



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

Thorhild Agricultural Society launches inclusive Girls Hockey Mentorship

Photos courtesy of Shelby Karachi



Zoey, Kelly, and Sarah Feledichuk are new to the game and have now become ladies hockey night regulars!



Shelby Kapach says her two year old daughter is the inspiration for the girls hockey mentorship program.

By **Brandie Majeau**

The Thorhild Agricultural Society is breaking new ground in community sports by extending its Ladies Hockey program to include girls of all ages and skill levels into a hockey mentorship program. The newly announced girls-only drop-in ice time is set to provide a welcoming, supportive environment that builds confidence, camaraderie, and athletic development among young female hockey enthusiasts.

The initiative kicks off on January 7, with free sessions

scheduled every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Thorhild arena. Organizers emphasize that the sessions are open to everyone, from brand-new skaters to seasoned players. Shelby Kapach explained, "This program was inspired by my young daughter and the belief that she belongs in hockey — and that there should be somewhere local for her to play. Girls shouldn't have to drive an hour just to find a place where they belong. Girls Hockey Mentorship is about

Continued on **page 8**

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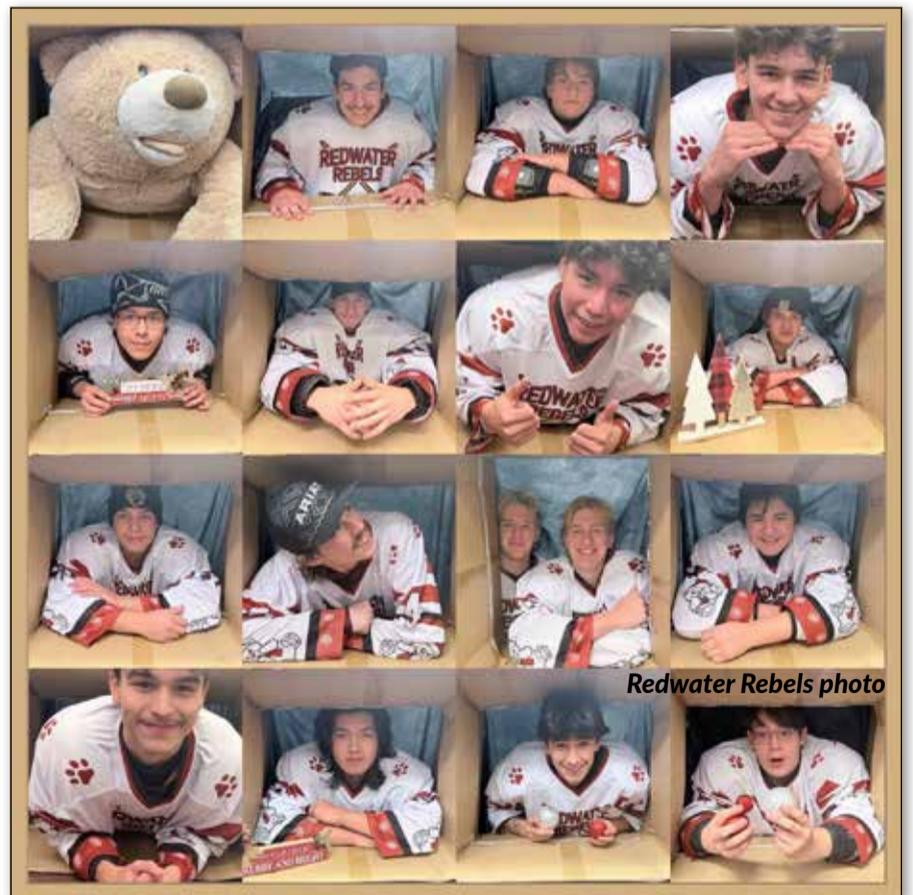


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Redwater Rebels give back to community during busy week



Redwater Rebels photo

By **Shelley Winger**

The Redwater Rebels Junior A Hockey Team wrapped up the first half of their season with a week focused

on community support and giving back. The week began with the team's annual teddy bear toss game, which saw strong participation from fans and local

residents. During the game, 80 teddy bears were collected and later rounded up to a total of 100 bears for donation.

Continued on **page 2**

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Fire rescue equipment stolen from Calahoo Station, valued at \$60,000

By Haylee Winger

Approximately \$60,000 worth of fire rescue equipment was stolen from the Calahoo Fire Station in Sturgeon County during the early morning hours of December 22, according to local officials. The stolen items include specialized tools used to rescue people from motor vehicle collisions, such as a hydraulic spreader commonly known as the "jaws of life," an industrial cutter, a cut saw, a generator, and several other pieces of rescue equipment.

