage with 2 new 9ft doors and new openers, 40ft sea can comes with property for extra storage. Located 45 minutes from the Anthony Henday and on the way to Fort McMurray

#3 LOST POINT LAKE STURGEON COUNTY

\$574,900



2063SQFT above grade with another 1541SQFT in a fully developed walk out basement. The main floor is A frame styling with a loft overlooking the living room and backyard. Large mud room with loads of built in features, bedroom with 3pc bath off back hall, large kitchen with loads of counter and prep space, formal dining room with doors to deck and a huge breakfast area with another door to rear deck. Living room has doors to the front deck to enjoy those early mornings. To complete this level is the huge primary bedroom with walk in closet and full en-suite. The walkout basement has huge above ground windows with two sets of bedrooms with Jack and Jill 4pce washrooms between them and walk-in closets, allowing the center of the lower level to have a large family room with direct access to the back yard. Large double attached garage with mezzanine. The backyard has two storage sheds and a firepit area along with some fruit trees. Recent upgrades include new roof July 2023 & boiler system reconditioned Dec 2022

#40 WATERDALE PARK HWY 38 STURGEON COUNTY

\$599,000



1411 square foot raised bungalow built in 2015 just a couple hundred feet off pavement on 3.85 acres. Everything is neat as a pin and manicured meticulously. Main floor is open design and very bright because of the large windows and vaulted ceilings. Large kitchen with garden doors to deck, island and still loads of space for the dining table. Primary bedroom has a walk-in closet, 3pce bath and plush carpeting. The other two bedrooms on this floor are of a good size and a main 4pce bath. On your way to the back entrance is the main floor laundry and then down the stairs to a fully developed basement with rec room, bedroom, 2pc bath cold room and mechanical room. Double attached garage that is heated. All lights in the home are LED, high efficiency furnace, hot water tank and also has central air conditioning. Large garden area and loads of room for your toys or hobbies. Nothing to do here but move in and enjoy the country.

THE HOETMER TEAM

Give us a call or visit our website to view all of our listings



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Email: rhoetmer@live.com
Facebook: [The Hoetmer Team](#)

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**Austin
Hoetmer**
780-221-2842

Standing tall: Best six months for housing starts in a decade

By ATB Financial Team

Alberta housing starts* made a big splash to finish the year with 44,300 units (seasonally-adjusted at an annual rate) in December 2023, lifted by gains in Edmonton.

After a sluggish first half, starts swiftly gained (and retained) momentum in the second half. They averaged 42,700 units between July and December—the highest average for a six-month period since 2014.

Alberta's performance is even more impressive when compared with the national economy, where starts over the second half of 2023 were down by 7.2% compared to the same period in 2022.

For the full year,

starts in Alberta came in at 36,000 units, shy of the 36,500 units in 2022 due to weakness in the first half.

This was a bit more optimistic than what we expected in our December outlook.

The annual 1.4% decline was entirely driven by a pullback in single-detached homes (-13%) which outweighed increases in multi-family units (+6.5%).

Seven out of ten provinces posted declines in starts in 2023, led by Quebec and Newfoundland & Labrador. With monthly starts down in seven out of twelve months last year, Canadian starts retreated by 8.2% in 2023—the starker retreat witnessed in a

decade, as higher interest rates weighed.

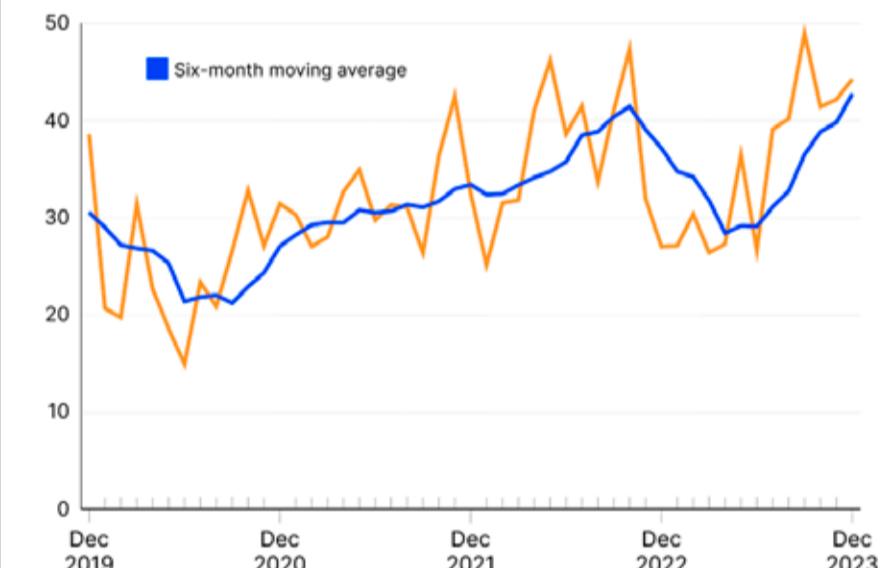
Looking ahead, we expect healthy migration levels to continue to boost housing demand in Alberta in 2024 despite the headwinds of higher borrowing costs and staffing challenges in the construction sector.

*A housing start is defined as the beginning of construction work on the building where the dwelling unit will be located. This can be described in two ways:

1) the stage when the concrete has been poured for the whole of the footing around the structure; or 2) an equivalent stage where a basement will not be part of the structure.

Monthly housing starts, Alberta

Thousands, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, all areas



Source: Statistics Canada Table: 34-10-0158-01 and ATB Economics

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**2024 Business
Licenses are now due!**

New Year, New Fees

Effective January 1, 2024

Storefront Business License (operate from a location within the Town)
Non-Local Business
Home Based Business (operate a business from your home)
Street Vendor Business (Hawkers, peddlers, street vendors, street vendor trucks)
Youth Business License
Business License Transfer Fee

\$100.00/yr
\$180.00/yr
\$100.00/yr
\$100.00/yr
Free
\$50.00

****REMINDER WITH COLD WEATHER HAPPENING,
DO NOT LEAVE YOUR RUNNING VEHICLE UNLOCKED****

- Operational Cold Start was done during this week, RCMP members were checking vehicles in communities
- Property was broken into near Hanmore Lake, members located a suspect vehicle
- near by with stolen property and break in tools, currently under investigation
- Suspicious gray car near Vilna traveling in and out of well sites
- RCMP also dealt with Child Custody issues, Sudden Death Investigations and Structural Fires
- Due to road conditions RCMP responded to collisions
- Numerous types of fraud investigations were reported this week.

REMINDER Crime Prevention Town Hall is January 16, 2024 a 7:00 pm at the Smoky Lake Ukrainian National Hall

**IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON A CRIME CONTACT
THE SMOKY LAKE RCMP AT 780-656-3550 OR CRIMESTOPPERS
1-800-222-TIPS(8477)**





Last week, the Junior High Cosmetology class at Thorhild Central School dedicated their time and expertise to the art of makeup. Engaging in hands-on activities and creative exploration, students delved into the world of cosmetics. This practical experience not only enhances their skills but also allows them to express their creativity and passion for the cosmetology field.

