

Thorhild Ukrainian Dance Club prepares for Malanka



Photos courtesy of Thorhild Ukrainian Dance Club



By Brandie Majeau

The Thorhild Ukrainian Dance Club is pleased to welcome numerous new members this dance season. Following their 50th anniversary, the club's increased enrollment has allowed them to establish five

distinct groups, showcasing the talents of students ranging from ages three to sixteen. These groups are being cultivated into remarkable ambassadors of heritage and culture, mastering the art of Ukrainian dance. The upcoming celebration of Malanka

is steeped in traditional ceremonies and captivating folklore. Ukrainians traditionally mark this day, believing that good and evil spirits descend upon the earth. To welcome the good and ward off evil, celebrations abound with dance,

dining, and song. The Thorhild Ukrainian Dance Club is diligently preparing for this event, set to perform at the Westlock District Community Hall on January 13th. Instructor Odessa Bahri, who currently

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Christmas fellowship among the books

By Brandie Majeau

As the warmth of Christmas approached, Radway embraced the sense of community that only local libraries can foster. These central hubs of community offer a welcoming and accepting environment, drawing residents into their embrace. On December 20th, Radway Library hosted its annual Christmas gathering. The library was adorned with festive décor and place settings, transforming the traditional reading space into a venue of fellowship and seasonal celebration. Librarian Sandra Moschansky played a pivotal role, much like

Mother Christmas guiding Santa, as she infused the event with her festive spirit. While other events highlighted special guests, gifts, and a plethora of activities, Radway Library focused on one of Christmas's core values: togetherness. Although there was no chimney in sight, the front doors swung open, revealing an array of festive treats available not only for admiration but also for enjoyment. Patrons arrived either alone or with friends, experiencing the warmth of a small-town gathering. Throughout the afternoon, many

continued on page 7



Photo courtesy of Radway Library

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Smoky Lake RCMP lay charges for possession of stolen property

On Dec. 18, 2023, at approximately 7:40 p.m. Smoky Lake RCMP responded to a call of a suspicious person at a rural property on Highway 28 and Range Road 130. RCMP attended and located two males attempting to steal property from the residence, subsequently both were arrested. During

a search, RCMP located numerous other stolen items in their possession.

As a result of the investigation, Ronald Vernon Scott (54) a resident of Onoway has been charged with:

- Possession of stolen property under \$5,000
 - Trespass at night
- Trevor Wayne Skoro (50), a

resident of Onoway has been charged with:

- Possession of stolen property under \$5,000
- Trespass at night
- Fail to comply

Both were remanded in custody with their next court dates set for Jan. 25, 2024, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Fort Saskatchewan.



DISCRETIONARY USE PERMITS ISSUED – APPEAL BY JANUARY 9, 2024

Take notice that the Municipal Planning Commission for Thorhild County has approved the following Development Application(s):

i) Legal Description: Lot 9 PUL, Block 11, Plan 912 3418; Hamlet of Long Lake
 Land Use Designation: RL – Long Lake Residential District
 Proposal: For a Variance of a Front Yard Setback for a Proposed Single-Family Dwelling (1,792 sq. ft. with two decks sized 14' x 44' and 5' x 17') as well as approval of an existing 12 X16 ft. shed and 4 X 16 ft. woodshed.
 Division: 5
 Permit # DP23-2604

Date of Decision: December 19, 2023; Appeal by: 4:00 PM, January 9, 2024

Additional Information:
 For additional information regarding this permit, please contact Manager of Planning and Development David Blades at 780-398-3741 Ext. 2825 or email: David.Blades@thorhildcounty.com.

THE LAND USE BY-LAW provides that any person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Municipal Development Authority may appeal by serving written Notice of Appeal to the Clerk of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, PO Box 10, Thorhild, AB TOA 3J0 within twenty one (21) days after the decision is made. Any party wishing to initiate an appeal to be heard by the County's Subdivision and Development Appeal Board must submit a non-refundable fee of \$200.00 in order for the appeal to be accepted.

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Rudolph "Rudy" Joseph Willisko

Rudolph "Rudy" Joseph Willisko was born in Holden Alberta on April 9, 1937. He passed away on December 8, 2023 in the Westlock Alberta.