Fire Chief Chad

Moore described the incident as both frustrating and harmful to the community. He said the theft affects the ability of emergency responders to provide critical assistance when it is needed most. Moore confirmed that Sturgeon County Fire Services is working closely with the RCMP, who are actively investigating and reviewing available evidence. To ensure emergency response has not been compromised, Sturgeon County Protective Services has temporarily redistributed equipment from other fire stations. Officials stated that

the Calahoo Fire Station remains fully operational and that residents should not expect any disruption to emergency services.

Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw praised fire services staff for their quick response. She emphasized the importance of maintaining fully equipped emergency services, particularly during the busy holiday travel season when road incidents tend to increase.

The theft comes amid a reported rise in rural crime within the Calahoo area. Local businesses, including the

community's general store, have experienced theft-related losses, creating additional challenges for residents who rely on these services. County officials note that addressing rural crime in Alberta requires coordinated efforts among multiple partners to improve safety and protect communities.

Anyone with information related to this incident or other criminal activity is encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Tips can also be submitted anonymously online through the Alberta Crime Stoppers website.



Redwater Rebels photos

Continued from page 1

The bears were distributed to several local emergency services, with 55 donated to the Redwater Fire Department, 25 to Sturgeon County Peace Officers, and 20 to the Redwater RCMP. Any remaining unsold bears will be delivered to the Stollery Children's Hospital to bring comfort to children receiving care there.

In addition to the teddy bear donation, the team collected 233 pounds of food for the Redwater

Food Bank. Players visited the food bank to help unload and organize the donations, ensuring the contributions were ready to reach local families in need.

Earlier in the week, several players travelled home to spend time with their families. On Thursday, a group of players stayed in the community and joined Team Manager Sonya Needham and the team's medical trainer for dinner before volunteering at the Critters Game at Pembina Place. Their

efforts helped support the Redwater Pump Park and highlighted the team's commitment to giving back beyond the rink.

The players, coaching staff, and volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the week, showing that the Rebels' dedication extends far beyond the ice. From organizing donations to engaging with the community, the team demonstrated leadership, teamwork, and a sense of responsibility that reflects positively on

the organization and the town.

The week concluded with the Rebels' final home game of the first half of the season. Team representatives expressed gratitude to the community, families, billet families, volunteers, players, and coaching staff, recognizing the important role each group plays in the team's success both on and off the ice.

The Redwater Rebels will return to action in the new year as they continue their season.

Holy Family Christmas lunch



Holy Family Catholic School photos

Holy Family students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 met in the gym on December 17 to enjoy a Christmas lunch sponsored by school council. Students enjoyed buns, ham, mashed potatoes, corn, and dessert.



Brixton Fister and Eleanor Cree loaded up their plates at the Holy Family Christmas lunch on December 17.



Students enjoyed a festive Christmas lunch prepared by parent volunteers before school was dismissed for the holidays.



Keeping Redwater safe this winter

By Shelley Winger

Winter is a shared responsibility, and everyone in the community can help keep Redwater safe during snowy and icy conditions. Winter weather is a reality in Redwater, and snow, ice, and fluctuating temperatures can create hazardous conditions on roads, sidewalks, and driveways.

While town crews work to keep public areas safe, residents are reminded that surfaces can remain slippery even after clearing and that caution is always necessary.

The town clears snow on a priority basis to ensure safe, accessible streets throughout the community. Main access routes are cleared first, followed by access routes and

the downtown core, residential streets and school bus stops, industrial areas, commercial alleys, and residential alleys. Snowfall response begins once snow begins to accumulate, and where possible, vehicles should be removed from streets to allow crews to work efficiently. Unmoved vehicles may be towed at the owner's expense under town bylaws. Residential snow clearing begins once snow reaches approximately 10 cm, with a target service completion of at least four days after a snowfall event.

Residents are asked to help keep Redwater safe in winter by moving vehicles off streets when snow clearing signs are posted, parking off priority routes during snow

events, keeping sidewalks clear where required by local bylaws, and avoiding placing snow from driveways or sidewalks back onto the road or public walkways.

Winter conditions can make travel unpredictable. Drivers are encouraged to slow down, leave extra space between vehicles and be alert for snow removal and sanding equipment. Pedestrians should use appropriate footwear with good traction and be cautious on sidewalks and paths, especially during freezing and thawing cycles.

Snow removal can be strenuous physical activity. Residents are encouraged to work at a steady pace, take breaks, push snow when possible instead of lifting, lift smaller

amounts at a time, and avoid sudden twisting motions. Dressing in layers, staying warm, and keeping hydrated can help reduce the risk of injury. Anyone experiencing chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness, or unusual fatigue should stop immediately and seek medical attention.

