



BULLYING HURTS

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

Redwater Rebels looking to rebuild community connection



Redwater Rebels photos

By Shelley Winger

The Redwater Rebels may be a newer face in town, but the team is working to establish itself as a positive and respected part of the Redwater community.

Since relocating to Redwater, the Rebels have undergone a full rebuild and rebrand, focusing on character, accountability, and representing the town with pride — both on and off the ice. Team organizers acknowledge that there is past history connected to the league and understand that community support takes time to earn.

“We know support is earned, and that starts with listening,” the team shared.

Following a recent call for community input, residents, fans, billets, and volunteers offered thoughtful and constructive feedback. Several community members noted that while Redwater is a strong hockey town, many families are deeply involved in minor hockey. With long travel days and hours already spent at the arena supporting their own

children, attending Rebels games can be challenging for some households.

Many comments praised the players themselves, describing them as polite, respectful, and well-mannered young men who represent Redwater positively. Arena volunteers and community members also shared that they regularly hear compliments about the players’ behaviour,

particularly off the ice.

Ticket pricing was another common topic. Some residents suggested lower admission fees or discounted rates for families and seniors to encourage more attendance, while others felt the games already provide good value and encouraged the community to continue supporting the team.

Billets and volunteers

Continued on **page 2**



Ag for Life brings agriculture to life



Photos are courtesy of Agriculture for Life and show a variety of hands-on learning that enhances a student’s understanding of agriculture.

By Brandie Majeau

Agriculture for Life (Ag for Life) is a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing agricultural literacy and promoting rural and farm safety across Alberta and beyond. Established in 2011, Ag for Life brings together the agricultural industry, government, and community partners to deliver impactful programs that foster a deeper understanding of agriculture’s vital role in society, food production, and the economy. Its programs

Continued on **page 3**



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Kinette Club encourages local students to apply for \$1,000 Kin Canada Bursaries

By Brandie Majeau

The Kinette Club of Smoky Lake is encouraging students in Smoky Lake and the surrounding area to apply for the prestigious Kin Canada Bursary, a financial award that has helped thousands of Canadian students pursue their post-secondary dreams.

Offered through Kin Canada, a national service organization dedicated to serving the community's greatest needs, the bursaries are officially known as the Hal Rogers

Endowment Fund. Since its creation in 1994, the Kin Canada Bursaries program has distributed over \$1 million to more than a thousand students across the country. Each bursary is typically valued at \$1,000.

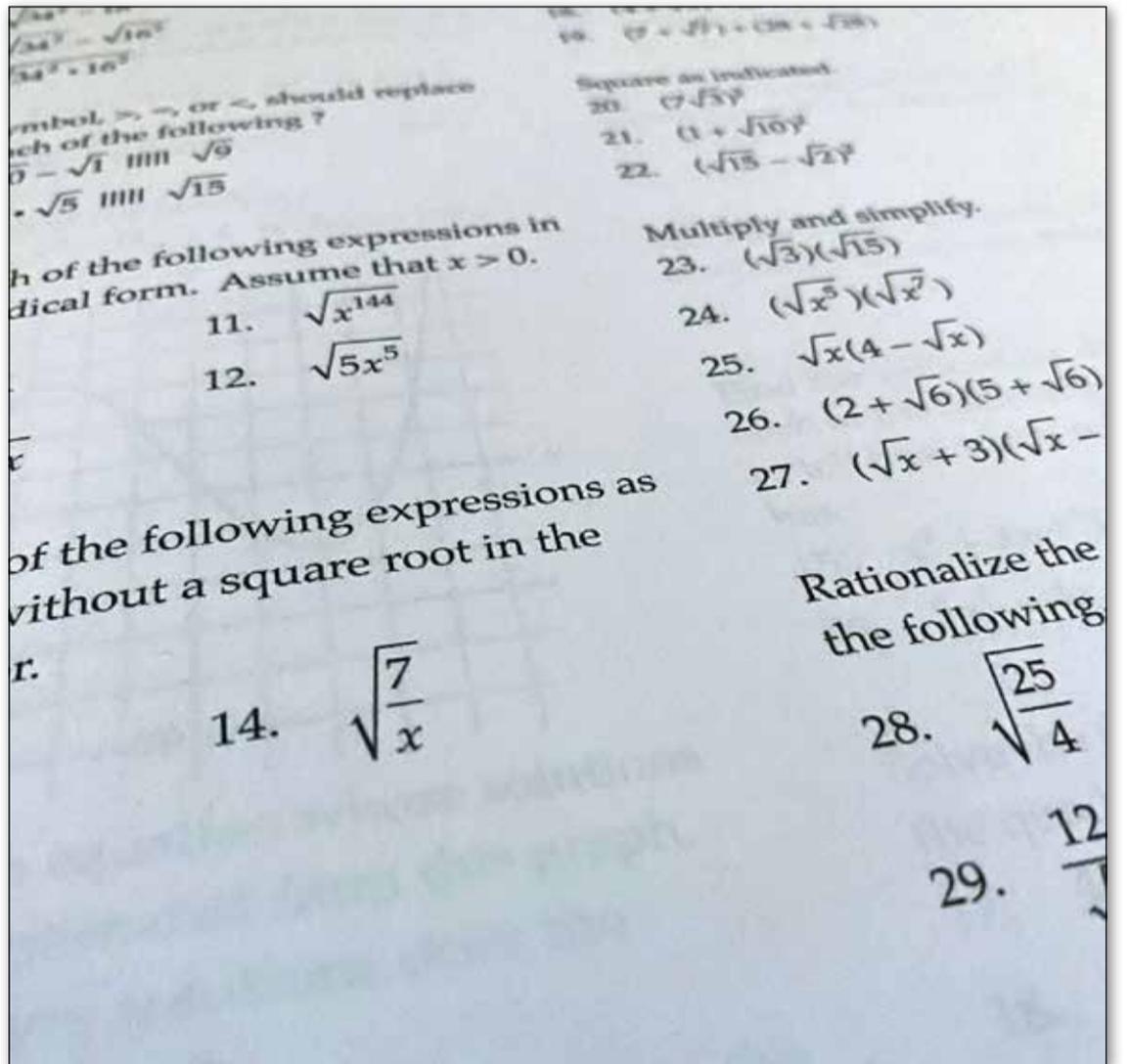
Applicants are assessed on several factors, including their involvement in school and community, their knowledge of Kin Canada, and their financial need. Academic achievements are also considered in the selection process. According to the Kinette Club, the goal

of the program is not only to provide financial support but also to encourage young Canadians to become active contributors to their communities.

The application period for the Kin Canada Bursaries closes on February 1st each year, so students are closing in on the deadline to apply. Prospective applicants can find the application forms on the Kin Canada website. Completed forms must then be submitted to a local Kin, Kinsmen, or Kinette Club, where they will be reviewed before being forwarded to

the national selection committee.

Students interested in applying are urged to start the process early and ensure their applications are complete. With the cost of post-secondary education rising, the Kin Canada Bursary represents a valuable opportunity for local students to secure much-needed financial assistance while being recognized for their community spirit and academic dedication. For more information, visit the Kin Canada website or contact the Kinette Club of Smoky Lake.



Continued from page 1

shared areas where they believe the organization could grow. Suggestions included increased in-game entertainment, more appreciation and recognition for billets and volunteers, stronger community visibility, and improved

live-streaming options for those unable to attend games due to distance, weather, or scheduling. At the same time, special events such as the Teddy Bear Toss were highlighted as successful initiatives that boost attendance and create a stronger game-day

atmosphere. Team representatives say the feedback is being taken seriously and will help guide future improvements. While change takes time, the Rebels' stated goal remains clear: to build a hockey program that players, billets, volunteers,

and the wider community can feel proud to support. By opening the door to honest conversation, the Redwater Rebels hope to continue strengthening their connection with the community and shaping the future of hockey in Redwater together.