CONTACT US

Valerie at

780-942-2023

redwaterreview@gmail.com



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WASTE MANAGEMENT OPERATOR

Smoky Lake County, Environment and Parks Department has a full-time employment opportunity for the position of Waste Management Operator. The successful candidate will be responsible for the collection of waste with safe operation of the solid waste vehicle.

Full job details and how to apply can be found on our website:
www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/p/employment

Deadline to apply:
Noon on January 31, 2024



PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice that the following Development Permit has been approved on January 11, 2024 in accordance with **Land Use Bylaw No. 1272-14** of Smoky Lake County:

Permit Number: DP 001-24

Legal Land Description: PLAN 7520244, BLOCK 5, LOT 19

Area: BIRCHLAND RESORT – GARNER LAKE

Division: 1

Land Use District: MULTI-LOT COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL (R1) District

Use Type: DISCRETIONARY USE

Proposed Development: MANUFACTURED HOME

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 Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (ISDAB) 4612 McDougall Drive, Box 310, Smoky Lake, Alberta T0A 3C0, no later than **Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 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**



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members and members of the public are advised that an Annual General Meeting of the **Smoky Lake Senior's Club Drop In Centre** will take place on Sunday February 11, 2024, 1:30 pm. at the Smoky Lake Senior's Drop In Centre, 124 White Earth Street, Smoky Lake, AB.

For more info; phone Jeanette 780-656-5940.

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Town of Redwater council meetings via YouTube

Discover a convenient way to stay informed about the Town of Redwater's council meetings – did you know you can now watch them on YouTube? By tuning in, you can gain

valuable insights into local matters and important discussions. To access these informative sessions, be sure to visit the Town of Redwater's Facebook page, where you'll find links to the

council meetings. Stay engaged with your community by leveraging this accessible resource and staying up-to-date on the latest developments and decisions made during these meetings.

Caregiving 101



By Valerie Winger

The Town of Redwater is currently accepting registrations for its upcoming Caregiving 101 Workshop, and the deadline to sign up is January 29. Stop by the Community

Services Office today. This workshop provides a valuable opportunity for participants to attend a free presentation by Caregivers Alberta. The session aims to enlighten attendees about the various supports and

resources available to caregivers. Don't miss out on this informative event that can empower and assist those dedicated to caregiving. Register now to secure your spot and gain insights into the essential aspects of caregiving.

 **Sturgeon County**
February 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 meetings notice in the following locations:

Council Meetings: SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings
Board and Committee Meetings: SturgeonCounty.ca/Boards
Public Hearings: SturgeonCounty.ca/Notice

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Feb. 6	2:00 PM
ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC)	Feb. 7	9:00 AM
Capital Committee	Feb. 8	1:30 PM
Regular Council followed by Committee of the Whole	Feb. 13	9:00 AM
Family Day	Feb. 19	Closed
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Feb. 20	2:00 PM
Agricultural Service Board	Feb. 21	9:00 AM
Regular Council followed by Committee of the Whole	Feb. 27	9:00 AM
Capital Committee	Feb. 29	9:00 AM

Find a Local Community Event!

View upcoming events, or add a community event to the Sturgeon County Event Calendar.
www.sturgeoncounty.ca/events



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Continued from **page 1**

provide safety and an array of assets to all families in the community. The Rural Connections Family Resource Network works underneath this hub, extending down to Healthy Families Healthy Futures and WJS Canada. Healthy Families Healthy Futures supports, but is not limited to, home visitations and early childhood development with children ages 0-6 while WJS Canada provides, but is not limited to, home visitations and parenting strategies to families with children aged 7-18. Following this unique hub and spoke model for the Rural Connections Family Resource Network, caregiver capacity falls upon the individual family resource centers including Thorhild, Smoky Lake, Barrhead and Westlock. This is the

basic model for the Rural Connections Family Resource Network and will not be the same as other areas, noting that other FRN may not offer the same services and may be structured in similar or diverse ways.

The support provided by Family Resource Networks focuses on providing prevention and early intervention services across communities and connects families to each other and an array of supports and services, including free home visitations, assessments, parenting guidance and parent group supports. After the initial roll out of the program, FRN was established as a three-year model which would conclude with a reassessment and evaluation before moving forward. Originally announced that there would be a one-year extension,

Family Resource Network directors were eager to share an announcement received in December of 2023 that the past three years have been demonstrated positive outcomes of the current model and is achieving growth and new connections and partnerships across communities. In addition to the success reflected upon with this statement also came the declaration that the Family Resource Network program will be extended for an additional two years and looks forward to the continuity of the programs.

This announcement eased an uncertainty as the 2024 deadline was approaching, ensuring the stability of funding for the upcoming years. The impact of this decision ensures the ability of continued work development and maintaining future programs.

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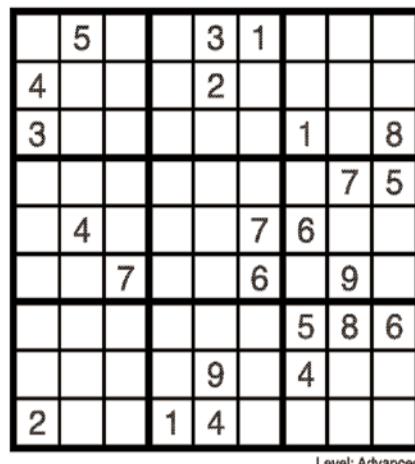
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PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

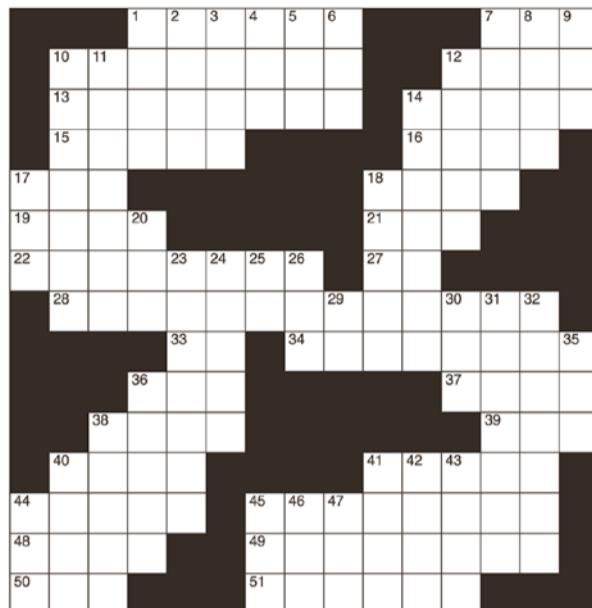
SUDOKU



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



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

- Winged nut
- Humbug!
- One who sets apart
- Circle above a saint's head
- Unpleasantly loud and harsh
- Expressed pleasure
- Feminine given name
- Company of badgers
- Popular Dodge pickup truck
- Witty sayings
- Leader
- Autonomic nervous system
- Premolar
- Atomic #28
- Holiday decorative
- item
- Exclamation of surprise
- Rusk or cracker
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- Eat
- Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
- Ceases to exist
- Male Arabic name
- Series of ridges on an organ wall
- Places where bees are kept
- One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
- Church office