Residents with health concerns or limited mobility should arrange assistance from family, friends, or a snow removal service. Checking in on neighbours, especially seniors, helps support community safety.

If you have a concern about snow removal or winter maintenance in Redwater, contact the town office or submit a service request. Public Works will respond according to existing policy.

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by PETER MARINACCI

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Bridging generations through holiday cheer: The Importance of youth-senior connections



Photos courtesy of H.A.Kostash



By Brandie Majeau

Just before the holiday break, grades 1 and 2 students from H. A. Kostash School brought a heartwarming dose of Christmas joy to the local seniors home, turning the festive season into a

celebration of kindness and togetherness. The young students, with bright eyes and excited smiles, performed their concert numbers with genuine enthusiasm, filling the room with laughter, music, and genuine warmth. Residents with beaming

faces, so many moved by the sweet songs and the innocent presence of children, a reminder that the simplest gestures can touch the soul and create cherished holiday memories. Events like these serve as a powerful

reminder of why it is so important for younger generations to connect with their elders. In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, opportunities for meaningful intergenerational interaction are

Continued on **page 5**



Thinking of planting a shelterbelt?

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PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION TO COMMENT ON Sturgeon River Pedestrian Bridge

Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program administers the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*.

In accordance with requirements of the Canadian Navigable Waters Act, Stephen Hinton hereby gives notice that an application has been submitted to the Minister of Transport for the following works.

Common Project Registry Number	Navigation Protection Program File Number	Project Description <i>(Please describe the type of work, activity and status of work, for example: wharf, dam, etc.)</i>	Worksite location <i>(Please include the name of the waterway, geographic coordinates, lot # if applicable, etc.)</i>
13654	2025-615640	Bridge	Sturgeon River, 53° 41' 4.34" N, 113° 34' 15.78" W

How to send comments:

Comments about the potential effect of this work must be received within 30 days of this posting.

We invite you to submit comments online through the Common Project Search site at: Common Project Search (<https://common-project-search.canada.ca/>). To do so, enter the registry number indicated above in the search box, and follow the instructions. Alternatively, comments can be mailed or emailed to:

Navigation Protection Program – Transport Canada
344 Edmonton Street Winnipeg MB R3C 0P6
NPP File number: 2025-615640
TC.NPPNR-PPNRPN.TC@tc.gc.ca

Note:

- Comments will only be considered if they are in writing (electronic or mail) and received by the deadline. Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program may communicate with you to obtain additional information on your comments.
- Transport Canada does not publish comments submitted through the Common Project Search site or mailed to the Navigation Protection Program (see Common Project Search - Navigation Protection Program Registry). However, comments submitted online or by mail are considered public record. As such, they are subject to the Privacy Act and the Access to Information Act and are accessible through access to information and privacy (ATIP) requests. This means the information you provide should not contain confidential or sensitive information since it could be disclosed (see Make an access to information or personal information request).

Posted at Morinville/Redwater, Alberta on January 7, 2026.



Continued from page 4
 increasingly rare. Yet, these connections offer lasting benefits for both youth and seniors alike.

For children, interacting with seniors provides a chance to develop empathy, respect, and an appreciation for the wisdom of older generations. Sharing songs and stories builds communication skills and confidence as children learn to engage with people outside their immediate age group. These early experiences can help shape compassionate, socially aware individuals who understand the value of community.

For seniors, visits from young people can help combat isolation and loneliness, which are common challenges in elder care facilities. The energy and excitement that children bring can lift spirits and create a sense of vitality. Such interactions stimulate memories, encourage conversation, and often become something

so meaningful in a residents' days.

Bringing generations together also helps preserve community traditions and values.

As children listen to stories and songs from elders, and as seniors witness the promise of youth, both groups gain a deeper sense of belonging and continuity. These bonds reinforce the idea that everyone, regardless of age, has something valuable to contribute.

The recent visit by H. A. Kostash School students is a wonderful example of how bridging generational gaps benefits everyone involved. As those who celebrate the holidays and those who are simply looking to the new year, it is important to remember the profound impact of simple acts of kindness and connection, especially those that bring young and old together. Building these bridges today lays the foundation for resilient, caring communities for generations to come.



2026 HAPPY NEW YEAR

We'd like to thank all of our friends and clients for helping to make 2025 a great year in real estate. We look forward to helping many more people with their real estate needs this year. We love helping make dreams come true.
Glenn, Heather, Tara and Jannine

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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.**

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.**

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.**

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Smoky Lake Lions give back



Noreen Easterbrook accepted a food donation from Smoky Lake Lions' Lorrie Verspeelt, with support from Anderson Foods' Scott Anderson, ahead of Christmas.