Continued from page 1

are designed to engage students, teachers, and the general public, making learning about agriculture accessible, engaging, and relevant.

One of Ag for Life's cornerstone initiatives is its extensive educational programming for schools. Through classroom presentations, hands-on workshops, and digital resources, Ag for Life introduces students of all ages to the fundamentals of agriculture, food systems, and environmental stewardship. These programs are tailored to align with provincial curriculum and support teachers with high-quality lesson plans and interactive activities that make learning both fun and meaningful and are cultivated right from kindergarten to grade 12. For example, the "Agriculture Education Program" brings farmers and agricultural professionals directly into classrooms, offering students real-world



Photos courtesy of Agriculture for Life



insights and the option ask questions about where their food comes from.

Ag for Life also provides innovative safety programs designed to reduce injuries and fatalities on farms and in rural communities. The "Rural Safety Unit," a mobile classroom, travels to schools and community events, delivering interactive demonstrations on farm safety, equipment awareness, and emergency preparedness.

By engaging youth and families in

practical safety education, Ag for Life helps instill lifelong safe behaviors.

Community outreach is another essential pillar of Ag for Life's mission. The organization frequently partners with local fairs, exhibitions, and events to offer agricultural literacy booths, workshops, and demonstrations. These outreach efforts aim to bridge the gap between urban and rural communities, dispelling myths about agriculture and building appreciation

for the people and processes that produce our food.

Ag for Life has also embraced digital innovation, offering online resources, virtual tours, and interactive learning modules to reach a wider audience. These digital tools provide accessible, up-to-date information topics such as sustainable farming, food security, and the environmental impact of agriculture. They are always looking for ways to build resources and strive for flexibility of programming.

Through its diverse programming, Agriculture for Life continues to build a strong foundation of agricultural literacy, safety, and community connection. By inspiring curiosity and respect for agriculture, Ag for Life ensures that future generations are informed, engaged, and prepared to appreciate and support the agricultural sector. The organization is funded completely through corporations and individual donors, removing cost

barriers that some educational settings may face. Their goal is to bring agriculture to life. Luree Williamson, CEO of Agriculture for Life stated in a phone interview,

"There's something for everyone!" and looks forward to celebrating Canadian agriculture and literature during Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM), this coming March.

Any interest in reaching out or exploring their resources can visit their website at agricultureforlife.ca

Let's ride!...a snowmobile

By Brandie Majeau

The much-anticipated Newbrook Snowmobile Rally is set to return on March 7, 2026, offering winter sports enthusiasts and families a perfect opportunity to embrace the region's snowy landscape. Hosted by the Newbrook Agricultural Society, this annual event promises an action-packed day featuring an 80-kilometre trail that both starts and ends at the Newbrook Hall.

Drawing an average

of 200 snowmobiles each year, the rally has become a fun tradition for the local community and visitors alike. Riders of all ages can look forward to a scenic route, well-groomed for both seasoned sledders and newcomers. Along the way, participants will enjoy a complimentary lunch included with registration, providing a welcome break and the chance to connect with fellow snowmobile enthusiasts.

Competition adds an extra layer of

excitement to the day, with a variety of prizes up for grabs. Door prizes, cash rewards, and special recognition for both the oldest and youngest participants ensure everyone has a fair shot at going home a winner. The entry fee is set at \$40 per machine, with an additional \$20 for silent hand, making the event accessible for individuals and families looking for an affordable day out. Registration opens bright and early at 8 a.m. at Newbrook Hall, with the rally wrapping

up by 5 p.m. Lunch is included and will be served on the trail.

Safety is always a top priority, and riders are reminded that all hazards will be clearly marked on rally day. Proof of insurance for all snowmobiles is required, and the event will proceed weather permitting. Organizers encourage anyone interested to reach out to the Newbrook Agricultural Society for more details and to secure their spot in advance.

With its combination of adventure, connection, and community

spirit, the Newbrook Snowmobile Rally is a locals highlight of the winter season. Whether participants are eager competitors

or simply seeking a fun day outdoors, the anticipation is fun. Contact the Newbrook Agricultural Society for more details.



Photo courtesy of Lavern Nendze

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice that the following Development Permit has been approved on January 8, 2026 in accordance with **Land Use Bylaw No. 1272-14** of Smoky Lake County:

Permit Number: DP 046-25
Legal Land Description: PLAN 9122788, BLOCK 1, LOT 11
Area: HANMORE LAKE
Division: 4
Land Use District: MULTI-LOT COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL (R1) DISTRICT
Use Type: PERMITTED USE – VARIANCE GRANTED TO MINIMUM SIDE YARD SETBACK – REDUCED FROM 1.5 METERS TO 0.9 METERS
Proposed Development: DWELLING, SINGLE-DETACHED

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

Persons wishing to appeal the above decision 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 **Friday, January 30th, 2026, 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

PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1690/25

To close a portion of Township Road 555

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1690/25. This bylaw would close the portion of Township Road 555 between Highway 825 and Range Road 223.

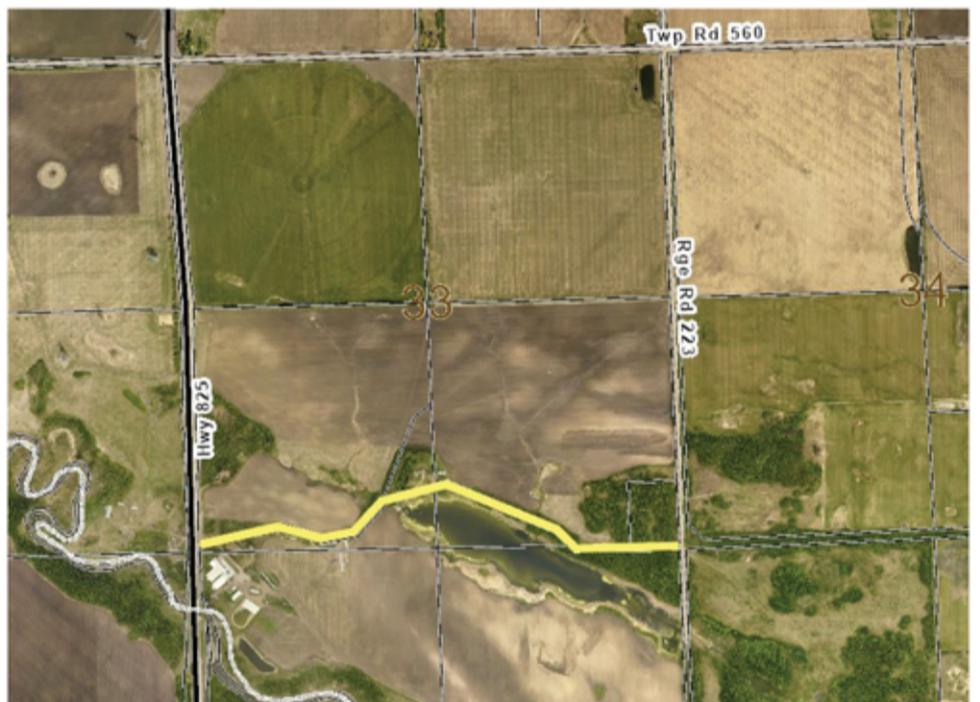
The proposal would consolidate the western portion of the closed road with the adjacent south parcel. The remaining portions of the closed road would be consolidated with the quarter-sections they are located in (SE-33-55-22-W4 and NE-28-55-22-W4).

