



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

From uncertainty to optimism, Candy Pops Ice Cream Shop prepares to reopen



Jessica and Shawn Doyle stand proudly outside their shop, welcoming customers with the same sweet spirit that defines their store.



Shawn and Jessica Doyle work hard behind the counter at Candy Pop's serving customers and putting smiles on faces with every sweet treat.



The colorful interior of Candy Pop's is filled with rows of sweet treats and nostalgic favorites, creating a bright and welcoming space for people of all ages.

By Haylee Winger

Redwater's Candy Pops Ice Cream Shop is preparing to reopen this spring after a period of reflection that reshaped the future of the business. What began as a brief decision to place the shop on the market has turned into a renewed commitment to the community and to the dream that inspired it in the first place.

Owners Jessica and Shawn Doyle say the choice to consider selling came from the realities of operating a



small, independent business while balancing family life and outside employment. Like many small business owners, they found themselves weighing financial uncertainty, long-term sustainability, and the personal demands that come with running a shop in a competitive environment.

Stepping away from the day-to-day pressures gave the couple time to reflect on their first season in business. That summer was marked by

Continued on **page 2**



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A little sparkle and a lot of heart



Photos courtesy of Thorhild County Family Centre

By Brandie Majeau

February was deemed a month of "connection and growth" at the Thorhild County Family Centre, centering itself in a Valentine's Day party on February 10 that brought families together for a morning of HEARTfelt and welcoming fun.

Thorhild County

Family Centre, known in the region for its programming for children and youth in the area, often hosts holiday-themed events geared at creating connections among families and offering support for parents and caregivers. This year's Valentine's celebration was no exception, providing a cheerful space

for "littles" and their adults to enjoy crafts, games, and activities that emphasized the importance of togetherness and kindness. The program coordinator intentionally crafted February's events to focus on building everyday skills and strengthening resilience to focus

Continued on **page 7**

Continued from **page 1**

circumstances beyond their control, including nearby wildfires, colder-than-usual temperatures, frequent rain, and the challenges that come with launching a brand-new venture. In hindsight, the Doyles believe those factors contributed significantly to a slower start.

What became clear during that reflection was how much heart and intention had already gone into Candy Pops. From the beginning, the shop was meant to be a welcoming place for families and children, a space built around simple joys and shared moments.

Rather than walking away, the Doyles chose to move forward. They say faith in their vision and a desire to create something lasting for their children played a major role in that decision.

There was no single moment that changed their minds. Instead, it was the strength of the idea behind the business itself. “We believe this business is special and unique,” Jessica

shared. “We want Candy Pops to become a permanent cornerstone of the community and beyond.”

Support from the community reinforced that belief. Messages from customers expressing disappointment at the possibility of the shop closing served as a reminder of how meaningful the space had already become to local families. That encouragement helped transform uncertainty into determination.

Candy Pops is now planning a reopening in April, bringing with it a mix of excitement and cautious optimism. The owners say they are grateful for the opportunity to begin again and eager to welcome customers back through the doors.

The upcoming season will also bring new menu items. In addition to familiar frozen treats, Candy Pops plans to offer traditional supreme banana splits, apple-cinnamon parfaits, sundaes, and other classic desserts designed to appeal to both longtime

customers and first-time visitors. The possibility of hosting children’s birthday parties is also being explored, depending on community interest.

Operating a small-town business has not been without its challenges. Pricing fairly in a changing economy, running the shop without additional staff, and depending heavily on weather-driven sales have all tested the owners. In the future, they hope to hire local youth, creating job opportunities while easing the workload.

Despite the obstacles, the rewards have been deeply meaningful. Seeing families enjoy the space and knowing they created something joyful from the ground up has made the journey worthwhile. For the Doyles, Candy Pops represents creativity, opportunity, and the personal touch that sets a family-run business apart.

As the shop prepares to reopen, the long-term goal remains simple. Candy Pops aims to be a happy, welcoming place where quality, fairness, and genuine care come first.

To those who supported them during uncertain times, the owners shared a message of gratitude. “Thank you. Your support, positive reviews, and encouragement truly mean everything. You’ve shown that quality mom-and-pop shops can still exist.”