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Sturgeon County introduces dedicated online hub for investors

By Haylee Winger

Sturgeon County has unveiled a new digital platform aimed at supporting investment attraction and business growth with the launch of InvestSturgeon.ca.

The website serves as a centralized resource for both international and Canadian investors, as well as local businesses, offering direct access to economic and investment-related information. It is specifically designed for users who may not be familiar with municipal governance, allowing them to bypass resident-oriented content and access material tailored to business development.

Mayor Alanna Hnatiw said the platform provides a clear entry point for potential investors. She noted that users can quickly learn about Sturgeon County's competitive advantages in sectors including aerospace, defence and security, data centres, energy, and value-added agriculture, while also

connecting directly with County staff. According to Hnatiw, the website supports Council's objective of expanding and diversifying the non-residen-

workforce capacity, and development opportunities. It also offers practical tools for investors, such as interactive site-selection maps, options to

also find information related to support programs, incentives, events, and advisory services.

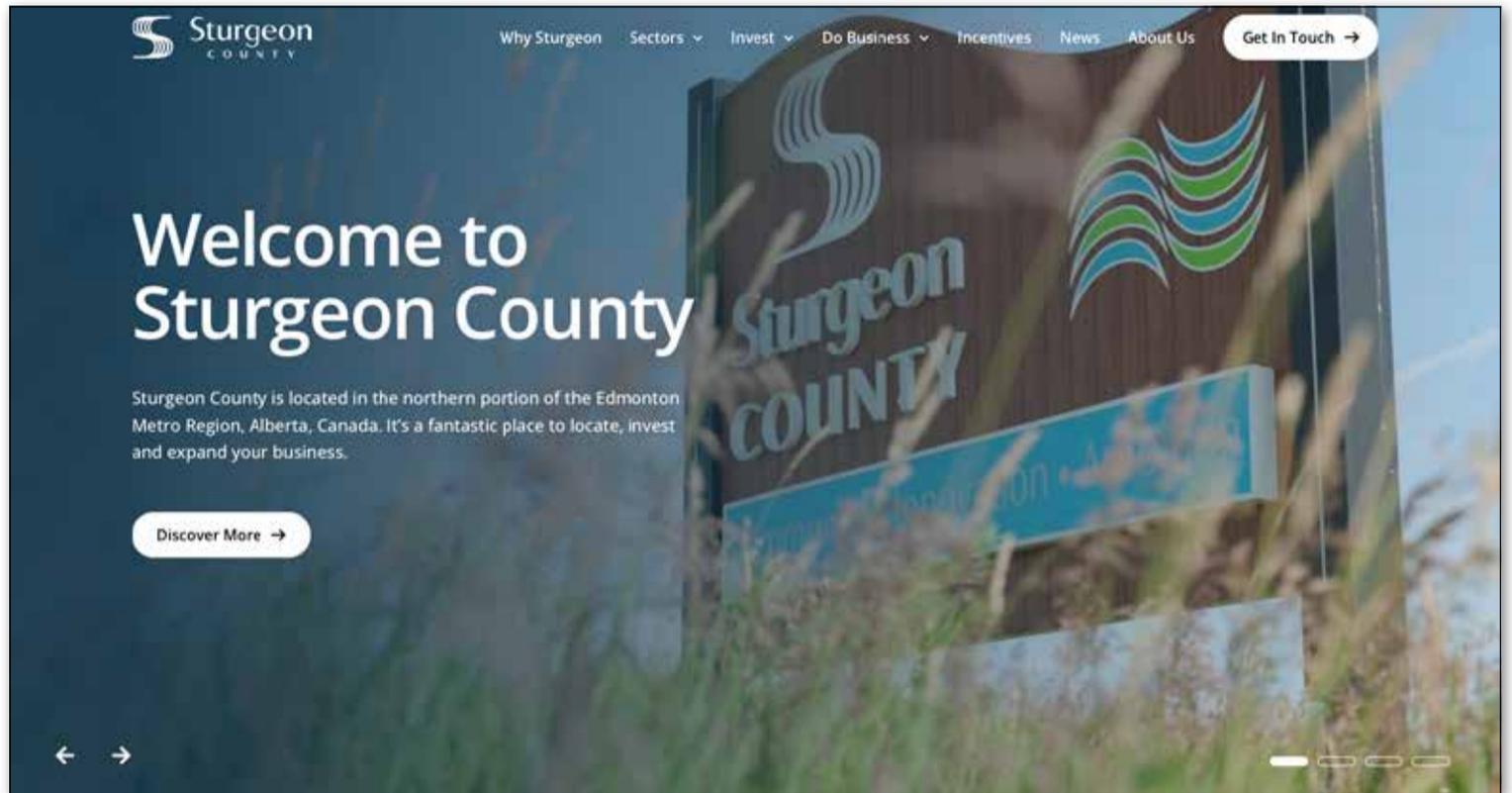
Alongside the website launch, the County

region, featuring local companies and showcasing the infrastructure, innovation, and opportunities available within the County.