CLUES DOWN

- Classify
- Dismounted
- Produced
- Consumed
- Director Howard
- The products of human creativity
- Thai monetary units
- Away from wind
- Builder's trough
- Relating to Islam
- It can sometimes ache
- Small quantities (Scot.)
- Poisonous plant
- Laugh at
- Vogul
- C. European river
- Type of cat
- Exclamation of disgust
- Stephen King novel
- Pieces of fibrous tissue
- Without armies
- Expression of sympathy
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Previously
- Illegal drug
- Kiloelectronvolt
- Large, flightless birds
- For smoking
- Binary
- Competition
- Mark resembling an arrow
- Containers
- Root mean square (abbr.)
- Commercials
- I.M._, architect
- 007's creator

BATH SAFETY WORD SEARCH



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

WORDS

ANTISKID
BALANCE
BARS

BATH
BENCHES
ELDERLY
FALLS

HANDHELD
HOT
INSTALLATION
LIGHTING

MATS
MOISTURE
RAILS
REACH

RETROFIT
SAFETY
SEAT
SENIORS

SHOWER
SLIP
SUCTION CUPS
TOILETRIES
TRANSFER

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, you may have an artistic talent that you haven't explored yet. Events this week may spur you on to try something new because inspiration is high for you right now.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, your household may not agree on which remodeling changes to make. Unless you come up with a compromise, nothing will get done at all.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



A miscommunication with a loved one could have you trying to make amends soon enough, Gemini. Don't worry, you will easily resolve your differences in time.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, you might be asked for assistance by a close friend having financial troubles. Be careful about lending out money at this juncture because you don't want to cause issues for yourself.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



This week you may have a hard time integrating yourself into a group, Leo. Make a concerted effort to be supportive of others. This can be an effective way to get back into the group's good graces.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Speaking with friends this week could help to address a number of things you're wrestling with, Virgo. Don't hesitate to lean on this support network.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Libra, when you discover a mutual interest with someone you consider a friend, your bond may grow even deeper. Have fun spending time together.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, something important to you doesn't seem to be moving along at the pace you had hoped it would. You might have to be a little more patient in this situation.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



General malaise may have you wondering if you are sick. It's likely nothing more than stress and fatigue. Keep an eye on symptoms moving forward.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Capricorn, a romantic encounter you have been counting on may not pan out this week, or it may be less exciting than you imagined. Wait a few days before reevaluating things.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Don't put all of your trust in new information this week, Aquarius. It is likely unreliable, so take everything that is said with a grain of salt.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Your imagination is riding high this week, Pisces. Don't hinder it in any way so you can explore all of the creativity that is flowing out of you right now.



Division 1
Richard Filipchuk
Office: 780-656-0522
richard.filipchuk@thorhildcounty.com

Division 2
Deputy Reeve Angela Zilinski
Cell: 780-307-5846
angela.zilinski@thorhildcounty.com

Division 3
Joyce Pierce
Cell: 780-271-8458
joyce.pierce@thorhildcounty.com

Division 4
Reeve Janine Paly
Cell: 780-307-5978
janine.paly@thorhildcounty.com

Division 5
Trevor Dafoe
Office: 780-656-8165
trevor.dafoe@thorhildcounty.com

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS January 9, 2024

Below is a brief summary of decisions and discussions at the January 9, 2024, Regular Council meeting:

Draft Bylaw 01-2024 Natural Gas Rates Bylaw

Council gave first reading to draft Bylaw 01-2024 Natural Gas Rates Bylaw.

Sidewalk Plan

Council directed Administration to determine the sidewalk rehabilitation based on its priority plans.

Policy 101 Mission Statement

Council approved draft Policy 101 Mission Statement.

Rescind Policy 202 Regular Meeting Dates and Time

Council approved rescinding Policy 202 Regular Meeting Dates and Time.

Policy 219 Council Inquiries

Council approved rescinding Policy 219 Council Inquiries.

Policy 316 Booking and Usage of the Administration Building Meeting Room and Council Chambers

Council approved draft Policy 316 Booking and Usage of the Administration Building Meeting Room and Council Chambers with the amendment that groups, businesses or organizations may book and make use of the County Meeting Room and Council Chambers at no charge and must receive prior authorization from the Chief Administrative Officer.

Long Lake Ski Area 2023 - 2024 Opening

Council directed Administration not to open the Long Lake Ski Hill from January - April 2024.

Coyotes/Critters Jersey Fundraiser

Council approved the donation of the Coyote/Critters jersey back to the Thorhild Agricultural Society for fundraising purposes.

Coffee with Council

Council rescheduled the January 10, 2024, Coffee with Council to January 18, 2024.

Meeting Request with Minister McIver - RMA Spring Convention 2024

Council directed Administration to respond to the Minister requesting a meeting with discussion items to be provided by Council before January 18, 2024.

PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

If you are part of a local community group or organization and have an upcoming event, we can help you promote it at no cost!

Simply add your event by visiting www.thorhildcounty.com, clicking the Events Calendar, and filling out the submission form provided. Please note that we require submissions to be received at least five (5) business days prior to the event.



Reach a wider audience by promoting your event on the Go East of Edmonton website. Submit your event details for **free** by visiting www.goeastofedmonton.com/festivals-events/events-calendar.

DRIVEWAY SNOWPLOWING/SNOW FLAGS

Thorhild County operates a driveway snow removal program for residents (excluding hamlets) who register and pay for flags.

Driveway snow clearing does not involve snow clearing of the yard. Driveway clearing consists of one pass in and out on the driveway. If custom clearing is required, the resident should make arrangements with a private contractor.

Persons wishing to register for driveway cleaning must sign an easement, pick up and pay for a flag, and place it at the end of the driveway after the storm has passed, in a location where it is visible to the grader operator.

Please call the Thorhild County Administration Office at 780-398-3741 to purchase a flag. Flags can be picked up from the Administration Building or Public Works Office. Registered landowners are required to sign a yearly easement.

- Driveways will be addressed after all County roads are cleared
- Driveway Plowing consists of one pass in and back out
- Each flag is good for one plow only

Residents must register for and purchase flags before the work is done. Fees are as follows:

- \$35.00/Flag
- \$20.00/Flag for seniors 65+ who are physically living on the property and can provide age verification.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM!

Thank you to all the individuals, community groups, and businesses who supported the 2023 Christmas Hamper Program this past season. We collected a total of \$19,255 in donations, as well as toys, gifts, and toiletries.

We are once again inspired to see the community come together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the Christmas season. Thank you to everyone who supported the Hamper Program.

Thorhild County FCSS



Above: Reeve Janine Paly with some of the contributors to the Hamper Program.

Back Row, Left to Right:

Alysha Nendze (North Parkland Power - staff), Irene Rettman (Thorhild Golden Age Drop In Centre), Reeve Janine Paly, Gene Budney (Thorhild Lions Club), and Lore Dallyn (Thorhild Co-op).

