



## Little Owls remember...

By Brandie Majeau

“In Flanders Fields the poppies blow...” The soft voices of a group of student representatives from each class at Ochre Park School in Redwater filled the gymnasium with a palpable sense of reverence. They brought to life the profound

reflections of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, penned during the spring of 1915, evoking the beauty and somberness of those iconic fields of red. Principal Jenaia Gingras gently urged the little “Owls” in attendance to cherish the special role they played in honoring Remembrance Day each

year. She spoke passionately about the importance of gathering on November 11, the significance of donning their poppies, and the importance of hearing stories, gently reminding them of their future duty to cultivate kindness in the world.

Continued on page 3

## Local Cowboys shine in bull riding national rankings

By Brandie Majeau

Thorhild County is filled with pride as two of its very own riders have made it to the Top 25 in the Bull Riders of Canada (BRC) for the 2025 season. This achievement is a testament to their dedication, resilience, and sheer talent in the competitive



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## Ukrainian Showcase



By Noreen Easterbrook,  
President UWA Olha  
Kobylianska  
Smoky Lake Branch

What a great turnout we had at this year’s Ukrainian Showcase during Pumpkin Fair that reported record crowds. The Smoky Lake branch of the Ukrainian Women’s Association has been holding this annual event for several years with different themes.

The organization is national so with east central Alberta deeply rooted in the Ukrainian culture, Smoky Lake has plenty of heritage here and now we have new Ukrainian immigrants who have joined us.

Each year we made displays for the various themes such as Spiritual Seasons of Life, Ukrainian Weddings, Métis and Ukrainians Side By Side, and Church Architecture while this year arts were the centre of attention, and our women focused their hard work on preparing Ukrainian food. As visitors entered, one of the ladies greeted people while scents of borsht and other Ukrainian food wafted from the kitchen.

Once in the hall, the first table was fresh baked goods, some with cottage cheese or poppy seed: turn one way to see crafts or join the line-up where you could see ladies scurrying as they were cooking and serving the Ukrainian plate or borsht or pumpkin pie. The plate had coleslaw or pickles, peroh (perogies), holubtsi (little cabbage rolls of rice and dill) and kubasa (garlic sausage). It was such a success that the food was running out so the butcher delivered more kubasa and the menu was modified to kubasa on a bun with coleslaw.



Continued on page 3

Photos Noreen Easterbrook

# Remembrance and reflection, one bead at a time

By **Brandie Majeau**

The art of Métis beading is a traditional practice that holds significant cultural importance among the Métis people in Canada. This form of beadwork is characterized by its expressive colours and intricate patterns, often inspired by nature and Métis heritage.

Métis beading typically utilizes small glass beads, which are sewn onto fabric or leather, creating beautiful decorative items such as belts, bags, and clothing embellishments. The technique involves a variety of stitches, with the most common being the lazy stitch, where beads are strung in place with thread to create intricate designs. The designs often have personal and cultural significance, incorporating symbols that reflect Métis identity, such as the infinity symbol, floral motifs, and traditional patterns. Many artisans also blend traditional techniques with contemporary styles, allowing for innovation while preserving cultural roots.

Beyond the aesthetic aspect, Métis beading serves as a means of storytelling and cultural expression, connecting individuals to their ancestry and

community. It is a vital expression of cultural identity and resilience.

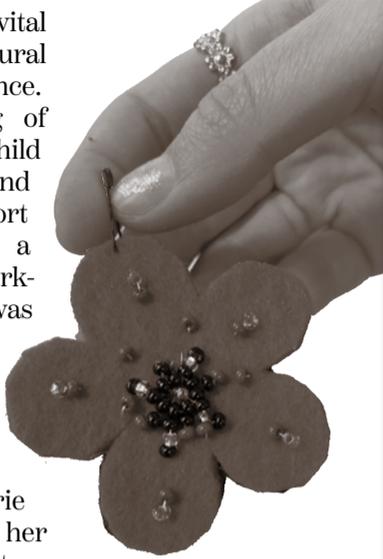
On the evening of November 6, Thorhild County Family and Community Support Services hosted a beaded poppy workshop. The event was led by the Kelly Patry, who graciously welcomed Carrie Penchuk as an acting cultural advisor. Carrie brought with her a wealth of cultural knowledge drawn from the teachings of Elders and Knowledge Keepers, enriching the experience with insights into Métis traditions.