This April, Candy Pops begins its next chapter, built on resilience, community support, and the belief that second chances can be just as sweet as the first.





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Players gather for a group photo following the Redwater Co-Ed Volleyball league finals held February 11. DKT captured first place honours, with Set to Kill finishing second. **Adrienne Jones photo**

Thorhild Central court comes alive for senior basketball tournament



The Thorhild Central School Senior Basketball Tournament took place last week, bringing teams together for an exciting weekend of competition. The tournament kicked off with a matchup between Thorhild Central School and CCRS, setting the tone for a high-energy opening game and a weekend full of competitive basketball action. **Thorhild Central School photos**

A decade of agricultural appreciation



By Brandie Majeau

On February 10, Canadians across the country marked the tenth anniversary of Canada's Agriculture Day, celebrating a decade of honouring the vital role of agriculture and those who support it. What began in 2017 as an initiative by Agriculture More Than Ever (now a part of the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity) has blossomed into a nationwide tradition involving farmers, ranchers, processors, and the public who rely on Canada's vital food system.

Canada's Agriculture Day has become more than a date on the calendar. It has become a movement to shine a spotlight on the people who work tirelessly in fields, barns, and processing plants to ensure Canadians have safe, nutritious food. Each year, the day sees a growing number of communities,

schools, businesses, and government organizations participating in activities ranging from farm tours and food tastings to educational programs and social media campaigns. Hashtags like #CdnAgDay are working to build a trend as Canadians from coast to coast share their stories and express appreciation for the agri-food sector.

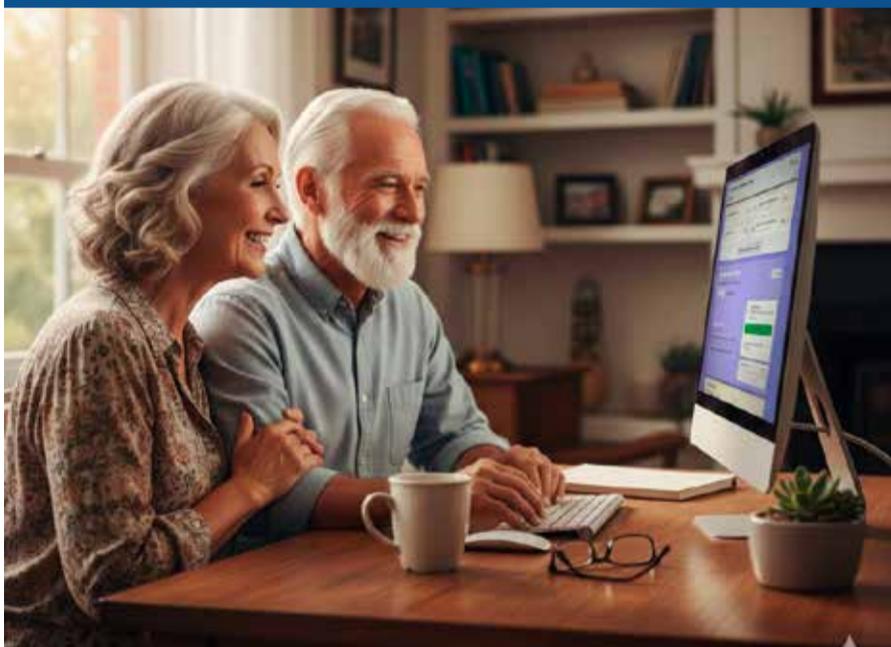
Beyond celebration, Canada's Agriculture Day is a platform to educate Canadians about where their food comes from and the intense

effort required to bring it to their tables. Organizers emphasize the importance of connecting with local producers and understanding sustainable farming practices, creating deeper relationships between consumers and those who produce their food. Businesses and government agencies also use the occasion to highlight agriculture's crucial economic and social contributions, reminding the nation of its foundational role in Canada's prosperity. As the tenth

anniversary was celebrated, organizers and participants alike are looking ahead, hopeful that Canada's Agriculture Day will continue to inspire, educate, and connect Canadians. The event's growth over the past decade reflects an appreciation for agriculture, as well as a commitment to innovation and a sustainable future for the sector. With continued support, the tradition promises to flourish for years to come, further strengthening Canada's ties to its agricultural roots.