Front Row, Left to Right:

Melanie Zademsky (Pembina Pipeline), Agnes Eberhard (Radway Lions Club), and Jackie Vetsch (Thorhild Agriculture Society).

Missing: Representatives from DDC Sand and Gravel, Thorhild Community Association, Waskatenau Lions Club, Waste Management of Canada, and Westwind Energy Consulting.

Emergency Social Services Volunteers Needed

at evacuation centres during an emergency

Thorhild County FCSS is currently seeking volunteers to support its Emergency Social Services Team. The team and volunteers will collaborate to provide aid, including food and lodging, to community members affected by emergencies at Evacuation Centres.



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Corinne at (780) 206-0018 or Tammy at (780) 656-6016.

To learn more, please attend the meet and greet session on January 31, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers at the Thorhild County Administration Building.

2024 Shelterbelt Tree Seedlings Program Now Open

Thorhild County is pleased to offer its residents the chance to order and purchase shelterbelt tree seedlings now and pick them up in the spring. Don't miss out on this opportunity and place your order soon while supplies last!

Visit the Latest News section at www.thorhildcounty.com to access the Shelterbelt Tree Seedlings Sale webpage and find an assortment of species and the order form.



**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: Thursday 2:00 p.m. Phone 780-942-2023 E-mail: redwaterreview@gmail.com

Buildings For Sale
**INTEGRITY POST
FRAME BUILDINGS
since 2008 BUILT
WITH CONCRETE
POSTS.**

Barns, Shops, Riding Arenas, Machine Sheds and more, sales@integritybuilt.com 1-866-974-7678 www.integrity-built.com.

Career Training

BLANKET THE PROVINCE with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach almost 80 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903 Ext 225; www.awna.com.

Coming Events

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 \$799 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.

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2024 AUCTION PROGRAM: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns,

Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, Email Us at sales@switzerauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzerauction.com.

Employment Opportunities
SPRUCE POINT PARK

Association now accepting applications for the position of: PARK MANAGER, 2024 season, May 1st to September 15th (end date flexible). Spruce Point Park Campground and Marina is located on Lesser Slave Lake approximately 285 kms northwest of Edmonton, AB near Hamlet of Kinuso. Manager must

live on site in own RV unit. Full-service lot provided. For complete job description package please call 780-775-3805 or email sprucepointpark@gmail.com. Closing date: Until a suitable candidate is found.

Feed and Seed
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.

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.

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.

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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.accesslegalmjfc.com.

Wanted
CASH PAID FOR GOLD, SILVER & PLATINUM!

Buying coins, collections, 999 bullion, bars, ingots, jewelry, nuggets, sterling, old money. PURCHASING ENTIRE COIN COLLECTIONS! Call Todd 1-250-864-3521.

WANTED OLD ADVERTISING:

Dealership signs, service station, gas pumps, globes, oil cans, Red Indian, White Rose, Buffalo, Husky, Ford, GM, Dodge, Tire signs, Coke, Pepsi, etc. Call 306-221-5908.

PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1637/23

Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1637/23.

The applicant would like to create a natural resource extraction operation on the lands at 21012 Victoria Trail (legal land description: SE-12-57-21-W4). This land is zoned as AG – Agriculture, which does not allow this type of activity.

Public Hearing details

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

Tuesday, January 30 at 2 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter)

Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)

You can view the hearing online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings

To create a natural resource extraction operation in Sturgeon County, land must be zoned as RE – Resource Extraction. The applicant is requesting the land be rezoned to the RE – Resource Extraction district, which would allow them to apply for a natural resource extraction development permit.

Each time land is rezoned, a bylaw is needed to amend the Land Use Bylaw, and a public hearing must be held.

[View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/Hearing1637](http://sturgeoncounty.ca/Hearing1637)

Questions? Contact us!

Jonathan Heemskerk
Planning & Development Services
780-939-1398
jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.ca



Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377 to pre-register.

Speaking via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register by January 29 at 2 p.m. by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.



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 questions, contact the Access and Privacy Officer at foip@sturgeoncounty.ca or 780-939-4321.

Your career ad print and online at **WWW.THEREDWATERREVIEW.COM**



Winter Walking Tips

With the beauty and fun of winter comes the potential for hazardous conditions, particularly when walking outdoors. Slippery sidewalks and icy pathways can pose a significant risk for falls and injuries. Often, thin layers of ice are difficult to see when melting snow freezes overnight. No matter how well the snow is removed from parking lots or sidewalks, there will still be slippery places.

Tripping and falling can cause damage such as bruises and sprains, or even more serious injuries such as broken bones or concussions. So, it is important to keep in mind winter walking safety tips during the colder months.

How can I avoid slipping and falling on snow or ice?

Proper Footwear – What you wear on your feet can help lower your risk of falling. Boots or

shoes that fit well and have a good grip are the best choice. Special items like shoe grips or ice cleats can give you extra traction when you're walking on snowy or icy surfaces. You can buy these items from places like department or sporting goods stores. Always take off these grips or cleats when walking inside because they can make you slip on indoor flooring.

Plan ahead – Make sure you have enough time to get where you're going. Rushing or not paying attention to your steps can often lead to falls or the potential to slip on icy surfaces. Assume that all wet, dark areas on the pavement may be slippery or

icy. If you can, walk around them.

Walk on cleared walkways – Choose well-maintained routes with minimal ice and snow accumulation whenever possible. Sidewalks that are regularly cleared of snow and ice are safer for walking. Avoid shortcuts that haven't been cleared.

Check the weather! – Download a

local weather app on your phone (such as Government of Canada Weather Alerts) so you know what the weather is like before you go outside. Sudden changes in the temperature can cause ice to melt and freeze, making the ground more unpredictable.

Pay attention – Stay vigilant and be aware of your surroundings, especially when walking in unfamiliar or potentially hazardous areas. Watch for patches of ice, snow-covered obstacles, and uneven surfaces. Don't text or talk on your phone and walk at the same time, as this can divert your attention from potential dangers.

Use handrails on stairs and ramps

– If you're walking on a slope where there are no handrails, be extra careful. Consider using walking aids such as trekking poles or

an ice grip attachment for your cane to provide additional stability. These aids can enhance your balance and help prevent falls, especially on icy or uneven terrain.

Spread sand or grit on your steps and walkways – You could also try carrying a small container of sand or grit to sprinkle on icy or sloped surfaces that you can't walk around.

Travel light – Try not to carry heavy things that can make you lose your balance, or large things that could block your view. If possible, use a backpack to keep your hands free.

Taking a walk is a great way to enjoy the beauty of the season and it is one of the best ways to keep fit. But just one bad fall can have long-term consequences which is why it is important to be prepared, plan ahead, and Walk Like a Penguin!



Thinking of planting a shelterbelt?

Sign up for Sturgeon County's

Shelterbelt Workshop

Date: January 25, 2024 from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Morinville Rendez-vous Centre

Cost: FREE!

What will you learn?