The eastern portion of the road allowance is undeveloped with no future plans for development. The developed (western) portion is a dead-end road used as driveway access for four adjacent land parcels. **The proposed road closure would transfer the ownership and maintenance of the road from the County to the private landowners.**

View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1690-25/

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on: **Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 1 p.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter) Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville) sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings



Questions? Contact us!

Kyle Schole, Senior Planner, Land Management; 780-939-1397, kschole@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 **780-939-0620** to pre-register.

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

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **January 26, 2026 at 1 p.m.** by contacting Legislative Services at **780-939-0620**. 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.

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 under 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 780-939-1306 or accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca.



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JANUARY 2026

GRAPEVINE

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Visit our 'Agendas & Minutes' web page for Council meeting information and the 'Calendar' web page for the complete list of other scheduled meeting dates and community events.

Regular County Council Meeting

January 27, 2026 @ 9:00 AM
February 26, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Committee of the Whole Meeting

February 5, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

A Public Q & A Period is held during each Council Meeting 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Smoky Lake County Main and Public Works Offices will be

CLOSED

**Monday,
February 16, 2026
for Family Day**

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council Highlights provide a snapshot of Council decision making and the progress made on Smoky Lake County programs and initiatives. For more details visit www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/highlights

- First reading to Bylaw 1496-26, a Bylaw to close all those portions of the Government Road Allowance lying within Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 262___ and to consolidate said closed portions with SE ¼ 14-59-16-W4, with a Public Hearing scheduled for February 26, 2026 at 1:00 PM.
- Purchased advertising in the Go East of Edmonton Travel Guide to support the Region's communities and non-profit events.
- Regular County Council meetings will now be held on the fourth Thursday of every month, unless otherwise posted.

NOTICE: PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Bylaw No: 1496-26:

- To close all those portions of the Government Road Allowance lying within Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 262___ and to consolidate said closed portions with SE ¼ 14-59-16-W4M.

The Public Hearing will be held as follows: **February 26, 2026 at 1:00 PM**

Location:

Virtual: <https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/219324220>

By phone: 844-511-2074 (toll free) Meeting ID: 219324220

In person: Smoky Lake County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive Smoky Lake

The draft bylaw can be viewed on-line at: www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/notices

Questions? Call 780-656-3730

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDERS



When clearing snow from your driveway or approach, please keep all snow on your own property. Do not push snow onto municipal roads, shoulders, or side slopes within the road right-of-way.

When clearing toward the roadway, place snow on the right-hand side of your approach so graders can safely push it away.

Please also ensure your rural address sign remains clear and visible.

Depositing snow on public roads is unsafe and may result in a warning and/or fine under Bylaw 1241-12.

Thank you for helping keep our roads safe and clear.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

- **JOURNEY CERTIFIED HEAVY DUTY MECHANIC**
- **ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN**
- **GIS TECHNICIAN**

Additional positions will be posted as they become available. Interested applicants are encouraged to check our website regularly for updates.

For more information, visit:
www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/employment

Paper Weighing You Down?

You can receive your monthly Smoky Lake County Natural Gas or Warspite Water bill by email. To sign up to receive your bill through Paperless Billing call 780-656-3730 or email dmoric@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Please provide the following information to sign up:

- Name of the Account Holder
- Natural Gas or Warspite Water Bill Account Number
- Email address and phone number



Main Office
Box 310
4612 McDougall Drive
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Public Works Shop
Box 310
5004-50 Street
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Toll Free 888-656-3730
Main Office 780-656-3730
Public Works Shop 780-656-3755

www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca





Division 1
Neil Halun
Phone: 780-938-6345
neil.halun@thorhildcounty.com

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

Division 3
Scott Nedeljak
Phone: 780-819-0907
scott.nedeljak@thorhildcounty.com

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

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

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS January 13, 2026

Below is a brief summary of decisions made at the January 13, 2026, Regular Council meeting:

Unfinished Business - Community Planning Association of Alberta 2026 Conference
Council accepted the report on the Community Planning Association of Alberta 2026 Conference as information.

Unfinished Business - To Set a Date for Public Hearing - Road Closure Bylaw 09-2025 - Long Lake Block Wells

Council set the public hearing for Road Closure Bylaw 09-2025 with Schedules "A" to "N", Long Lake Block Wells, to be scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.

New Business - Draft Bylaw 02-2026 Operating Borrowing Bylaw

Council gave all three readings of Bylaw 02-2026 Operating Borrowing Bylaw.

New Business - 2026 Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) and Designated Industrial Requisition Credit (DIRC) Application

Council acknowledged and confirmed the submission of the January 2026 Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) and Designated Industrial Requisition Credit (DIRC) Application for Thorhild County.

New Business - Policy 203 Councillor Remuneration

Council approved amended Policy 203 Councillor Remuneration, specifically Schedule "A", (Item 1: Salary) to reflect the approved cost-of-living increase.

New Business - First Reading for Proposed Bylaw 01-2026 to Redistrict Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 082 8507 from Country Residential to Agricultural District under Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015

Council approved first reading to draft Bylaw 01-2026 to amend Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015 by changing Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 082 8507 within NW 14-58-20-W4M from CR - Multi-lot Country Residential to AG - Agricultural District.

Further, Council, set the public hearing for Bylaw 01-2026 to amend Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015 by changing Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 082 8507 within NW 14-58-20-W4M from CR - Multi-lot Country Residential to AG - Agricultural District, for Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

New Business - First Reading for Proposed Bylaw 03-2026 to add Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 082 8507 as Recreational Vehicle Campground under the Agricultural District of Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015

Council approved first reading to draft Bylaw 03-2026 to amend Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015 by adding Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 082 8507 within NW 14-58-20-W4M as a Recreational Vehicle Campground under the AG - Agricultural District, Section 8.2 (6) of Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015.

Council also set the public hearing for Bylaw 03-2026, to amend Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015 by adding Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 082 8507 within NW 14-58-20-W4M as a Recreational Vehicle Campground under the AG - Agricultural District, Section 8.2 (6) of Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015 for Tuesday, February 24, 2026, following Bylaw 01-2026 Public Hearing that begins at 10:00 a.m.

New Business - Invitation to Newthorad

Council directed Administration to write a letter inviting Newthorad administration to a future Council meeting.

New Business - Road Maintenance Letter to Send

Council directed Administration to write a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, sharing concerns about the performance of the maintenance of area highways by the contractor in the region and further, to cc MLA Glenn van Dijken, and to be signed by the Reeve.

Correspondence for Action - Municipal Affairs

Council directed Administration to respond to the meeting request invitation with Minister Williams at the RMA Spring Convention 2026 with a request to meet regarding the following topics:

1. Data Centers/Bitcoin Mining
2. Code of Conduct
3. Library Funding

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ROAD CLOSURE BYLAW 09-2025

NOTICE THAT in accordance with sections 22 and 606 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of Thorhild County is giving consideration to a Road Closure Bylaw.

This Bylaw will allow for the creation of 14 individual titled lots that currently contain the existing Long Lake Block Wells at the residential cul-de-sacs of the Hamlet of Long Lake in Thorhild County. These Block Well lots are described in Schedules "A" to "N" of Bylaw 09-2025. These proposed lot areas are currently within existing Road Plan 5818KS, Long Lake. The creation of these lots will not adversely affect vehicular traffic or the existing carriageway or use of the road right of way of Road Plan 5818KS.