Hnatiw said the vid-

is actively supporting growth, innovation, and employment.

Investors, business owners, and community partners are encouraged to explore



tial tax base by streamlining the investment process.

The site includes industry-focused pages outlining available infrastructure,

book site tours, access to detailed data, and direct contact with the County's Economic Innovation and Growth team. Local businesses can

has released a complementary video initiative titled Investing in Sturgeon: Sector Stories. The series highlights key industries operating in the

eos provide prospective investors with first-hand perspectives from businesses already established in Sturgeon County, reinforcing that the region

InvestSturgeon.ca, view the Sector Stories video series, and connect with the County's Economic Innovation and Growth team for more information.

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The Critters are hitting the ice in Smoky Lake

By Brandie Majeau

Smoky Lake is gearing up for an exciting community event as the Smoky Lake Agricultural Society welcomes the 840 CFCW Critters for a thrilling hockey game on January 22, 2026. Hosted at the Nutrien Ag Center, this match-up pits the beloved Critters against local players, promising an evening packed with entertainment, community spirit, and a great cause.

The evening begins

with a dinner at 5:30 pm, followed by an energetic pregame show at 6:30 pm, and the much-anticipated puck drop at 7 pm. Beyond the on-ice action, attendees can look forward to a variety of engaging activities, including raffles, a 50/50 draw, and an exciting zamboni ride auction. These elements not only add to the fun but also help raise essential funds for the Smoky Lake Minor Hockey Association (SLMHA), ensuring that local youth continue to enjoy

and participate in the sport.

And of course, the highlight of the night is the appearance of the 840 CFCW Critters. For decades, the Critters have been more than just a team, they are a symbol of community engagement and charitable giving across Alberta. Formed by staff and personalities from the CFCW radio station, the Critters travel throughout the province, playing exhibition games to raise money for local charities and minor sports

programs. Their games are known for their blend of competitive spirit, comedic antics, and a genuine commitment to giving back. The Critters' presence draws in the crowds and shines a spotlight on the importance of supporting grassroots sports and encouraging a sense of togetherness in small towns.

Supporting minor hockey is vital for communities like Smoky Lake. Minor hockey programs instill values such as teamwork,

discipline, and perseverance in young athletes, providing them with opportunities for personal growth and lifelong friendships. Events like this hockey night ensure that local youth have access to proper equipment, coaching, and facilities, keeping the sport accessible for future generations.

Proceeds from the evening will directly benefit the SLMHA, helping to cover costs and enhance the hockey experience for young players. Tickets

are available at several community locations, including The Old Fashioned Bread Bakery, Smoky Lake Collision & Restoration, and from SLMHA parents. Attending the Critters game represents more than a night of entertainment, it is an opportunity to invest in the future of Smoky Lake's youth, promote community pride, and experience the distinctive combination of sport and entertainment that the Critters are renowned for.



Miranda From (goalie) and her sister Seanna From grew up playing hockey in Redwater. Miranda has joined the last two ladies skates in Thorhild and brought Seanna to the last session while she was out for the holidays all the way from Arizona.

Photo courtesy of Shelby Karachi

providing current players with extra ice time and the chance to develop their leadership abilities.

This initiative was founded by community member Shelby Kapach in partnership with the Thorhild Agricultural Society, with the goal of creating accessible girls-only ice time and enhancing opportunities for girls in the region. The immediate objectives are to increase access, build confidence, and foster a sense of community. The long-term vision is to expand participation to the extent that a local girls' hockey team can be formally established, eliminating the need for girls to travel significant distances to play.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own skates, gloves, helmets, and gear, but rental equipment is also available through the Agricultural Society, eliminating a common barrier to entry for newcomers. The sessions are designed not only to teach the basics of hockey

but also to encourage mentorship, with older girls helping to guide and support younger or less experienced players.