- Planting and establishing a shelterbelt
- Customizing a shelterbelt that works for you
- Problem solving

Sign-up online today

SturgeonCounty.ca/tree-program




Sturgeon
COUNTY

Smoky Lake County Community Learning Council

Contact Person Position – Waskatenau

The **Smoky Lake County Community Learning Council** has an opening for the position of Contact Person for the Waskatenau area effective immediately. Duties include: promotion of CLC courses to local residents, collection of registrations and evaluations, attendance at Council meetings and other duties as required.

For further information, please contact: Christine Hominiuk, Executive Program Coordinator at: 780-636-2024/780-656-8277 or Email coordinator@slcountyclc.ca

Lifelong learning ... it's our business



Municipal Planning Commission

NEW MEMBER REQUIRED

The Town of Redwater invites "Letters of Interest" from those town residents who are interested in serving on the Municipal planning Commission (MPC). In general, the purpose of the MPC is to hear and decide on applications referred by the Development Authority Officer. The Commission advises and assists the Town with regard to the planning of orderly and economical development within the municipality and helps ensure that any proposed development is in accordance with the purpose scope or intent of the Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan.

This is a quasi judicial board made up of members of the public and members of Council. Honorarium is paid per meeting of attendance.

The number of times this board meets is dependent upon the number of applications received by the municipality. *The time of day also depends upon the municipality and member availability.*

Closing February 1, 2024.

Please submit your submission to:
Town of Redwater,
Box 397, Redwater, Alberta, T0A 2W0
Or email: devofficer@redwater.ca
Or drop your letter off at the Town Office, 4924 47 Street, Redwater



AHS offers resources to help Albertans quit tobacco

National Non-Smoking Week is Jan. 21-27, and Alberta Health Services (AHS) has programs and services to help Albertans stop using commercial tobacco products:

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medications that can help you quit.
- Visit AlbertaQuits.ca for information and tools to prepare you to quit.
- Talk to a counsellor at the AlbertaQuits helpline (1-866-710-7848). Free for all Alberta residents, it's open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.
- SignupforAlbertaQuits by Text. It's a free, three-month text messaging program that delivers motivational messages, advice and tips to your cell to help you quit.



Text the word ABQUITS to number 123456 to register.

- Sign up for QuitCore, a group support program that provides individuals with the strategies and skills they need to quit tobacco, while connecting them with others who are also trying to quit. This program is offered in person and

virtually.

Quitting is one of the most important things anyone can do improve health and lower the risk of disease. Every year, more than 4,000 Albertans die because of tobacco use, while tens of thousands more Albertans have serious tobacco-related illnesses that greatly affect their quality of life. Tobacco products can cause lung,

heart, fertility and other health problems.

Commercial tobacco use (such as cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco) is the leading preventable cause of disease, disability and premature death in Alberta, and increases the risk of heart disease, lung cancer, oral cancers, chronic lung disease, diabetes and other illnesses. It may take several quit

attempts to succeed.

Albertans ages 50 to 74 who smoke cigarettes, or who've quit after smoking for many years, may also be eligible for lung cancer screening. Talk to your primary care provider, call 1-866-727-3926 or visit screeningforlife.ca/lung for more information.

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.

Smoky Lake Family Resource Network announces new space

By Brandie Majeau

The Town of Smoky Lake Family Resource Network (TOSL FRN) is excited to announce the opening of their new space on February 1. Originally located in the old HAK school, TOSL FRN center was left without a permanent and consistent space with the closure of the building in July 2023. Now, in partnership with the provincial government, they were able to commission a lease located within the Town of Smoky Lake provincial building.

Going forth, having consistent place eases the uncertainty and effort of establishing programs and the ambiguity of where families are to go to access the resources available to them. The anticipation is tangible. The partnership with the government to ensure a safe space

for TOSL FRN allows ability for increased programs and a central hub to work from to increase awareness of services available to families and individuals.

The new center also serves as a safe space and will offer in-person family, child and youth-oriented programs and supportive services. Family Resource Networks have become an amazing support system to communities across Alberta and having a stable center enables directors and staff the opportunity to further educate the public,

what does this network offer? Are families aware that they can access free in-home services that support child development and parent-child relationships? Are families aware they have access to free programming that provides strategies for mentoring and life skills? Are families aware that their own communities offer an understanding of the need for support and that the Town of Smoky Lake Family Resource Network along with all community Family Resource Networks are there to provide commitment

and devotion to the safety and growth of its community.

As TOSL FRN works to shift into its new space, it also works to ensure the dedication to continual support and connections in rural Alberta rural and reaching out, promoting understanding, and maintaining all families have an understanding of how they may rely on FRN. The Town of Smoky Lake Family Resource Network looks forward to welcoming the community into its new center with an open house date to be announced in the upcoming weeks.

TOWN OF SMOKY LAKE Est. 1923

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: Bylaw No. 014-2023 Road Closure

TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to Section 22, Section 230 and Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Town of Smoky Lake is proposing adoption of Bylaw No. 014-2023 to close to public travel and dispose of the following described roadway.

Town of Smoky Lake: Plan 922002, Block 7, all of lane excepting thereout all mines and minerals and Plan 87221656 Block 7, all that portion of lane lying within Plan 242 excepting thereout all mines and minerals.



The Public Hearing will be held both in-person and via Zoom on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 1:05 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at: Town of Smoky Lake Council Chambers, 56 Wheatland Ave, Smoky Lake, AB or online: <https://zoom.us/j/3287551220>

TO SPEAK OR PRESENT AT THE MEETING: Email legislative@smokylake.ca for participation information.

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
Raman Sahota, Development Officer**

Town of Smoky Lake
development@smokylake.ca | 780-656-3674
Box 460, Smoky Lake AB T0A 3C0

TO VIEW THE BYLAW: Visit smokylake.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.