Due to the number of Schedules being "A" to "N" – 14 in total, these schedules can be viewed in the County's website and specifically found under www.shorturl.at/aPeZ3 for reference. If you are unable to access these schedules through the website, you may reach Planning Clerk Jeannette Cholach for assistance at jeannette.cholach@thorhildcounty.com.

The Public Hearing will be held both in-person and via zoom (audio only) on:

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Thorhild County Council Chambers (801 – 1st Street, Thorhild)

Important Information

- All speakers will be given a 10-minute time limit and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission in advance of the Public Hearing.
- If you intend on participating in person, you are encouraged to pre-register.
- If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing via Zoom, you are asked to register by Friday, February 6, 2026. This is to ensure that zoom participants receive instructions to access the hearing.
- If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing, you may make a written submission. Your name, address, legal land location and the bylaw number must be included in your submission.
- To register, submit a written submission or have issues connecting to Teams Meeting, contact the Planning Clerk at 780-398-3741 Ext. 2823 or email: jeannette.cholach@thorhildcounty.com.
- The proposed Bylaw may be viewed at the County Office and is available on the Thorhild County website: <https://www.thorhildcounty.com/Government/Council/Council-Meetings>.
- Persons wishing to attend the Public Hearing are invited to attend in person or Teams Meeting through the County website at: <https://www.thorhildcounty.com/Government/Council/Council-Meetings>.
- If you have any questions or inquiries pertaining to this Public Hearing, contact David Blades, Manager of Planning and Development at 780-398-3741 Ext. 2825 or e-mail David.Blades@thorhildcounty.com.

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 under the Protection of Privacy Act Section (4). If you have any questions, please contact the Protection of Privacy Coordinator at 780-398-3741.

2026 FIRELINE EQUIPMENT CONTRACT

Contractors are invited to register their equipment with Thorhild County Emergency Services for the 2026 Fire Season to assist Thorhild County Emergency Services with wildfires. A contract must be in place prior to any commencement of work.

For any further information, please contact: Diana Berry, County Services Clerk at 780-398-3741 ext. 2810 or diana.berry@thorhildcounty.com.



HALFMOON LAKE CAMPGROUND SITES

Sites 6, 7, 8 & 9 at the Halfmoon Lake Campground are available for the 2026 season, which runs from May 15th to September 30th. The cost of the sites are \$2,000 each for the season. A damage deposit of \$250 is required.

Thorhild County residents have until January 31, 2026, to obtain a site on a first-come-first-serve basis. If sites are still available, they will become available to County and Non-County residents starting on February 1. Anyone interested in a seasonal site may contact Kelly at kelly.patry@thorhildcounty.com or 780-398-3741 ext. 2820.





COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Thorhild Community Hall Club Room, 11 – 7th Avenue, Thorhild
Drop in anytime between 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM



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2008 HILLTOP HOME - PRIME LOCATION !!

This 2008 built bi-level offers a beautiful open floor plan and is located at the end of a cul-de-sac in a family friendly hilltop neighborhood. The large kitchen has new quartz countertops, large pantry, tiled backsplash and plenty of cabinets and counterspace. The adjacent dining area is extra large. The kitchen and dining area are open to and overlook the huge 15'x12' living room. The primary bedroom offers a walk-in closet and has its own 3 piece ensuite. There is a full 4 piece bathroom and 2 more bedrooms on the main level as well. On the lower level, there is a massive 24'x12' partially finished family room, laundry/utility room, 2 framed future bedrooms, and a large closed-in storage area. All the flooring (except bathrooms) has been replaced with durable laminate flooring, no carpet at all, and the fridge, stove and dishwasher are only 1 year old. This home has a fenced back yard and a convenient 14'x12' covered back deck, accessible from the kitchen or back yard. There is back alley access, this home is close to the hospital and schools and Centennial Park. Great option if you're looking for a more affordable newer home.



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Patrick Carew

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Bus EXCURSIONS



JANUARY 22
Londonderry Mall/Fort Road Casino
Pickup Newbrook Hall 9:00am | Thorhild Lodge 9:30am |
Egremont Hall 9:45am
Leave Edmonton at 3:30pm

JANUARY 29
Shopping trip to Fort Saskatchewan
Pickup Thorhild Lodge 8:30am |
Radway Seniors Ctr. 9:00am
Leave Fort Saskatchewan at 3:30pm

For the shopping and casino trips, pre-registration is required no later than the day before the excursion date. To register, please contact Kelly at 780-307-4436 or kelly.patry@thorhildcounty.com



ALL ADULTS OVER 18 WELCOME!
\$20 + GST for County Residents
\$30 + GST for Non County Residents



Bus Excursion Program Survey

We want to hear from you!

Everyone 18 and older is invited to participate in the survey. Use the QR code or pick up a copy at our office.

www.shorturl.at/skqhf

SEEKING LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER

The Thorhild County Library Board is seeking a public member to join the Board. The Library Board is a governing board with full management and control of the public libraries within Thorhild County. Members meet on a quarterly basis.

Interested applicants may submit their letter of intent by noon on February 5, 2026 to Carol Revega at carol.revega@thorhildcounty.com or Tracy Woloshyniuk at twoloshyniuk@newbrooklibrary.ab.ca. For details, please call Tracy at 780-576-3772.

DO THE PENGUIN WALK!

With the warmer/cooler weather, be careful when walking



Walk Safely, Like a Penguin

- Point toes out
- Walk flat-footed
- Bend knees slightly
- Slowly shuffle
- Hands out of pockets
- Wear sturdy footwear
- Take short steps
- Use a backpack

**GOING SLEDDING?
KNOW WHERE TO GO BEFORE YOU GO**

If you plan to take your snow machine out, remember that certain areas are off-limits under the *Petty Transportation Act*.

- Section 1.1 states that no person shall enter on land without the permission of the owner or occupier of the land if entry is prohibited.
- Section 2.1 states that landowners may provide notice of no entry via orally, in writing or by posters or signboards visibly displayed. Furthermore, under the *Petty Trespassing Act*, entry is prohibited—without any posted notice—onto certain lands such as gardens, crop or animal production areas, fenced or naturally bounded properties, or any land where the owner's intent to restrict entry is clear.



TIS THE SEASON TO SNOWMOBILE SAFELY

- Always wear a properly fitting, safety-certified helmet and ensure the chinstrap is snug.
- Wear reflective clothing while riding.
- Carry essential safety supplies, including a first-aid kit, emergency tool kit, spare key, survival kit with flares, and a cell phone (if service is available).
- Ensure your snowmobile is registered and insured; carry documents and license plate when off private property.
- Stay on approved trails, know the terrain, and never ride on private property without permission.
- Use extreme caution when crossing roads.



Sturgeon Mustangs SU302 making memories on the ice with some pond hockey fun during Edmonton Minor Hockey Week! **Sturgeon Hockey Club photo**



Sturgeon County is proud of its diverse and innovative agricultural sector! The Excellence in Agriculture Award is a way to recognize those who demonstrate excellence in what they do and help improve local communities, the economy, and the environment.

Past award recipients have been recognized for demonstrating excellence in a variety of ways, including: innovation and use of technology, engagement with youth and other community members, or protecting the environment through improved stewardship practices.

Who is eligible?

- Families and operators (individuals, community associations, groups and clubs) of farms of all sizes and types, such as grain, greenhouses and livestock producers.
- Businesses supporting the agricultural sector.
- Businesses that add value to agricultural commodities.
- Agri-tourism operators.