The program comes at a time when there is increasing recognition of the importance of inclusive, accessible opportunities for girls in sport. According to organizers, the goal is to create a lasting sense of community and belonging where players can grow both their skills and their confidence on and off the ice. Girls of all ages are encouraged to stop by and try out the sessions and develop their hockey skills in a non-competitive, friendly setting. The Agricultural Society hopes the initiative will inspire life-long participation in sport and activity for local girls. With the launch of this mentorship-driven program, Thorhild is making strides toward a more inclusive sporting community...one encouraging local girls to lace up, step onto the ice, and discover the joy of hockey.



Redwater residents showed incredible community spirit at the Dec. 18 hockey game, supporting the silent auction, bake sale, and cotton candy sales, with Tim Hortons donating hot chocolate and plushies. Thanks to the efforts of players, volunteers, and attendees, the event raised over \$9,000 for the Redwater Pump Track.

Redwater Family Recreation Association photo

Continued from page 1
creating that space here, while also building toward a future where girls can play on a local team of their own."

unites girls of all ages and skill levels in a supportive, encouraging environment, offering coaching at every session to facilitate skill development. Additionally, older participants have the opportunity to mentor younger players. The program is designed to welcome newcomers to the sport while also

The Girls Hockey Mentorship program is purposefully centered on leadership, mentorship, and community rather than competition. It

Terry, Shirley Ann

January 7, 1948 – December 13, 2025

On Saturday, December 13, 2025, Shirley Ann Terry passed away at the age of 77 years.

Shirley was born on January 7, 1948, in High Prairie, Alberta.

She was the second of six children born to parents Philip Thomas Cuthbert and Vergie Mae Cuthbert (née Ward). Her father was a trapper and farmer, and her mother a homemaker. Shirley married Lawrence Raymond Terry in 1967 and they divorced in 1990. They had five children: Tim Terry, Tammy Freerksen, Tracy Terry, Tina Dolhan and Taboatha Aveyard. While Shirley enjoyed life on the farm, she also chose to further her education by first driving the local school bus and then taught bus driver safety. Following this career, she undertook a Degree in Nursing and had a 30-year



career working at the Smoky Lake Healthcare Centre in the Acute Care and Auxiliary wings, and then the Nursing Home and Lodge.

Throughout Shirley's life, she valued family above all other priorities. She believed in being kind to others and approaching all tasks with a positive attitude and openness toward learning. She valued her long-term common-law relationship with Walter Ewanciw. When Shirley was not working, she loved to spend time traveling, gardening, and visiting her family.

Shirley will be laid to rest in the Shevchenko (North Kotzman) Cemetery in the presence of her family. A celebration of life where her family, coworkers and friends are encouraged to attend will be held at a later date.

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



Park Memorial

Smoky Lake 780-656-3839
Family-Owned Funeral Home
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2026

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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS December 16, 2025

Below is a brief summary of decisions made at the December 16, 2025, Regular Council meeting:

Unfinished Business - New Gas Service for Sold Property

Council confirmed the decision of the October 14, 2025, Council meeting, that the cost of the infill will be at the owner's expense.

First Reading for Road Closure Bylaw 09-2025 - Long Lake Block Wells

Council approved first reading of Road Closure Bylaw 09-2025 with Schedules "A" to "N", Long Lake Block Wells.

Community Planning Association of Alberta 2026 Conference

Council directed Administration to bring back the Community Planning Association of Alberta 2026 Conference to the January 13, 2026, Regular Council Meeting.

Thorhild Ukrainian Dancing Club Funding Request

Council accepted the report on Thorhild Ukrainian Dancing Club Funding Request for information and directed Administration to advise the group to reapply in January 2026.

Thorhild Skating Club Funding Request

Council approved funding to the Thorhild Skating Club in the amount of \$200 as per Policy 1405, Section 2-A.

2026 Operating Budget

Council approved a 2026 interim operating budget for Thorhild County at 50% of the 2025 operating budget.

Council also moved to schedule Special Council Meetings for the purpose of 2026 Budget Planning Sessions, on January 7, 2026, and January 15, 2026, to begin at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Friends of the Newbrook Library Society Additionally Named Insured (ANI) Request

Council approved the request to add the Friends of the Newbrook Library Society as an Additional Named Insured to Thorhild County's main insurance policy. And further, Council directed Administration to send a formal request to add the Friends of the Newbrook Library Society as an Additional Named Insured to Thorhild County's main insurance policy with an effective date to be determined based on discussions with the organization.

Correspondence for Action - Alberta HUB

Council directed Administration to send a letter of support to the Alberta HUB regarding the Skyways Project V2.0 Request for the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant application.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUP ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

Policy 1405, Community Grants, provides yearly assistance to active non-profit community youth groups operating in Thorhild County. The funding amount is based on the active youth members, verified by group officials.