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KID'S CORNER



Barrett - Thorhild Central School

This is Barrett and he is in Kindergarten. His favorite part of school is Recess and his favorite thing to do at home is play outside.

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Noreen Easterbrook accepts a donation for the Smoky Lake Food Bank from Lorrie Verspeelt of the Smoky Lake Lions Club.
Dave Dalby photo

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Last week, Miss Ponich's PE class at H.A. Kostash in Smoky Lake had fun learning a bit of yoga and dance. Everyone did great work. **H.A. Kostash School photo**



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Borrowing Bylaw 1702/26 Power Resiliency Program

Section 251 – The Municipal Government Act

Take notice that the Council of Sturgeon County, in the Province of Alberta, has given first reading to Borrowing Bylaw **1702/26** which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of said County to borrow monies from the Province of Alberta, or another authorized financial institution, to pay for the cost of the development of the Power Resiliency Program.

The total cost of the aforesaid project amounts to **\$2,600,000**. A total of **\$1,300,000** is to be borrowed on the credit and security of the municipality at large by a fixed term debenture. The debenture is to be repayable to the Province of Alberta, or another authorized financial institution, in installment payments with an annual interest not to exceed ten per cent (10%), or the interest rate as fixed from time to time by the Province of Alberta or other authorized financial institution.

NOW THEREFORE NOTICE is hereby given by the Council of Sturgeon County that, unless a petition of the electors for a vote on Bylaw 1702/26 is demanded, as provided for by the terms of Section 231 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the said Council may pass the said borrowing bylaw.

The proposed bylaw may be examined between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the office of the Legislative Services Officer, Sturgeon County, 9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta.

Questions?

Financial Services 780-939-4321
TreasuryFinancialPlanning@sturgeoncounty.ca
www.sturgeoncounty.ca



Borrowing Bylaw 1703/26 Pave Range Road 251 from Highway 37 to Carbondale Road

Section 251 – The Municipal Government Act

Take notice that the Council of Sturgeon County, in the Province of Alberta, has given first reading to Borrowing Bylaw **1703/26** which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of said County to borrow monies from the Province of Alberta, or another authorized financial institution, to pay for the cost of the paving of Range Road 251 from Highway 37 to Carbondale Road.

The total cost of the aforesaid project amounts to **\$8,000,000**. A total of **\$7,200,000** is to be borrowed on the credit and security of the municipality at large by a fixed term debenture. The debenture is to be repayable to the Province of Alberta, or another authorized financial institution, in installment payments with an annual interest not to exceed ten per cent (10%), or the interest rate as fixed from time to time by the Province of Alberta or other authorized financial institution.

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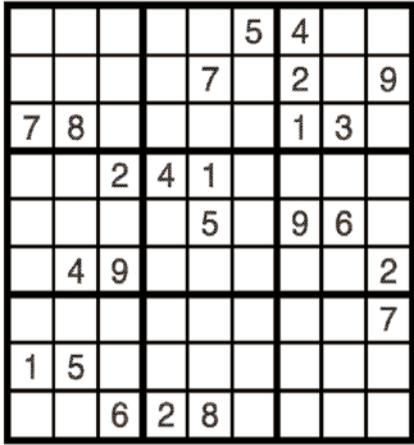
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PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

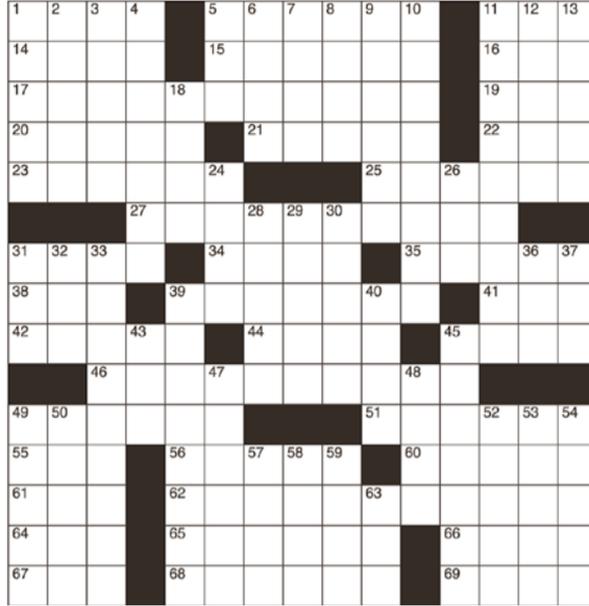
Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CROSSWORDS



Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut quickly
5. A way to state clearly
11. River in NE Scotland
14. Expansive
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Toadstools
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Experimented with
25. One-sided
27. Acquisitive
31. Potted plants
34. Everyone has one
35. Kalahari Desert lake
38. Unidentified flying object
39. People 65 and over

41. Small amount
42. Daughter of Acrisius
44. Ornamental box
45. Government agents
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. Treeless plains
55. One's sense of self-importance
56. Consumer advocate
60. Type of lounge
61. Body part
62. Can be persuaded
64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught
66. Arab ruler title
67. Unhappy
68. Gradually went away
69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

1. Brushed
2. Small water spirit (Germ.)
3. Heroes
4. Monetary units
5. Some don't want to share theirs
6. Free-swimming invertebrate
7. Litigates
8. Outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Uneasy feelings
11. Cross
12. A way to remove
13. Pages can be dog-__
18. Ukrainian city
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Month
28. Hindu queens
29. Group of chemicals
30. Rider of Rohan
31. Wet dirt

32. Southwestern Russia city
33. Observed
36. Angry
37. Drivers' licenses
39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. They __
45. Women
47. Be filled with love for
48. Thick-soled sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The leading performer
53. Protein
54. "Gunga Din" script writer
57. Art __, around 1920
58. __ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to rest

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

You have the cosmic green light to start that major project you've been planning or to take a leap in your career, Aries. Trust your intuition — it's sharper than ever.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Abundance is knocking, Taurus. Your hard work is translating into tangible rewards, and you may receive unexpected good news regarding finances or resources.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Your mind is sparkling, Gemini, making you the most magnetic person in the room. Use this vibrant energy to connect, share ideas and lead discussions.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

Cancer, a feeling of emotional security empowers you to tackle any professional challenge with grace and confidence. You are totally centered right now, so go for it.

LEO (July 23 - August 23)

Leo, you are radiating charisma this week and attracting positive attention wherever you go. Use this incredible visibility to network or showcase your talents.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 22)

You'll find great satisfaction in clean, organized work that earns sincere praise this week, Virgo. Your dedication is about to unlock a significant reward.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 23)

Relationships are the key to your happiness this week, Libra. Expect delightful interactions, smooth negotiations and the forging of beneficial alliances.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

This week is all about your own transformation, Scorpio. You feel a surge of internal power and clarity that allows you to confidently pursue deep, personal goals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Your sense of optimism and love for exploration is fully charged, Sagittarius. Even if you can't take a trip, your mind is open to exciting new philosophies or ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Your professional reputation is soaring, Capricorn. Key figures at your job are recognizing your dedication and leadership. Expect exciting opportunities.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 18)

Your network is buzzing with opportunities, Aquarius. Collaborative efforts are highly favored, and you'll find incredible support for your most innovative ideas.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20)

Pisces, your intuition is a superpower that guides you toward fulfillment and emotional satisfaction this week. Embrace your artistic side and allow your imagination to lead the way.

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 Y A E U Y Y Q B O E T B M N Y N Y S I L
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The Redwater Rush U15 boys show off their gold medals and the Candy Cup after completing their home tournament on the January 31st weekend with an undefeated record. Combining skill, hard work, and teamwork, the group demonstrated the strength of their bond. **Redwater Minor Hockey photo**

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Continued from **page 1**

on qualities that are some of the essentials for children's development. The Valentine's Day party, and all Tuesday morning programming for families, gives children the opportunity to make new friends, create, and explore.

Valentine's Day itself has a rich and varied history, originally rooted in a

blend of Roman pagan and Christian traditions. The holiday is thought to be linked to Lupercalia, a festival that celebrated fertility and health in mid-February, and later evolved into a day honouring Saint Valentine, a figure shrouded in legend for his commitment to love and compassion. Over centuries, February 14 transformed into a day of exchanging

notes, cards, and tokens of affection and kindness.