Applications and nominations can be submitted online by visiting

SturgeonCounty.ca/AgAwards

The deadline for application submissions is Saturday, February 28, 2026.

For more information on submission requirements, eligibility, and award details visit: www.sturgeoncounty.ca/AgAwards. If you have questions or need help with your application, call 780-939-8349.



YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT STARTING THIS WEEK

Check your assessment when it arrives to make sure it's accurate. If you have any questions, contact an assessor using the online tool at SturgeonCounty.ca/Assessment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT STURGEONCOUNTY.CA/ASSESSMENT



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 documentation via: SturgeonCounty.ca/AgAwards

For more information or for alternate submission options visit SturgeonCounty.ca/AgAwards

If you have questions or require assistance with your application, call us at 780-939-8349.

The deadline for application submissions is Saturday, February 28, 2026.



KID'S CORNER



Allyse - Thorhild Central School



This is Allyse and she is in Grade 6. Her favorite part of school is playing dodgeball in gym and her favorite thing to do outside of school is Archery.

Sponsored by

Lions Club
Thorhild



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Direct Cremation \$1290 + GST*

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Transfer to funeral home within 50 KM, cremation tray, plastic urn, 12 death certificates, Executor's checklist

Traditional Burial \$2990 + GST* + Casket

*Price subject to change

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smemorial.ca

Nikiforuk, Nick

December 3, 1935 - January 10, 2026

On January 10, 2026, Nick Nikiforuk passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family at the age of 90.

Nick will be lovingly remembered by his family:

children, Laverne (Barry) Schram and their children Dallas and Tia, Blair (Brenda) and their children Carlee, Travis and Eric, Gail (Mike) O'Reilly and their children Bryce and Sadie, Nick (Lori) and their children Ryan (Gabrielle Shank), Cole (Brooke Hedstrom) and Lauren; former wife, Mary Nikiforuk (née Haig); numerous extended relatives, dear friends, and the team at Nikiforuk Construction.

He was predeceased by his parents, Nick and Katherine; and siblings, Andrew, Elswet, Josephine, Phyllis, Walter,

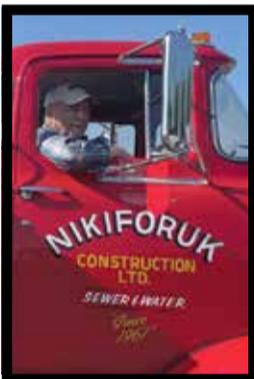
Reginald and Zan.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Sylvia, the staff of Unit 51 and the dialysis team at the Royal Alex Hospital for their

exemplary and sincere care they gave Nick.

A Funeral Service will be held Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 10 a.m., at the Newbrook Community Centre, 5701 - 50 Street, Newbrook. Interment will take place in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery, Darling.

Following the service, the family will be going for a last ride through the Nikiforuk family homestead before proceeding to the cemetery. Guests are welcome to meet at the cemetery or remain at the hall for family to return for lunch.



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



Park Memorial

Edmonton 780-426-0050
Family-Owned Funeral Home
And Crematorium



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Journey Certified Heavy Duty Mechanic

Smoky Lake County's Public Works Department is seeking a dedicated and proficient Journey Certified Heavy Equipment Technician to join our team in Smoky Lake, Alberta. This is a permanent, full-time position focused entirely on the maintenance and repair of our diverse municipal fleet.

Position Summary: Reporting to the Lead Mechanic/Maintenance Coordinator, the Journey Certified Mechanic will be responsible for the hands-on diagnosis, repair, and maintenance of all County fleet vehicles and heavy equipment. This role requires a strong technical focus, performing overhauls, routine maintenance, and preventative maintenance inspections to maximize equipment safety and life. This is a full-time role, Monday to Friday, 7:30-4:00 with an on-call rotation.

Key Mechanical Responsibilities

- Competent and proficient in all aspects of light and heavy-duty equipment testing, diagnosing, and repair.
- Perform required repairs, inspections, and preventative maintenance on fleet vehicles and equipment.
- Work on diesel and gasoline engines, fuel systems, emission systems, electronic systems, and hydraulic systems.
- Conduct C.V.I.P.'s (Commercial Vehicle Inspection Program inspections) on equipment according to Provincial standards.
- Resolve and troubleshoot technical problems as they arise.
- Maintain organized procedures by assisting with the review of daily vehicle and equipment checklists.

Credentials Required

- Valid Journey Certified Heavy Equipment Technician or Automotive Service Technician.
- Valid Commercial Vehicle Inspection Technician License considered an asset.
- Valid Alberta Driver's License (Class 1 preferred) with a clean Driver Abstract. Minimum Class 5, Air Brakes an asset.
- Acceptable Criminal Record Check.
- Comprehensive knowledge of road construction and heavy equipment.
- Proficiency with diagnostic software such as Microsoft Office, Cat SIS & ET, Cummins Insite, Quickserve, and Snap-On Scanner.
- Experience, or willingness to learn, with equipment management software.
- Knowledgeable of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations affecting municipal operations and Provincial/Federal Safety Legislation.

This position offers a competitive salary as per the based on the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 955, Collective Agreement with Smoky Lake County and includes an excellent benefit package. Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a cover letter and resume, in confidence, to:

sara@lakelandhr.ca

This competition will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

Smoky Lake County would like to thank all applicants in advance for their interest; however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

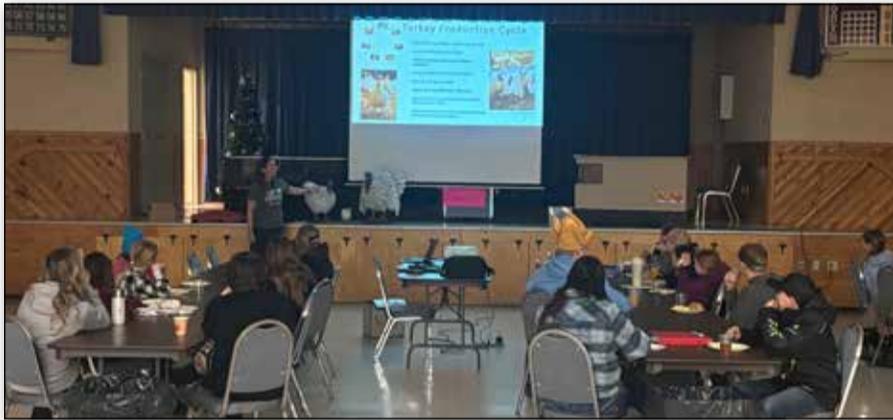


Your career ad at
WWW.THEREDWATERREVIEW.COM

Thorhild Minor Ball AGM

Monday, February 2nd, 2026 @ 7:00pm
 Thorhild Drop-In Centre

- Equipment Swap
- 1 Free Registration Will be Drawn For Those in Attendance!



Newbrook 4-H Club submission

Newbrook 4-H members had a learning day on January 10 at Newbrook Hall. Members participated in a variety of workshops. The guest speakers were Steve Kenyon - Greener Pastures Ranching. He taught the members about drone seeding and how to have healthy pastures from plants to bugs. After Steve Astrid

Stevenson from Pine Park Farms shared her knowledge about raising turkeys. Members learned about turkeys, biosecurity, quotas and record keeping. Above members showed off their turkey winnings. Our last 4-H Club presenters were the Canadian Live Stock Agency. The members learned about what recording is needed when

they have cattle and where to track their animals movements and why. They learned about the safety around reporting. So much information was shared and the members had a wonderful afternoon of learning. A huge thank you to our presenters that took time out of their day to support our members.