Below is a list of funding allocations for the 2025 Annual Community Youth Group Assistance program:

Friends of the Newbrook Public Library	\$250
Newbrook 4-H Beef Builders	\$325
Newbrook Range Riders (Need Annual Return)	\$250
Radway Readers Society	\$250
Seed to Sprouts Child Care Society	\$400
Thorhild & District Agricultural Society	\$350
Thorhild Fun Hockey	\$375
Thorhild Minor Ball Association	\$400
Thorhild Minor Hockey Association	\$400
Thorhild Skating Club	\$400
Thorhild Ukrainian Dancing Club	\$350

SNOWPLOWING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

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

- Driveways will be addressed **after** all County roads are cleared
- Driveway plowing consists of one pass in and back out
- Fees and flags must be purchased before the work is done
- Each flag is good for one plow only

Fee:

\$50.00/Flag

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

To register for driveway cleaning, sign an easement form and pick up a flag. After the storm, place the flag at the end of your driveway where it can be seen by the grader operator. Visit the County Administration Building at 801 1st Street, Thorhild, to obtain and sign the easement form.

HAMLET SIDEWALK CLEARING

Help keep our hamlets safe for pedestrians by clearing snow and ice from sidewalks bordering your property, including in front of your driveway. Please avoid placing snow and ice onto the roadway or adjacent properties.

Remember, it is required by Thorhild County's Community Standards Bylaw that snow and ice is removed from any sidewalk within 48 hours after snow and ice has been deposited.

Let's work together to keep people walking and moving around the community on safe sidewalks!

Bus EXCURSIONS

JANUARY 13

St. Albert Shopping/Casino

Pickup Newbrook Hall 9:00am | Thorhild Lodge 9:30am |
Egremont Hall 9:45am
Leave St. Albert at 3:30pm

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

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

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



Have you used our Bus Excursion Program?



Scan the QR code or visit www.shorturl.at/skqhf to complete the survey or pick up a copy at the County Administration Building. Submit your survey by February 13, 2026.

If yes, tell us what you think by completing our survey!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Director of County Services

Full Time Permanent

For details, please visit our Careers page at www.thorhildcounty.com.



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



Newbrook 4-H Club News

By Addison Melnyk

Hi! I am Addison and I am one of the reporters this year for the Newbrook 4-H Club.

We had two meetings in October. The first one was just an information meeting to see who was joining our club this year and what projects we are going to have.

Our second meeting was our annual meeting with elections. This year our club president is Cohen Ollikka, and our vice president is Harper MacMillan. Makenna Ollikka stayed on as our secretary and Maddox day continued as our treasurer. Our

club representative is Raelynn Ollikka. Our volunteer club reporters are myself, Alyssa Ollikka, Raelynn Ollikka, Kenley Nendze and Jacob Stevens. Our club elected Jocelyn Toronchuk as our general leader. We have 12 assistant leaders. We are offering beef (market steer, carcass steer, heifer & cow/calf), horse, market poultry, market swine, foods, sewing, and cleaver kids. We have 40 members plus 4 cleaver kids this year.

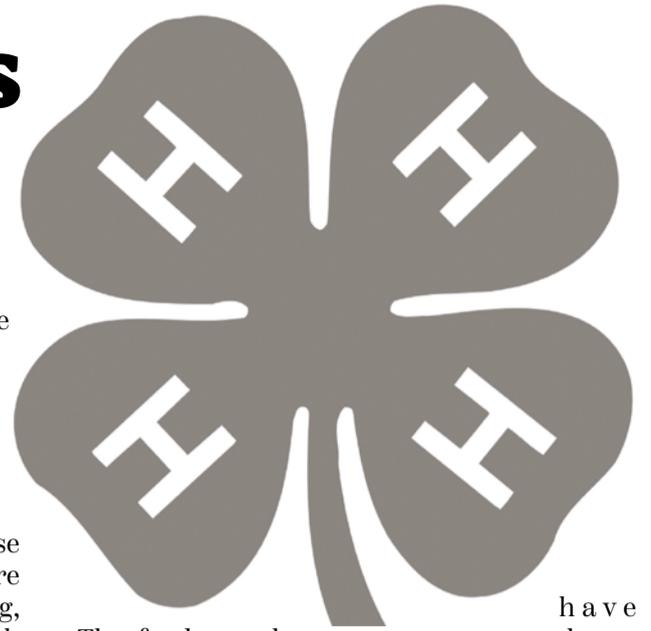
The beef members held their weigh in day on Nov. 2 at Raelynn & Alyssa Ollikka's farm. Members weighed in 30 steers, 8 heifers and 10 carcass

projects. We also have 4 cow/calf projects registered. Members worked the chutes and scale and had 1st hand experience moving the animals around. We also measured each steer for their hip height. After weigh in we all enjoyed a potluck meal in the shop. It was a good day. Most steers weighed between 650 and 800 pounds and most animals were well behaved. On Nov. 13 beef members had a nutrition clinic lead by Cache Schiller. Members learned how much they need to feed their animals. How much grain and how much hay. What grains and hay are

better for their animals.