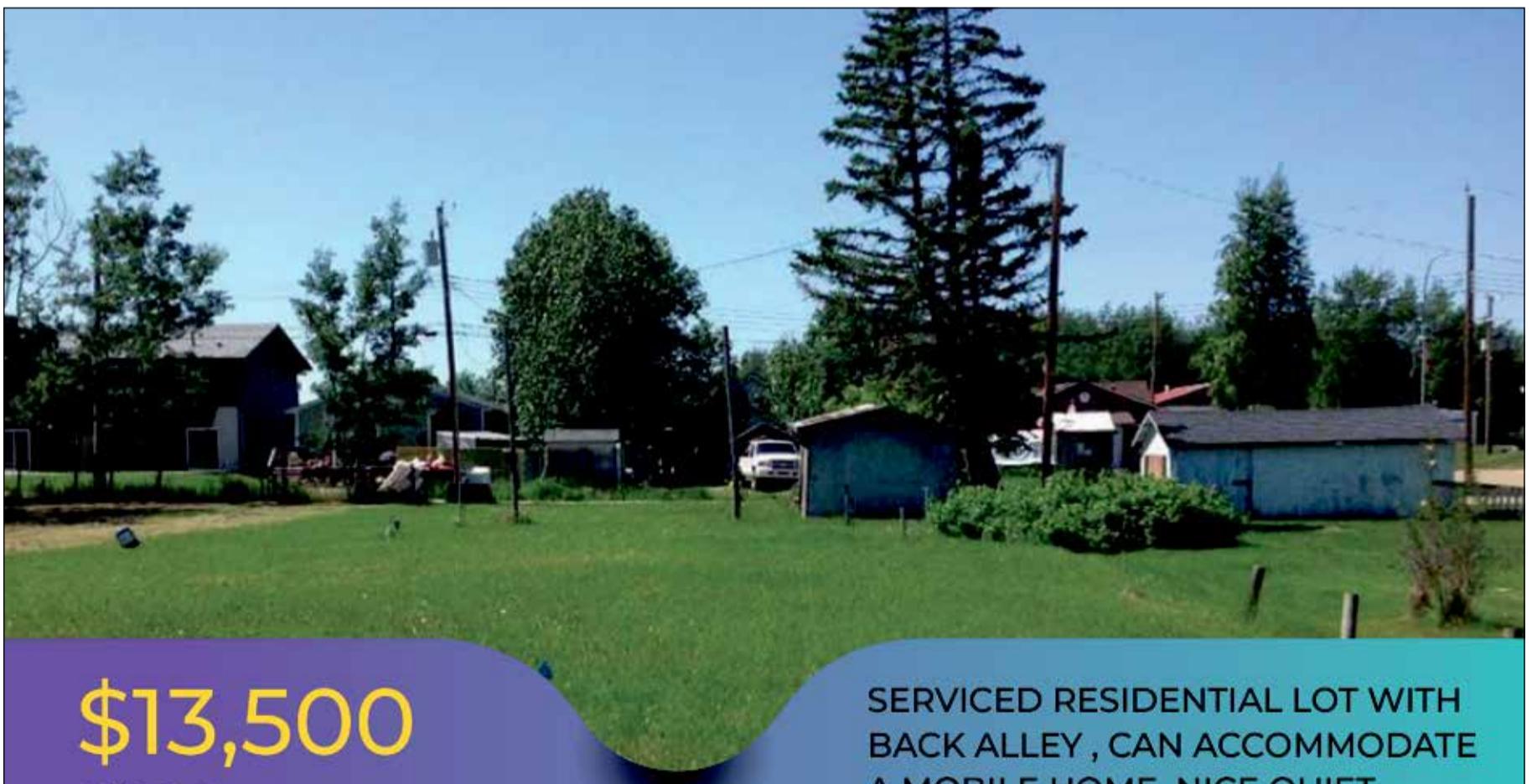


**Six-plex for sale
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Be a land baron for under 1 Million ... 4 two-bedroom and 2 one-bedroom units on 2 levels. 1974 construction on a .331 AC lot. Well organized property with tons of future potential. Metal roof, 20 years old, new on demand hot water system 2 years old, Electrical is the responsibility of the tenants, parking is ample and open. Storage available for all units. City water, private septic. Private lot with tall hedges. Investment-wise, Cap rate in the range of 6% and with increase in rents you will be laughing all the way to the bank. Some upgrades may be required. This is a smart opportunity worth looking into.

Contact Chad Wozniak with Chamberlain Property Group in Penticton at 250-488-3304.



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advantage (Whitecourt)

Continued from **page 1**

increase self-esteem and well-being and is a fantastic way to contribute to the community. As individuals emerge from the sleepiness of winter, refreshed and ready to partake in the events and activities that unfold, organizers repeatedly remark that none of these things could happen without the amazing assets of all the behind-the-scenes volunteers.

The county fairs and rodeos, the parades and children's festivities, the maintenance of historical sites, the clubs and library boards are all made up of dedicated teams of groups and individuals working to make the world around them a better place. Connecting with organizations and non-profits all have a similar story; their teams of volunteers are aging and saying that less and less

individuals are stepping in to fill their shoes. This dedication of unpaid time and commitment is quite often the thread weaving throughout a community and creating the magic that pulls everyone together. Becoming a part of these events creates a sense of positivity that radiates into other areas of life and may increase happiness and a renewed zest for life. Volunteering

should not be a chore; it can become an extension of hobbies or motivation to connect outside one's comfort zone. As winter slowly fades into spring, spend the "wintering" days in thoughtful reflection, if an office job feels stagnant, look into community garden opportunities. Look towards the local Legions, Lion's Clubs, Ag Societies, and sporting groups. The possibilities are endless for groups

accepting helping hands. Step into the new year renewed, refreshed and ready to make a difference in oneself and the surrounding community.



PUBLIC HEARING - Bylaw 1639/23

Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

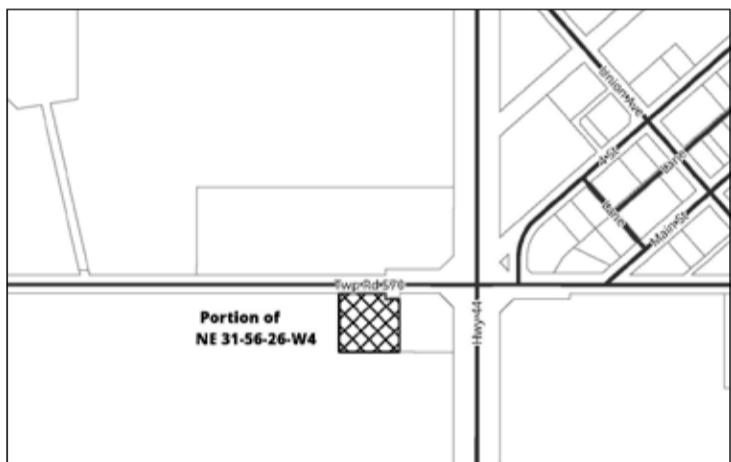
Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1639/23.

Sturgeon County regularly undertakes zoning audits to ensure each parcel has the correct zoning to reflect the use of the land. The County is proposing the following minor housekeeping updates to the Land Use Bylaw, which will change the zoning of three properties to better reflect the use of the land.

Parcel #1

Pt. NE-31-56-26-W4

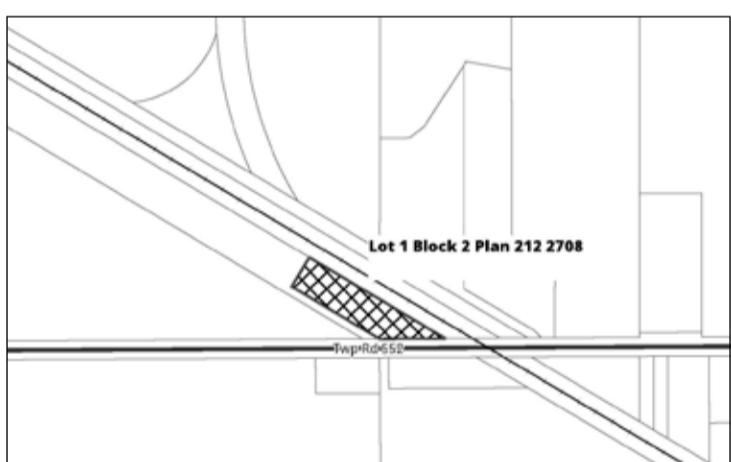
- Rezoning from AG – Agriculture to PU – Public Utility for the new location of the Alcomdale water truck fill station.