To honour the occasion, Carrie initiated an optional smudging ceremony, inviting guests to partake in a cleansing ritual that harnessed the soothing essence of burning sage to cleanse their bodies and senses. This powerful moment set the stage for the evening, allowing attendees to ground themselves and engage fully with the craft ahead.

As the workshop unfolded, participants immersed themselves in the intricate art of beading, learning how to tie knots in thread while selecting designs that resonated with their personal

creativity. They diligently adorned felt poppies with beads of black, red, and yellow, each stitch a reflection of their connection to a rich cultural heritage and the sacrifices made by veterans, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

The evening was filled with conversation and reflection, as young adults and adults alike connected in an opportunity to both share skills and learn from each other. Feedback from attendees overflowed with enthusiasm, highlighting the unique opportunity provided by Thorhild FCSS to delve into a meaningful past and forge connections through the delicate and intricate task of beading, marked by creativity, culture, and a profound sense of community.



# Thorhild Legion hosts annual ceremony



By Brandie Majeau

The Thorhild Legion Branch #234 came together for its annual Remembrance Day Ceremony, a heartfelt occasion steeped in tradition and honor. The Legion Hall was ready with snacks and refreshments, while posters and poetry from their annual contest adorned the walls. However, for a brief moment, the hall stood silent and empty, as guests made their way to the cenotaph memorial in Thorhild. This gathering, marked by a profound sense of reverence, drew an ever-growing number of attendees, reflecting a deep-rooted commitment within the community to connect with the richness of stories, memories, and

sacrifices of Canadians who have bravely served in wars and as peacekeepers. The air was thick with solemnity, as each visitor seemed to carry the weight of history and gratitude in their hearts.

In previous years, the ceremonies were attended predominantly by an older generation, but this and in previous years, a shift was evident, as more families brought their children to participate in the ceremony, witness the lowering of the flags, listen to the haunting notes of the Last Post, and observe the heaviness of the two minutes of silence.

On this day, the sun shone brightly, its warmth embracing those present as they reflected on the occasion's significance. The flags

waving steadily in the breeze. A young girl stood at the forefront, mimicking the finger positions on the handle of her miniature Canadian flag, amid the soulful sound of bagpipes playing "Amazing Grace."

While she may not fully comprehend the weight of the moment, her innocent playfulness created a connection to the deeper narrative of sacrifice and remembrance.

As the ceremony paused in stillness, the flags momentarily dropped, enveloped in silence, before the resonant call of the trumpeter broke through the air, heralding the moment when the flags were raised once more, a tribute to those who have served and a reminder of the enduring spirit of remembrance.

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Continued from page 1

Making your way around the hall, Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts displayed a variety of crafts from several artists; vendors had items such as embroidered shirts and woven fabrics from Ukraine and other souvenirs and crafts.

Well known artist Larissa Sembaliuk Cheladyn brought many of her beautiful paintings and Ukrainian Village also had a table with items for sale. Irene Topolnisky was there to show how awned wheat can be woven into lovely ornamentation that will adorn a wall or embellish a

doorway. Meanwhile, music played all day. Popular and Traditional Ukrainian tunes were played by Don Klym on his accordion with Noreen joining in with rhythm and vocals. Ten-year-old Tina sang a couple of songs in the Ukrainian language. Christine Meroniuk

treated us to sounds of the sopilka, a traditional Ukrainian wind instrument. If you come to Pumpkin Fair don't miss visiting the Ukrainian National Hall in downtown Smoky Lake where you will be immersed through sights, sounds, and delicious scents into Ukrainian heritage.

**Thorhild Central School News**

This is Madalynn and she is in Grade 1. Her favorite part of school is learning everything and her favorite thing to do at home is play basketball.



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# Light Up

Sunday November 30, 2025 | 3-5 PM  
Waste Management of Canada Agriplex (Thorhild)



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## Notice of Statutory Public Hearing: Bylaw PD-02-2025

**Statutory Public Hearing | PD-01-2025  
Land Use Bylaw Amendments & Consolidation**

Monday, November 24, 2025 | 18:30 | Council Chambers 4924 47 St.  
Any member of the public may attend to speak or hear comments.

**What is Bylaw PD-02-2025?**  
Bylaw PD-02-2025 is a proposed amendment and consolidation of the Town of Redwater's Land Use Bylaw PD-01-2023. Over the past six months, the bylaw has undergone ongoing review and refinement, reflecting our approach of treating it as a living document. These continual updates ensure the bylaw can adapt to the community's evolving needs and respond effectively to emerging issues.