Horse members held their first activity on Nov. 9th at the Victoria Trail arena in Waskatenau. They started with herd health and pictures. This year we have 7 horse members. Our horse projects this year are levels 1-4, showing, green and English jumping. Horse members will be riding twice a month in Waskatenau.

Our sewing members are going to learn how to make clothes this year with leader Lorna Punko. Members had their first meet on Nov. 12 at the Newbrook Hall.



The foods, poultry, swine and cleaver projects will be starting later this month. Members and parents have also been volunteering during their bingo events.

Some of our members have volunteered with the Newbrook Rec. & Ag. Society harvest supper. They served and helped clean up supper.

We had a meeting on Nov. 28 at the Newbrook Hall. Members participated in a record book clinic and their monthly meeting. We look forward to seeing what this year brings for our club and members.

Community Invited to RCMP Policing Priorities Town Hall

Residents are invited to take part in an upcoming community town hall focused on RCMP policing priorities. The event will provide an opportunity for community members to learn more about local policing issues

and to submit questions directly to RCMP representatives.

The town hall will take place on Monday, January 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Participants can choose to attend either virtually from home or in person

at designated watch stations.

Those attending online will receive a live-stream link by email on Friday, January 16. Registration is required by 4:30 p.m. on January 15 to receive the link. For residents who prefer to gather in

person, several watch stations will live-stream the event. While RCMP representatives will participate virtually, they will not be physically present at these locations. Watch stations include:

- Cardiff Room at County Centre, 9613

100 St, Morinville

- Pinnacle Ridge Community Centre, 79 Pinnacle Ln, Sturgeon County

- Rivière Qui Barre Community Centre, 26500 AB-44 #145A, Rivière Qui Barre

- Redwater Legion, 4708 50 Ave,

Redwater

Residents are encouraged to register in advance and take advantage of this opportunity to engage in an important discussion about policing priorities in their community. Register at sturgeoncounty.ca.

Snow removal safety tips for seniors

(NC) Winter in Canada brings its share of beauty, as well as challenges. For many Canadians, shovelling snow is part of the routine, but it can also be tough on the body. For seniors, staying safe during snow season means working smarter, not harder. Here are some simple safety tips:

Clear snow early and often. It helps prevent buildup and icy layers, reducing strain and lowering the risk of slips or falls.

Warm up before heading out into the cold. Clearing snow is hard work—help your body prepare for it with a quick warm-up before you get started.

Use the right tool for the job. Choosing equipment that reduces physical effort can make snow removal safer and easier, especially for older adults. Some manufacturers, like Garant, now offer cordless electric snowblowers that require less pushing and

lifting than traditional models, helping make winter upkeep more manageable.

Tip: When choosing a snowblower consider what type you will need. A single-stage model is good for easy handling where a two-stage model is self-propelled, which can reduce pushing effort.

Stay hydrated. Did you know that cold weather can take as much water from your body as summer heat? Make sure to get

plenty of fluids before starting to clear snow.

Be kind to yourself when shovelling. Remember to pace yourself, take regular breaks and don't hesitate to ask a neighbour for help. Snow removal is a workout, not a race.

With a few smart strategies and the right tools, seniors can enjoy winter confidently keeping their driveways safe, accessible and injury-free. You can learn more at garant.com.



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Community generosity filled not one, but two cruisers during Sturgeon County's Cram-a-Cruiser campaign, collecting 1,500 pounds of food and toys and \$908.30 in cash for the Bon Accord & Gibbons Food Bank and the Redwater Fellowship of Churches Food Bank. **Sturgeon County photo**

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Sweet pre-holiday visit



Carly received oranges and chocolates from Smoky Lake Lions Gerald Babichuk and Lorrie Verspeelt at Acute Care, Smoky Lake Hospital.

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Sweet donation



Noreen Easterbrook on behalf of the Smoky Lake Food Bank accepted a food donation from Smoky Lake Lions' Lorrie Verspeelt, with support from Anderson Foods' Scott Anderson, ahead of Christmas.

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