Parcel #2

Lot 1, Block 2, Plan 2122708

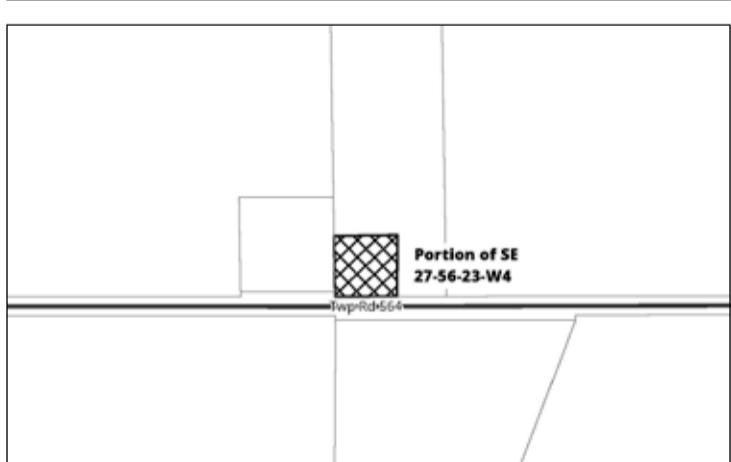
- Rezoning a portion of a recently subdivided lot in Carbondale from AG – Agriculture to R3 – Hamlet Unserviced to match the rest of the hamlet.



Parcel #3

Pt. SE-27-56-23-W4

- Rezoning a small portion of land within the Goose Hummock Golf Resort from AG – Agriculture to REC – Recreational to match the rest of the resort area.



Public Hearing details

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

Tuesday, January 30 at 1 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter)

Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)

You can view the hearing online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings

Questions? Contact us!

Jonathan Heemskerk
Planning & Development Services
780-939-1398
jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.ca

Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377 to pre-register.

Speaking via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register by January 29 at 1 p.m. by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at 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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or visit your community newspaper



**COMMUNITY
OPPORTUNITY**

SEEKING MPC MEMBER-AT-LARGE

The Town of Smoky Lake is seeking a Member-at-Large to Join our **Municipal Planning Commission (MPC)**. As a Member at Large, you'll play a vital role in:

- Influencing zoning regulations and land use planning
- Reviewing development proposals for a thriving community
- Engaging in impactful decision-making processes.

Public Member-at-Large shall receive the current per diem rate for meeting attendance as well as the current mileage rate for travel to and from meetings.

ATTN: DEVELOPMENT
Box 460
Smoky Lake AB
T0A 3C0

Interested individuals are encouraged to email development@smokylake.ca or call 780-656-3674 for more information.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of Joan Beverly Tchir (Darr)
who died on November 23, 2023

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by **April 02, 2024** and provide details of your claim.

with **HARRY J. JONG**
Solicitor for the Personal Representative

at Harry J. Jong Professional Corporation
Box 1379, 5119-50th St.
High Prairie, Alberta T0G 1E0
Facsimile: (780) 523-5550

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

The impact of local business closures on a community: A closer look at Redwater's recent losses

In the heart of any community, local businesses are the lifeblood that sustains the economy and fosters a sense of identity. Unfortunately, the town of Redwater recently experienced the closure of two beloved local establishments in early January, sparking concerns about the broader implications for the community.

Local businesses are more than just places to purchase goods and services; they play a crucial role in shaping the character and vibrancy of a community. These establishments often serve as gathering spots, fostering social connections and a sense of community pride. Moreover, they contribute to the unique identity of a town, offering residents a distinct flavour that sets them apart from larger urban centers.

The closure of local businesses can have a profound

economic impact on a community. Redwater, like many other small towns, relies on the revenue generated by these establishments to fuel its local economy. When businesses shut their doors, it often leads to a decrease in job opportunities, leaving employees without work and contributing to rising unemployment rates.

This, in turn, can create a ripple effect, affecting other businesses that relied on the patronage of the now-closed establishments.

Beyond the economic ramifications, the closure of local businesses can result in a loss of the town's unique character. Each establishment contributes to the town's personality, creating a tapestry of diverse offerings that collectively define the community. The disappearance of these businesses may lead to a homogenization of

the local landscape, eroding the distinctiveness that residents cherish.

Local businesses are often deeply involved in community initiatives, supporting local events, sports teams, and charitable causes. The closure of these establishments can result in the loss of such support, impacting the fabric of community engagement. Residents may find themselves with fewer opportunities to connect, share experiences, and collectively contribute to the betterment of the town.

While the closure of local businesses is undoubtedly a setback, communities like Redwater have the power to bounce back. Supporting remaining local establishments becomes crucial during these times. Residents can play an active role in revitalizing their town by consciously choosing to patronize local businesses, participating

in community events, and advocating for initiatives that promote economic growth and entrepreneurship.

The closure of two local businesses in Redwater serves as a poignant reminder of the interconnectedness between businesses and the community they serve. Beyond the immediate economic challenges, the town faces a loss of identity and communal spirit. However, by rallying together and actively supporting the local businesses that remain, Redwater has the potential to not only recover but also emerge stronger, with a renewed sense of community pride and resilience.



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SCHOOL NEWS

Redwater's Ochre Park School



Ochre Park School is proud to have a House League program. Every student is assigned a team and corresponding color when they join our school which they keep for their entire learning journey at Ochre Park. Students and staff participate in various fun activities, such as wear your team color, school wide games, wacky hair day, and caught you being good awards happen every week during the school year. Points are given during these events and are recorded on a community bulletin board. The winning team is announced at the end of the school year. This friendly competition instills a sense of team spirit, belonging and helps to build friendships at every grade level. Thank you to Ochre Park Parent Council and Society for purchasing team colored t-shirts for the entire school!

Redwater School



Ending the year with flair, Redwater School celebrated a successful Staff vs. Students hockey game. The staff secured another win, capping off 2023 on a high note. Kudos to the staff for their triumph and to all the participants for contributing to the spirited atmosphere.

PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1632/23

Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1632/23.

Sturgeon County is proposing updates to the Land Use Bylaw in response to public, Council and developer input. The changes include updates for clarity and efficiency, which will help the County provide improved customer service.

[View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/Hearing1632](http://sturgeoncounty.ca/Hearing1632)

Public Hearing details

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

Tuesday, January 30 at 1:30 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter)
Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)

You can view the hearing online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings

Questions? Contact us!