Those who predeceased him were his parents Michael and Sofie, two brothers Wilfred and Vince, two daughters Jill and

Jenifer.

Surviving him is his brother Lenard, first wife Joanne Rogers, second wife Joanne Hicks, third wife Jill Brooks and his daughter Pearl Dawn and sons Danard and Bart.

His life was lived in Smoky Lake for the past 50 years.

Melnyk, Peter

Our family is heartbroken to announce the sudden passing of our cherished Father and Gidi, Peter Melnyk, of Weasel Creek, Alberta. Peter passed away suddenly on



Irene; siblings, Andrew Melnyk, John Melnyk, Anne Sawchuk, Katie Shipka, Mary Sawchuk, Olga Klem, Mike Melnyk, and Stella Sumka; sister-in-law, Josephine Skrypchuk; brothers-in-law,

December 13, 2023, at the age of 82 years. His sense of humour and loving heart will be greatly missed.

Left to cherish his memory are children, Carrie (Mark) Robinson, Patrick Melnyk, and Todd (Cindy) Melnyk; grandchildren, Dylan (Cara), Branden (Emma), Cody (Falon), Brittany (Robert); great-grandson, Zander; brother, Nick (Madeline); sister-in-law, Olga Melnyk; brother-in-law, Russell Skrypchuk; numerous nieces, nephews, extended relatives, and friends. Peter was predeceased by his wife,

Andrew Sawchuk, Thomas Sawchuk, Terry Sumka, Alex Shipka, Joseph Klem; uncle, John Sr. Melnyk; parents, Anna and Mykhailo; mother-in-law, Helen Skrypchuk and father-in-law, Oliver Skrypchuk.

A Funeral Rite was held Friday, December 22, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Radway Hall, 5108 - 51 Street, Radway. Reverend Father Michael Maranchuk officiated with interment in St. Michael's Cemetery, Weasel Creek.

In lieu of other tributes, donations may be made to St. Michael's Cemetery, Weasel Creek.

Photos, memories, and condolences may be shared through www.parkmemorial.com



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Gelinas, Ronald Armand "Ron"

GELINAS, Ronald Armand "Ron" – age 84, passed away peacefully in Redwater Alberta, on December 9, 2023. He was born in 1939 in Windsor, ON to Armand and Agnes (Parent) Gelinas.

Ron was a proud veteran, having served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1956-1969. He went on to work in Herc Operations at PWA and later at the NWT Housing Corporation. Throughout his life and career Ron travelled for work all over the world, visiting 72 countries, some many times over.

Ron is survived by his children Terry (Romi), Patti, Michael (Sandi), his brother Grant (Mary-Jo), his best friend Molly, his grandchildren Kyle, Stefan,

Taison, James, Chloe, Jordi, Kenny, Brendan, Taylor and 7 great grandchildren. He is predeceased by his wife of 49 years Madeleine Hayes, his brother Ken, and sisters Barb, Shirley and Sandra.

Special thanks to the excellent staff at Redwater Hospital. There will be no service and in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ron's name to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 251 in Redwater Alberta.

When asked how he was doing in his later years, Ron always said "Tickety Boo". It is a reminder to make the most of each day and to not sweat the small stuff. Ron was loved by many, and he will be greatly missed.

Smoky Lake RCMP arrest and charge two for robbery

On Dec. 21, 2023, at approximately 8:40 p.m. Smoky Lake RCMP responded to a firearms complaint in Smoky Lake. The victim reported that two suspects brandished a firearm, stole his vehicle and discharged a round. The victim was not hurt in the interaction.

Smoky Lake RCMP, with the assistance of Cold Lake RCMP, St. Paul RCMP, Fort Saskatchewan RCMP, Lac La Biche RCMP, Boyle RCMP and Redwater RCMP, located the vehicle Northeast of Goodfish Lake.

One of the suspects surrendered to police and was arrested without incident. The second suspect fled on

foot. St. Paul and Cold Lake Police Dog Services were deployed and successfully tracked and apprehended the outstanding suspect without incident. During a search of the stolen vehicle, ammunition and a soft body armour were also located.