**What does this mean?**  
Bylaw PD-02-2025 will amend Bylaw PD-01-2023. The amending bylaw will provide greater flexibility and adaptability to the Town's land use regulations. These amendments will:

- **Update Lot and Yard Regulations:** Clarify requirements and definitions for corner lots and double fronting lots, including front yard designations and site line protection areas, to ensure consistent and safe development.
- **Update Fencing Standards:** Provide clear rules for residential fencing, including setbacks, height limits, and better clarify when a development permit is required or not.
- **Adjust Residential Accessory Building Heights:** Allow slightly taller accessory buildings in certain residential districts.
- **Add a New Direct Control District (DC-1 The Willows North):** This is a special set of rules that applies only to a specific area. It lets the Town create site-specific standards for how land can be used and developed, rather than relying solely on the general rules that apply to all other areas.

**How can I get more information?**  
Any member of the public may review the proposed bylaw and ask questions. A copy of the proposed bylaw is available at [redwater.ca](http://redwater.ca) or you can visit the Town Office during office hours where staff can explain what is proposed, how it might impact you, and how the Public Hearing process works.

**Can I provide comments?**  
Members of the public may address Council in person or virtually at the public hearing, with registered speakers called first. To register, email [redwater@redwater.ca](mailto:redwater@redwater.ca) or call 780-942-3519 ext. 250 by 18:00 on November 18, 2025. Written comments may also be submitted by email; to appear in the agenda, they must be received by the registration deadline. Late submissions will be read into the record but not considered after the hearing closes. Each speaker has 10 minutes, and all names and comments become part of the public record.

**Speak or provide comments at the Public Hearing:**  
In person & Virtual: Registration not required; those registered to speak will speak first. Deadline to Register: 18:00 on Friday, November 18, 2025.  
Written submissions, visuals; submit by 18:00 on Friday November 24, 2025

Call Us: 780.942.3519 ext. 250

Email Us: [redwater@redwater.ca](mailto:redwater@redwater.ca)



## Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Sturgeon County is hosting a free, half-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 Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership.

A laptop or tablet is required.  
Light refreshments will be provided.

**Tuesday, November 25, 2025  
9:00 a.m. - Noon  
9613 100 Street, Morinville**

Register on [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca)



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## PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed 2026 Budget

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on the proposed 2026 Budget.

The proposed 2026 budget for Sturgeon County is driven by Council's strategic plan and priorities. It focuses on maintaining highly competitive tax rates that support quality, cost-effective municipal services while maintaining the County's long-term financial sustainability.

View the proposed budget at [sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-2026-budget](http://sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-2026-budget)

If you have questions about this public hearing, please reach out to Valerie Lawson, Corporate Finance and Treasury Services, at [budget@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:budget@sturgeoncounty.ca).

### Public Hearing details

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

**Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter)

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

[sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings](http://sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings)

### 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 and Legal Services at 780-939-0620 or 780-939-1377 to pre-register.

#### Speak via video conference (phone or video call-in)

To speak at the Public Hearing via video conference, you must register by November 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. by contacting Legislative and Legal Services at 780-939-0620 or 780-939-1377. This ensures you receive instructions to access the video conference.

#### Written submissions

E-mail your written submission to Legislative and Legal Services at [legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto: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 budget), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed budget.

#### Watching the Public Hearing

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

Protection of Privacy Act: By submitting your comments on the proposed budget, 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 accordance with section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information, please contact the Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Advisor at [accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca) or call 780-939-1306.





Photos courtesy of Smoky Lake Youth Council



## Youth Council empowering local youth

By Brandie Majeau

The Smoky Lake Youth Council hosted its Teen Market on November 6. Due to inclement weather, several teens were unable to attend; however, those who did had a great time and rolled up their sleeves to demonstrate their

outstanding entrepreneurial skills.

Participating in farmers' markets can be incredibly beneficial for teens. It offers valuable learning opportunities, allowing teens to gain knowledge about agriculture, food systems, handcrafted items, and marketing. This hands-on experience

enhances their understanding and can serve as hubs for local communities, enabling teens to connect with local farmers, artisans, and other community members, which can become a local connection to the community.