Tyler McNab
Planning & Development Services
780-939-8342
tmcnab@sturgeoncounty.ca

Proposed updates include the following:

- Adding definitions for terminology included in the Land Use Bylaw.
- Adding information to clarify the bylaw, such as noting that development must align with approved land use plans, adding that development decisions will be posted to the County website, and clarifying hazardous lands regulations.
- Changing site grading from a permitted use to a discretionary use on an interim basis while administration reviews site grading policy and regulations. This change means adjacent landowners are notified of proposed developments and have an opportunity to provide feedback.
- Requiring event venue operators to be onsite during events.
- Making amendments that improve efficiency, including allowing a dimensional tolerance of constructed buildings, allowing minor revisions to issued permits, and providing greater variance authority to avoid automatic refusal of applications.
- Providing clarity about when a proposed development is referred to Canadian Forces Base Edmonton for input.

A bylaw is needed to amend the existing Land Use Bylaw, and a public hearing must be held.

Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377 to pre-register.

Speaking via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register by January 29 at 1:30 p.m. by contacting Legislative Services at **780-939-8277** or **780-939-1377**. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

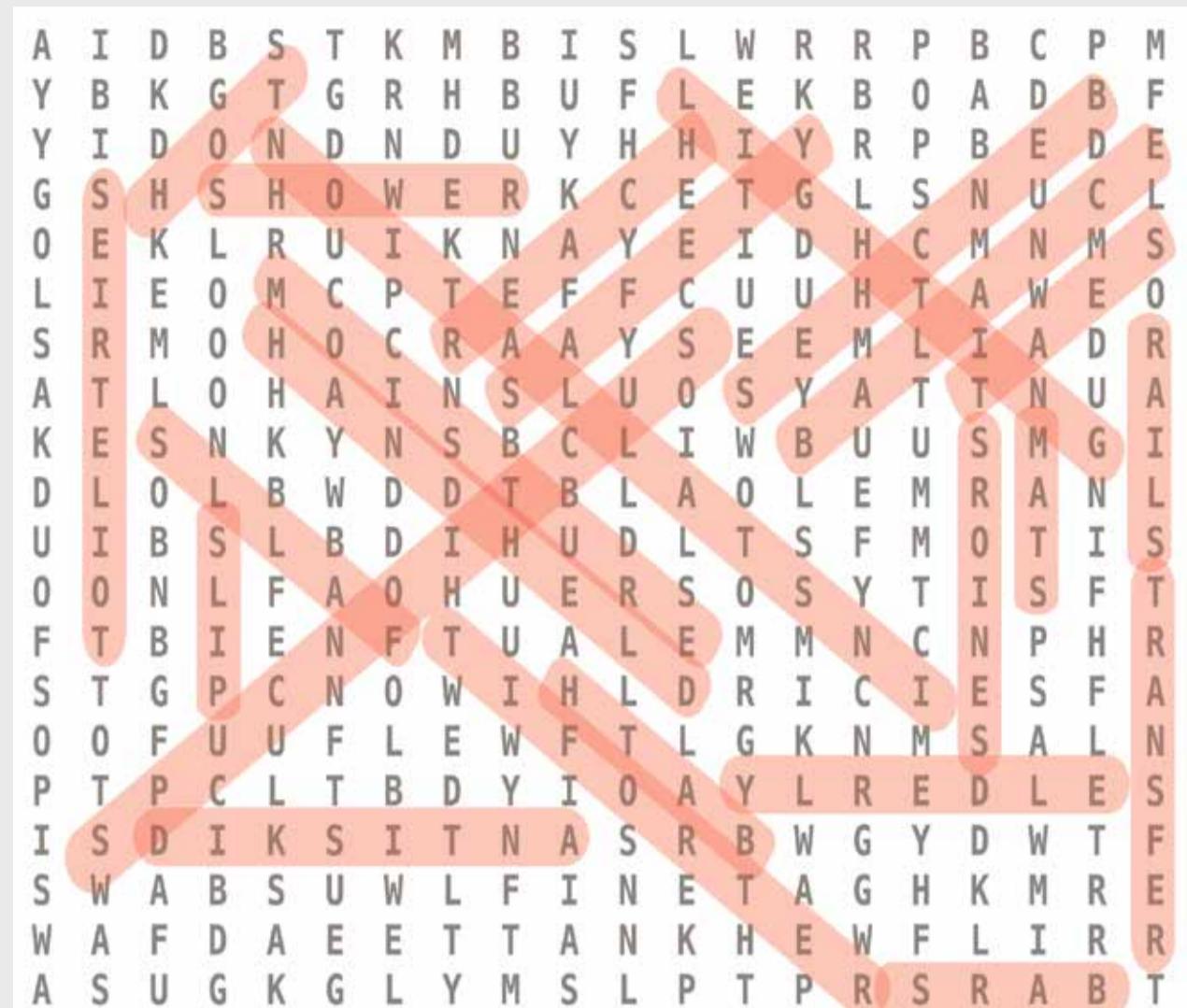
If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at 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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9	1	4	3	7	2	5	8	6
8	7	3	6	9	5	4	2	1
2	6	5	1	4	8	7	3	9



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.

A laptop or tablet is required.
A light lunch will be provided.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
9:00 a.m. - Noon

9613 100 Street, Morinville
Register by Feb. 12 on www.eventbrite.ca



Sturgeon County's 100 Year Farm Family Award recognizes families who have lived and farmed in the County for 100 years or more.

If you meet the following criteria, your family may qualify for this award!

- Your family has owned the land for at least one hundred consecutive years, which can be demonstrated through documentation and records of ownership.
 - You are a direct descendant of the homesteader.
 - Your family is currently farming the land.
 - You, or another direct descendant of the original homesteader, still reside on the parcel of land.

**Applications can be submitted with ownership records and
other pertinent information.**

Online: www.stunzschule-austria.at/formular.html

For more information, or assistance with submitting an application, please visit:
www.sturgeoncounty.ca/AgAwards, or call
780-920-8249.

The deadline for application submissions is Friday, March 22, 2024.

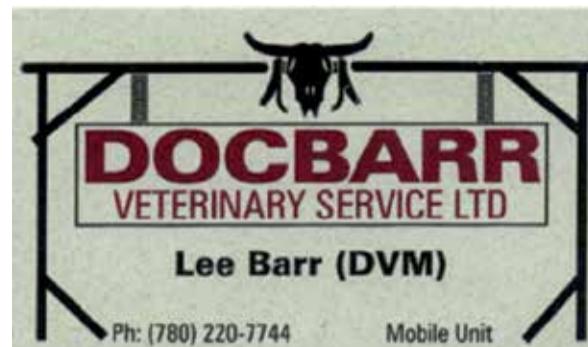
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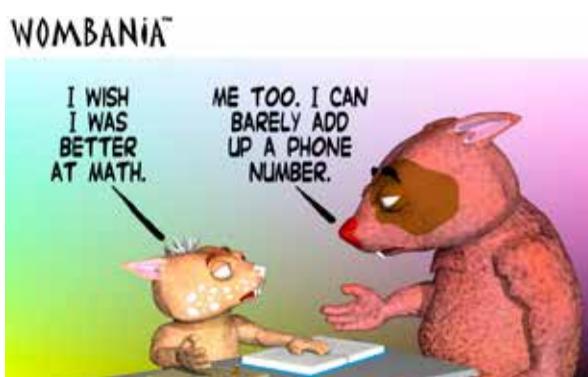
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