As a result of the investigation, Zoe Hicks (24) and Lawrence Alook (26), both residents of Edmonton, have been charged with:

- Robbery with a firearm
- Discharge firearm with intent
- Flight from Police
- Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle

- Possess firearm while prohibited x4
- Operate motor vehicle while prohibited
- Possess body armour without valid permit

Alook was remanded in custody with the next court date set for Jan. 4, 2024, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Fort Saskatchewan. Hicks was released from custody with the next court date of Jan. 24, 2024, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Fort Saskatchewan.

"Partnership, teamwork and communication was key during this event," says Sgt. Anita Doktor of the Smoky Lake RCMP. "Big thanks to all the members and units involved."



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Continued from page 1

performs with the Volya Dance ensemble, has been a pivotal asset to the club. Her expertise is essential to each dancer's success. This season, Bahri is complemented by Lexi Nendze, a student instructor guiding the younger dance groups.

The club's dancers have garnered numerous awards in past seasons, showcasing their undeniable talent. As 2024 approaches, the Thorhild Ukrainian Dance Club eagerly anticipates the opportunities and experiences that lie ahead for their dedicated performers. These dancers immerse themselves in a culture that honours Ukrainian immigration, embraces cultural rituals and themes, and resonates with the energetic and rhythmic music and dance reminiscent of traditional villages where communal festivities took centre stage.



Nicole Krill, Redwater & District Chamber of Commerce president and Susan Pruss with an overwhelming response of donations to the Santa's Toy Store program.

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Please contact Sharlene at 780-358-2731, sgurba@mcsnet.ca or text 780-656-8195.

By Brandie Majeau

Santa's Toy Shop evokes whispers of excitement as Christmas approaches. The name paints a picture of Santa overseeing his bustling enterprise, with numerous festive employees darting about diligently ensuring all toys are in top shape. It assures that every name on the nice list has been meticulously checked, ensuring no one is overlooked. The Town

of Redwater, in collaboration with the Redwater & District Fellowship of Churches Food Bank, the Redwater & District Chamber of Commerce, and FCSS Thorhild, double-checked to ensure no child was left behind.

Santa's Toy Shop, now in its second year, stands as a testament to the overwhelming generosity of these communities. This initiative guarantees that every child remains on Santa's radar. The

outpouring of support through toy donations, treats, and monetary contributions was heartwarming. As boxes were unpacked, the community's kindness became evident. Despite economic challenges over the past year, individuals still contributed, ensuring the success of Santa's Toy Shop. Nicole Krill, President of the Redwater & District Chamber of Commerce, Sandra Pruss, and a dedicated team of

volunteers transformed the space into a magical toyland for families in need this holiday season.

These communities extend their heartfelt gratitude for the steadfast support that ensures every family experiences a memorable holiday season. Thanks to the immense generosity of donors, Santa's Toy Shop continues to thrive, ensuring each child finds joy and surprises on Christmas morning.



PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Permit Number: DP 030-23

Legal Land Description: PLAN 1324097, BLOCK 1, LOT 1

Area: SOUTH OF CACHE LAKE

Division: 2

Land Use District: AGRICULTURE (AG) District

Use Type: DISCRETIONARY USE

Proposed Development: ANIMAL BREEDING AND/OR BOARDING FACILITY, GREENHOUSE, SHED, COOP & DETACHED GARAGE

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 **Monday, January 8, 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**

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\$129,900

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60217 HWY 63 THORHILD COUNTY



\$424,900

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 3pce 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.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Redwater School

Redwater's Ochre Park School

H.A. Kostash School



What was better than having Sergeant Doktor visit a H.A. Kostash school classroom in December? Having her bring her dog Bob along as well! First grade had great fun when furry friends visited!



At Redwater School, we proudly congratulated the PE 20/30 Volleyball Champions for their outstanding achievement.



Students at Ochre Park School had worked diligently in preparation for their Christmas Concert scheduled for December 20th at 6:30 pm.

Thorhild County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2024 BUDGET

Town of Redwater Council has approved the 2024 budget that addresses long term and current challenges while providing valuable services for residents.

Redwater, AB, (December 21, 2023) – The Town of Redwater Administration presented the 2024 Operating and Capital Budget at the Special Council Meetings on November 14, 16 and 23, and Regular Council Meetings on December 5 and 19, 2023. Details are available at www.redwater.ca.