Involvement in selling their own products, such as crafts

or homemade goods, helps teens develop essential entrepreneurial skills, including marketing, customer service, and financial management and engaging with vendors and customers aids in developing communication and interpersonal skills, teaching teens how to interact

with diverse groups of people. Many farmers' markets also seek volunteers, providing teens an opportunity to give back to their community and, in turn, build character and a sense of responsibility. Local youth can meet mentors and peers who share similar interests, leading to future

opportunities in education and career paths related to agriculture, nutrition, or business. The Teen Market was an excellent opportunity to build, create, and grow as individuals. Great job, Smoky Lake Youth Council, and all who participated and set up market tables!

## Redwater hosts action-packed floor curling tournament

By Lorne Wog

On November 7, 2025, the Redwater Floor Curling Association, in conjunction with the Alberta Floor Curling Association, hosted a tournament at the Redwater and District Pioneer Club. The tournament was a fun, action-packed day with eighteen teams coming to the community from North Central Alberta. Competition was keen, with a team from Jarvie winning the event. Second place went to a team from Villeneuve, third place to a team from Fort Saskatchewan, and fourth place to a team from Mayerthorpe.

This tournament was organized and



Photos by Lorne Wog



run by members of the Redwater Floor Curling Association along with community volunteers. The volunteers set up the building for the tournament and then returned the facility

to its normal configuration for other functions. During the event, volunteers completed team registrations, recorded scoring, sold 50/50 tickets, and handled many other tasks

to keep the tournament running smoothly. A dedicated group of volunteers prepared and set up a morning buffet breakfast for players as they arrived. They then prepared a

midday meal for more than one hundred players and volunteers.

Over the years of hosting tournaments and travelling to other communities, participants met many people

and formed lasting friendships. There were handshakes and smiles all around, and most importantly, camaraderie as players cheered on all competitors.

Continued from page 1

sport of bull riding.

Brody Bandurka, in his rookie season, has made quite the impression by finishing 10th overall. His outstanding performance earned him a coveted spot at the BRC Finals held in Sylvan Lake

this past weekend. Bandurka's journey is marked by relentless training and a passion for the sport that has propelled him to excel against seasoned competitors. His remarkable debut at the finals speaks volumes about his potential, and many are eager to see where

his career will take him next.

Aidan Mazurenko's story is one of courage and determination. After battling through an injury that sidelined him last season, Mazurenko fought hard to make a comeback. This year, he finished 25th out of 69 riders,

demonstrating his resilience and commitment to the sport. His return to the bull riding circuit has been met with admiration from fans and fellow riders alike, proving that hard work and perseverance can overcome setbacks. Together, Brody and Aidan have

put Thorhild County as a known name in the bull riding community, serving as inspirations to aspiring riders and local sports enthusiasts.

Their achievements remind that sports are not just about victories; they encapsulate the values of hard work,

grit, and heart.

As the local community celebrates these two exceptional bull riders, the future looks bright for both Brody and Aidan. Congratulations to these talented cowboys for making Thorhild County proud on the national stage!

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Continued from page 1

“Why do we have Remembrance Day? Why do we wear our poppies?” rang out the voices of the grade 3/4T class, their innocence underscoring the principal’s gentle prompts. The Ochre Park School Remembrance Day Ceremony was a sincere tribute that centered on honouring the bravery of soldiers while exemplifying the essence of peace. It was not an in-depth lesson on the tragedies and chaos of war, but rather a sincere remembrance that resonated with the understanding appropriate for their young hearts. Yet, even at this tender age, the significance of Remembrance Day often struck a deeper chord, surpassing the

fundamentals of what they were taught. The little Owls shared Remembrance Day reflections and songs. They lay wreaths alongside guests and dignitaries. They sat solemn in their minute of silence and followed closely the Act of Remembrance and Commitment to Remember. As the ceremony drew to a close, a poignant video unfolded, showcasing glimpses of wartime struggles and its emotional impact, complemented by the haunting melody of “Soldiers Cry.” While the visuals refrained from depicting the true violence of war, it was not beyond the emotive reach of elementary students, they still drew tears from the eyes of several

teachers, guests, and students. This powerful response showing the profound impact of remembrance and understanding that transcends traditional teaching. A young boy whispered in the darkened gymnasium, “That would be scary,” as the video gracefully faded to black. Ochre Park’s Remembrance Day ceremony was a beautiful homage to the soldiers who returned and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The words, “Rest in Peace, your work here is done;” lingered in the air long after the school visitors had departed, a solemn echo of gratitude and reflection that would resonate within their hearts as they carried on with their day.



Ayden Greenwood receives the Lions of Alberta Foundation (LOAF) Scholarship from Lion Les in recognition of his outstanding achievements and community involvement. **Redwater Lions Club photo**

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