Roy Douglas Trotter





Roy Douglas Trotter was born March 11, 1944, and passed away January 7, 2026.

He was the beloved son of Harry and Frances Trotter.

Roy is survived by his sister Cheryl (Kelly Micetich); his brother Fred (Melissa, Grant); his loving partner Noreen (Amanda, Kenny, Carolyn); his daughter Kim (Leah, Deanna); and his son Clinton (Brooke).

He is also survived by four great-grandchildren, whom he adored, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Roy will surely be missed by his family, friends, and community.

A celebration of life will be held at the Redwater Legion on January 25, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Donations to the Legion are always welcome.



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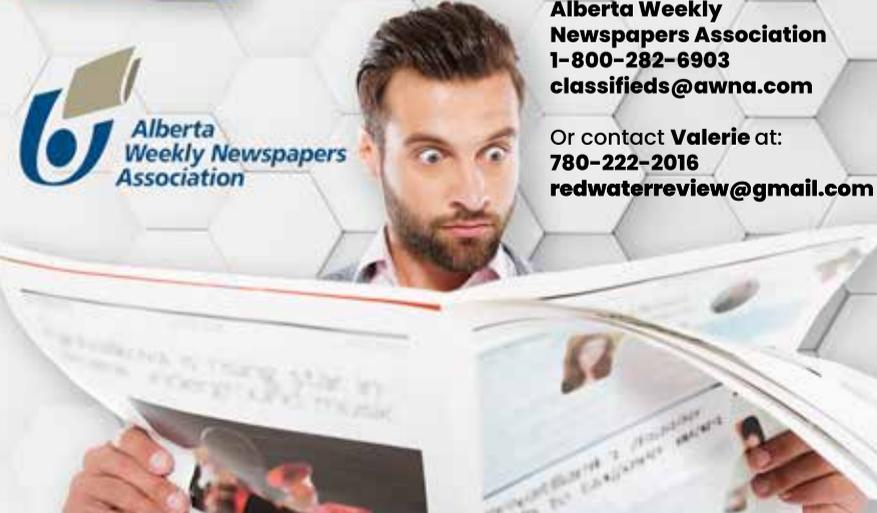
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1-833-511-4AUC Calgary, Alberta
www.auc.ab.ca T2P 0G5

Notice of application to be filed for approval to amend franchise fee for Town of Redwater and FortisAlberta Inc.

Application summary

FortisAlberta Inc. will file an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission, requesting acknowledgement of the new franchise fee of 12 per cent for the Town of Redwater.

The current franchise fee of 10 per cent will change to 12 per cent, effective **April 1, 2026**. The franchise fee percentage is applied to the distribution tariff, typically consisting of both distribution and transmission charges. Based on the typical monthly consumption of 625 kilowatt hours, the average monthly franchise fee paid by an average residential customer is expected to increase by \$1.18.

The franchise fee is charged in accordance with the franchise agreement between the Town of Redwater and FortisAlberta Inc., approved by the Commission in Decision 2013-183.

You may send your objections, concerns about, or support for the application in writing to FortisAlberta or the Town of Redwater on or before **February 4, 2026** at:

FortisAlberta Inc.

Ms. Jennifer MacGowan, Director, Stakeholder Engagement
320 17 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2S 2V1
email: stakeholderrelations@fortisalberta.com

Town of Redwater

Allegra Tingley
PO Box 397 Redwater, AB T0A 2W0
email: atingley@redwater.ca

Except for information designated confidential by the Commission, any information or materials, including personal information, that are provided as part of a Commission proceeding will become part of the public record.

If no submissions are received, or if submissions are received from a party not directly affected, or if submissions are frivolous, vexatious or of little merit, the Commission may render a decision on the application without further notice or without a public hearing.

For more information

For more information on how to file a submission, please contact the Commission directly at 310-4282 (in Alberta) or 1-833-511-4282 (outside Alberta), or by email at info@auc.ab.ca. An information package, providing an explanation of the process and assistance on how to participate in the proceeding, will be immediately provided to any person who inquires with the Commission.

For a paper copy of the franchise agreement, please contact either the applicant or the municipality at: FortisAlberta Inc.

Ms. Jennifer MacGowan, Director, Stakeholder Engagement

320 17 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2S 2V1
email: stakeholderrelations@fortisalberta.com

Town of Redwater

Allegra Tingley
PO Box 397 Redwater, AB T0A 2W0
email: atingley@redwater.ca

The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory body responsible for making decisions about utility-related applications.

Issued on January 21, 2026.
Alberta Utilities Commission

MOUNTIE MINUTE Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment



- Village of Waskatenau called to report a break and enter at the Waskatenau transfer site.
- Smoky Lake members have been initiating traffic stops for numerous different types of infractions from speeding to vehicle equipment regulations.
- Reports of an Impaired Driver in the Village of Vilna, member was able to locate vehicle, and driver was impaired by alcohol. Immediate Roadside Suspension was issued along with numerous traffic tickets.
- Wellbeing Check on a female in the Village of Vilna.
- County of Smoky Lake reported an abandoned vehicle on a RR near 125, members attended it was stolen from St. Paul area, no evidence to determine who was in possession of it.
- Smoky Lake RCMP recovered a stolen Semi Truck from Calgary and a stolen trailer from Nisku at the Petro Canada in Waskatenau.
- RCMP responded to a multi vehicle collision on HWY 831 near HWY 656, involving semi trucks and vehicles, property damage only, no injuries.
- Received a call of a vehicle in the ditch on RR 123, members attended located driver who was intoxicated, Issued an Immediate RoadSide Sanction, along with no insurance and suspended driving tickets.
- Report that a truck was stolen from the Anderson Food Market in Smoky Lake while shopping. Truck was running and unlocked.
- Wellbeing check.
- EMCON shop was broken into on HWY 36.
- Vacant Cabin was broken into near RR 124.
- Member generated vehicle parked on the main roadway in Waskatenau without a license plate. Unable to contact RO. Vehicle towed as it was an uninsured vehicle on a public road.

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

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--Our Lady, June 12, 1976

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www.smwa.org

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Utilities, wifi and winter plug-ins included. Power not included.

\$1,050 / month

Located in Redwater.

Call 780-983-2733



Sturgeon Fillies U15 families sold the final raffle tickets at the Independent in Gibbons, raising funds for team development and extra ice time. The draw was held Jan. 15 **Sturgeon Fillies U15 photo**

Thinking of planting a shelterbelt?

Sign up for Sturgeon County's

Shelterbelt Workshop

Date: January 22, 2026 from 5 PM - 7 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

Eventbrite.ca, search *Shelterbelt*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Make a Difference in Your Community

North Parkland Power Co-op is looking for dedicated member-owners to serve on our Board of Directors and help shape the future of your local Power Co-op.

Open Positions (3-Year Terms):

- Zone 1: Abee / Newbrook / Thorhild (1 position)
- Zone 2: Bon Accord / Gibbons (1 position)
- Zone 4: Lac La Biche (1 position)

Nomination Deadline:

Friday, February 6, 2026

For zone details and nomination papers:

Call 780-398-2000 or Email contact@npprea.ca

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of Laurie Howard Nordquist, who died on October 31, 2025.

If you have a claim against this Estate, you must file your claim by February 21, 2026.

with Graeme T. Harrington, PT
Law LLP
at 9831 - 107 Street, Westlock,
AB, T7P 1R9

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.