At the December 19 meeting, Council approved a budget increase of 4.42%, reduced from the original draft budget increase of 6.65% brought by Administration.

The presented budgets built the priorities identified in the Redwater 2023 Strategic Plan and was planned in the context of rising inflation, economic challenges, while allowing the Town to have sufficient operating revenue to maintain and improve service levels and asset maintenance.

The 2024 Operating and Capital Budget includes protecting residents, providing safe transportation through good road and sidewalk maintenance, and promoting health and wellness through Pembina Place and other recreational amenities. Removing snow, cutting grass, and maintaining green spaces adds to community beauty. Other initiatives will support and grow the community economics.

One of the major challenges the Town faces currently is the continuing effect of inflation which affects the Town's ability to plan for sustainability and still meet citizen expectations of keeping taxes low and service levels high. Despite a reduction in 2023, inflation for goods and services continues to be above the Bank of Canada target rate of 2%.

For the average Redwater home (assessed at \$208,570 in 2023), 2024 taxes will be approximately \$2,160 annually or \$180 monthly. This budget increase equates to a \$7 monthly increase over 2023 for the average home.

Mayor McRae acknowledges the difficulties experienced developing this year's budget and points out its successes, stating:

"Municipal budgeting has been difficult for most municipalities as aging infrastructure, recreation and staffing are all important priorities. We have seen some tax rates as high as 39.3% and others in the 1 to 2% range. Overall it is important to set rates slightly higher than inflation to ensure the municipality doesn't backslide on service levels, quality of services and infrastructure integrity.

Council this year had great input from the administrative team and worked hard to ensure all our operating and capital requirements for 2024 would be accomplished with the least amount of impact to our citizens. Overall I think this is a very good budget dollar for Redwater!"

Utility Rates—There will be no changes to the existing fixed charges for 2024. The future funding of capital projects is not sustainable, with aging infrastructure and reducing provincial and federal grants the Town must become more self-reliant on funding infrastructure projects. The addition of the Utility Infrastructure Reinvestment Rider is to ensure the future sustainability of the utility services. This will be set at \$0.20 per cubic meter of water. The impact of the addition of the Utility Infrastructure Reinvestment Rider would be approximately \$3.60/month, assuming the 18 cubic meters/month consumption rate.

For Contact Information & Inquiries:

| | |
|---|--|
| Allegra Tingley General Manager – Corporate Services 780.942.3519 ext. 280 atingley@redwater.ca | Ken Van Buul Chief Administrative Officer 780.942.3519 ext. 250 cao@redwater.ca |
|---|--|

Continued from **page 1**
 dropped by, reminding themselves that the essence of the Christmas season transcends the hustle and bustle. December 20th at Radway Library captured the true essence of the Christmas spirit. It encouraged individuals to pause, relinquish worries about

tasks completed or gifts purchased, and instead embrace friendship, companionship, and the sharing of special moments. While a simple greeting was appreciated, those who stayed to enjoy the assortment of treats and refreshments, exchanging laughter and stories, created cherished Christmas memories.



Photo courtesy of Radway Library

North Parkland Power Co-op Board of Director Nominations

Nominations are Now Open

Zone 1 (1 position)
Zone 3 (1 position)
Zone 4 (1 position)



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Please submit your nomination papers by:
Monday February 12, 2024

See our website, email or call for zone and nomination information.
<https://www.npprea.ca/online-forms>
contact@npprea.ca - 780-398-2000



PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1638/23 Road Closure Bylaw 1638/23

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1638/23.

Cando Rail & Terminals has requested a partial closure of Range Road 222 to facilitate the expansion of the business. The closure is between Township Road 555 and Township Road 560. As a result of the proposed road closure, Cando proposes to develop a bypass around its site.

A road closure bylaw is needed to close a portion of the road and a public hearing must be held. The bylaw and all feedback received during the public hearing will be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors for review and approval before Council considers approval of the road closure.

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on: **Tuesday, January 16 at 1:00 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!

Mark Morrissey
 Economic Innovation and Growth
 780-939-0625
mmorrissey@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 15 at 1:00 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.




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