Backcountry Archery hosts QDM for a sold-out show



By Brandie Majeau

Backcountry Archery hosted a sold-out fundraising event in Thorhild, drawing a crowd of 300 enthusiastic guests to Thorhild Hall for a night of laughter, community, and generous giving. The evening's headline act, Saskatchewan-based comedian Quick Dick McDick (QDM), brought his signature blend of relatable humour and musical parody to a crowd thrilled and geared up for an evening out.

The event marked a much-anticipated gathering for many in the area, following weeks of difficult road conditions over the holidays that had kept people from travelling far or were completely homebound. Lively conversations filled the hall as friends, neighbours, and families reconnected, eagerly anticipating the night's festivities. Organizers set the tone with a warm welcome and a brief recounting of Backcountry Archery's

history but with everyone eager to mingle and get the night underway, speeches were kept short before handing the evening over to Zena's Catering, whose dinner service drew many compliments as guests cleaned their plates and many headed for seconds. As dinner plates were cleared, Quick Dick McDick took the stage, capturing the audience with witty stories, sharp political satire, and playful parody

Continued on **page 14**

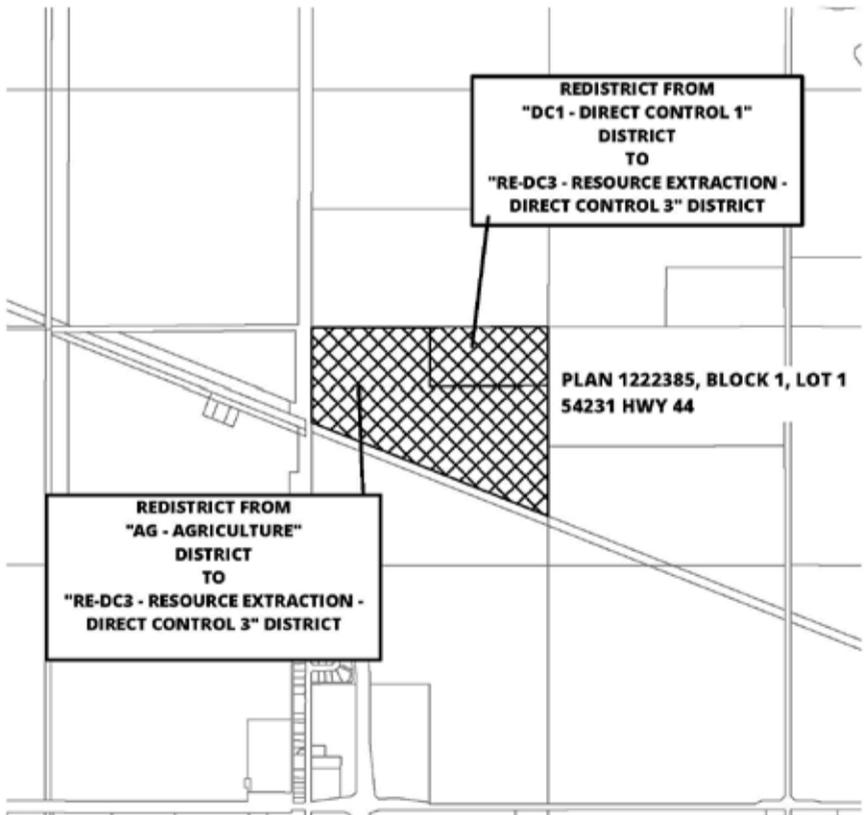
PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1668/24 - CHADI PIT REDISTRICTING

Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1668/24 (Chadi Pit Redistricting). This Bylaw would redistrict a portion of NW-17-54-26-4 (roughly 500m north of Villeneuve) from Agriculture and Direct Control District 1 to Resource Extraction Direct Control District 3.

Villeneuve Gravel JV Ltd. is seeking to develop a natural resource extraction operation. This land is currently designated for 'Agriculture' and 'Heavy Equipment Operator Business,' which does not allow this type of activity. Redistricting is being proposed to allow for the associated uses. This district allows Sturgeon County Council to establish site-specific criteria and regulations that the operator must follow.

Each time land is redistricted, a bylaw is needed to amend the Land Use Bylaw, and a Public Hearing must be held. View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1668-24.



Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on: **Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter) Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville) sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings

Questions? Contact us!

Jonathan Heemskerk, Planner, Current Planning
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 **780-939-0620** to pre-register.

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

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **January 26, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** by calling Legislative Services at **780-939-0620**. 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.

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 under 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 780-939-1306 or accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca.





Continued from **page 13**

songs. One particularly memorable segment, an energetic comparison of metric and standard measurements, had the audience roaring with laughter. The comedian's ability to push the limits and boundaries with his opinions had many bent over with laughter, wiping tears of mirth from their eyes.

In addition to the entertainment, guests participated in a raffle packed with tables of prizes donated by supportive families, local businesses, and community members.

The abundance of items up for grabs underscored the widespread support for Backcountry Archery and youth sports in general.

As the show wrapped up and raffle winners claimed their prizes, some guests headed home while others stayed late, moving tables together and making the most of the evening. Backcountry Archery sincerely thanks all the volunteers who made the night such a success, as well as every guest who came out in support. With the evening's speeches kept brief, one

key announcement was missed: Backcountry Archery is excited to share that they will be moving to Thorhild County! Profits from the fundraiser will help renovate their new home in the former Thorhild curling rink, recently leased from the Thorhild Community Association. Thanks to the overwhelmingly positive response to the Quick Dick McDick show and the community's generosity, Backcountry Archery is considering making this an annual event to help support their ongoing operations and equipment needs.



Sturgeon County launches 2026 Tree Program with wide variety of affordable seedlings

By **Shelley Winger**

Sturgeon County residents will once again have the opportunity to invest in their properties and the local environment this spring as the County's 2026 Tree Program opens for sales on Feb. 18.

The long-running program encourages residents to plant a diverse mix of native and climate-hardy trees and shrubs, an approach that offers environmental, economic and practical benefits for both rural and urban landscapes. County officials say increasing species diversity is key to creating healthier, more resilient tree cover, particularly as changing weather patterns place new stresses on local ecosystems.

Trees planted through the program play a critical role in improving air quality by filtering pollutants and capturing carbon, while also helping to manage snow drift, reduce wind exposure and provide natural cooling during warmer months. In rural areas, well-planned shelterbelts and windbreaks can protect crops, livestock and buildings from harsh weather, reduce soil erosion and help retain moisture in surrounding land.

In residential areas,

additional tree cover can lower household energy costs by providing shade in summer and buffering cold winds in winter. Mature trees and shrubs also improve property value, enhance curb appeal and create more comfortable outdoor spaces for families to enjoy. Over time, these benefits can contribute to stronger, more attractive neighbourhoods across the county.

Planting trees and shrubs also supports local wildlife by creating habitat and food sources for birds, pollinators and small mammals. Species such as Saskatoon, dogwood and willow provide shelter and seasonal food while helping stabilize soil and manage runoff during periods of heavy rain. These natural systems can reduce strain on drainage infrastructure and improve overall land health.

Beyond environmental advantages, the Tree Program makes large-scale planting more accessible by offering seedlings at reduced prices. By purchasing in bundles, residents can establish new plantings or expand existing ones at a fraction of the typical retail cost, making it easier to plan long-term landscape improvements.

Seedlings for the 2026 program will go on sale at 9 a.m. on Feb. 18 through the Sturgeon Services online portal. Residents can log in, select from available varieties and complete payment online. Purchased seedlings will be available for pickup on May 15 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Prices range from \$15 to \$20 per bundle, depending on species and bundle size. The 2026 selection includes deciduous trees such as white birch, trembling aspen, green ash, American elm, hybrid poplar, crabapple, plum and sour cherry. Coniferous options include spruce, pine, Douglas fir, tamarack and larch, while shrub varieties include Saskatoon, lilac, red osier dogwood, prickly rose and pussy willow.

Quantities are limited and will be sold while supplies last. Residents interested in participating are encouraged to order early, as popular varieties often sell out quickly.

Through initiatives like the Tree Program, Sturgeon County continues to promote long-term land stewardship, offering residents practical tools to improve their properties while contributing to healthier, more sustainable landscapes across the region.



Sturgeon County photo

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Redwater RCMP report increased winter calls and traffic incidents

By Haylee Winger

Redwater RCMP handled a total of 53 calls for service between January 7 and January 14, 2026, reflecting a busy start to the new year for local officers.

Police also reported a significant number of traffic-related incidents in late 2025. Between December

1 and December 31, Redwater Detachment received 69 collision reports, accounting for approximately 18 per cent of the detachment's total collision calls for the year. Tragically, three of those incidents resulted in fatalities.

December's extreme and unpredictable weather contributed

to hazardous driving conditions across the region. Police noted that icy road surfaces greatly reduce traction, with the coefficient of friction dropping to approximately 0.13. At highway speeds of 100 km/h, vehicles may require more than 300 metres to come to a complete stop under icy conditions, compared

to roughly 110 metres on dry, frozen pavement. Motorists are reminded to reduce speed and increase following distance during winter travel.

In Thorhild, RCMP responded to two reports of attempted break and enters in rural areas. Residents are encouraged to secure outbuildings and

equipment to help deter property crime.

Sturgeon County officers responded to a report of an erratic driver on Highway 28. The vehicle was located and stopped, and the driver was subsequently charged after police determined impairment by alcohol.

Within Redwater, officers were dispatched

on January 7 to a break and enter in progress at an oilfield site. Police located the suspects nearby and made arrests in connection with the incident.

RCMP continue to encourage the public to report suspicious activity and to exercise caution on winter roads as challenging conditions persist.

Staffing shortages lead to temporary physician absences at Smoky Lake Emergency Department

By Haylee Winger

Alberta Health Services has announced that the emergency department at the George McDougall Smoky Lake Healthcare Centre will again operate without an on-site physician during select overnight periods due to ongoing staffing challenges.

The department will be without on-site physician coverage from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. on

January 29-30. This follows similar overnight physician absences from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. on January 15-16 and January 22-23, when limited clinical personnel and the inability to secure temporary physician coverage required the service adjustments.

During these times, the emergency department remains open and is staffed by qualified nursing personnel who provide patient

assessments, triage services, and coordination with other emergency departments in nearby communities as required. Emergency Medical Services continue to serve the area to ensure emergency response remains available.

Residents experiencing urgent or life-threatening situations are advised to call 911. Those seeking medical advice for non-emergency concerns can contact

Health Link by dialing 811, which operates 24 hours a day.

In addition, remote physician support may be available through Alberta Health Services' Virtual Emergency Physician program, which connects on-site staff with emergency physicians by phone or video for patients with non-life-threatening conditions. Virtual physicians can assist with clinical decision-making, order diagnostic

tests or medications, and help determine appropriate next steps for patient care.

Alberta Health Services continues to pursue long-term solutions to improve physician availability in rural areas through recruitment initiatives, incentive programs, and the Alberta Rural Health Professions Action Plan. Officials note that upcoming service adjustments may be reduced or cancelled if

physician coverage is secured.

Alberta Health Services thanked local healthcare workers for their continued commitment and acknowledged the patience and cooperation of the community during these temporary service changes. Residents are reminded to treat healthcare staff with courtesy and respect as they work under challenging conditions.

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY *Review*

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NEW MORINVILLE BUNGALOW WITH DOUBLE DETACHED GARAGE

ORIGINAL OWNER three bedroom two bathroom BUNGALOW showing true pride of ownership! On the main floor is an open living and dining room adjoining a large kitchen with an additional breakfast nook space. The primary bedroom has a two piece ensuite as well as a WALK IN CLOSET. Completing the main floor is a four piece bathroom and two additional bedrooms. Downstairs you have a party area with a built in bar and a gaming room great for pool or an entertainment set up. A large workshop with adjoining storage room offers plenty of space to work on projects, with a small bedroom down the hall and a laundry room. Outside is an OVERSIZED DOUBLE DETACHED GARAGE, large yard, and an additional parking pad on the east side of the house. Numerous updates throughout the years include flooring throughout the main floor, furnace, hot water tank and garage opener. You don't see one like this every day - move in ready and full of charm! **\$375,000. Call Glenn to view.**




80 ACRES OF GRAIN/BUSH LAND IN THORHILD

Perfect for farmers, hunters or build your dream home. Ideal location just a few minutes from Abee, about an hour north of Edmonton. 80.61 acres of partially treed land at the end of a dead end road just a couple miles off Highway 63. Great place for hunting with lots of moose and deer. Use it as a weekend getaway, build your future hobby farm or add to your current farming operations. About 25 or 30 acres are cultivated and has good crop land. Much of the rest of the land could be cleared for more crop land if wanted. Power runs on the road right past the property. Another 10 acres could likely be subdivided out of this parcel. **\$225,000. Call Heather for more information.**



AFFORDABLE FAMILY HOME IN REDWATER

Great opportunity to own this 3 bedroom 2 bathroom home with a double attached garage and just under 1500 sq ft of living space. The entire upper floor can be a spacious primary suite with 4 pce bath or fantastic play area for the kids-flexible to suit your lifestyle. The main floor features an open kitchen/living room, 2 bedrooms, 4 pce bath plus a handy space for home office right off the living area. Step outside to enjoy the private, treed backyard with a deck and hottub-perfect for relaxing or entertaining. Upgrades include some windows, high efficient furnace and 2 jetted tubs. This home offers comfort, great value, and room for your family to grow, all in a quiet Redwater neighborhood, close to schools and parks. **\$249,900. Call Janine to view.**



74 ACRES OF LAND

74 Acres of land bordered by the Hamlet of Radway and Highway 28, less than an hour to Edmonton. Approx 25 acres of this land is high while the rest is wetland. May be able to have it rezoned to agricultural or country residential and use as pasture land or get a few acres of grain land with the possibility of building a house on the high land at south end. Creek runs through the property. Was pasture land at one time but old fence is in poor condition. Possibly use as a weekend getaway and go fishing at the Radway Fish Pond next door. Seller had trees cleared on some of it a few years ago but some have started to grow back. **\$120,000. Call Heather to view.**



VACANT LOT IN STURGEON COUNTY

This 3.09 acre lot in Pinewood Subdivision is just a few minutes north of Gibbons, less than a half hour to north Edmonton. This lot is mostly open grass land with 3 rows of trees planted all along the north and west sides. The trees have a great start and in a few years will give you lots of privacy on this lot. This is a quiet subdivision with many newer homes. There is a small community area with a playground, ball diamond, outdoor skating rink, fire pit and small clubhouse with gas bbq right in this subdivision. The adjoining 3 acre lot may also be available for sale. **\$89,900. Call Heather to view.**



YOUR DREAM BUILD AWAITS!

1.52 Acres of sloped land in the Hillsborough subdivision! Great opportunity to build a beautiful walk out home, with mature trees at the back of the property offering privacy from the neighbors. ON PAVEMENT all the way to Hwy 28, 10 mins from Gibbons and 30 mins from Edmonton. **\$180,000. Call Glenn for more info.**



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