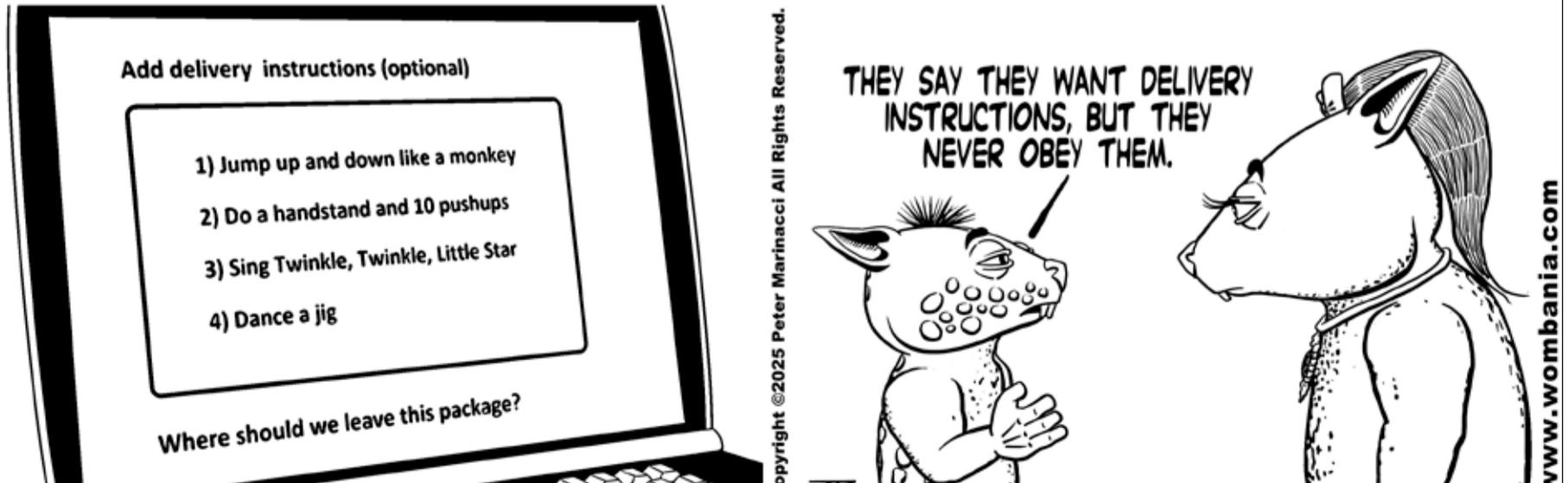
That spirit of kindness and celebration was on full display at the Thorhild Drop-In Centre, where everyone enjoyed a morning designed to "add a little sparkle and a lot of heart" to their week. Simple things like these parties play such a special role in strengthening community bonds and

giving local families positive experiences to share.

As Thorhild County Family Centre continues with its "connection and growth" February, it is a reminder for families to check in and see what is going on, what supports the county has to offer, and all the ways to continually build connection with other families within the community.

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by **PETER MARINACCI**



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- 3) Sing Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
- 4) Dance a jig

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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS February 10, 2026

Below is a brief summary of decisions made at the February 10, 2026, Regular Council meeting:

Delegation - Tawny Mourning Star (Tawny Mckee)

Council accepted the presentation from Tawny Mourning Star (Tawny Mckee) for information, and directed Administration to provide \$500 to Tawny Mckee towards the website and email subscription coming from the Community Grant Fund.

2026 Swimming Pool Rates

Council directed Administration to bring back the 2026 Swimming Pool Rates to a future Council meeting.

Thorhild Skating Club Funding Request

Council approved funding to the Thorhild Skating Club in the amount of \$300 as per policy.

Tax Incentives (Council Request)

Council directed Administration to bring back further information regarding Tax Incentives to a future Council meeting.

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SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Thorhild County is accepting applications from candidates to fill the following summer/seasonal positions:

- Pool Manager & Lifeguards/Instructors
- Summer Program Coordinator
- Summer Program Leaders
- Records Management Clerk
- Equipment Operators
- Labourers
- Roadside Mower Operator
- Agricultural Spray Operator

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

SHELTERBELT TREE SEEDLINGS SALE

Thorhild County is accepting orders for the 2026 Shelterbelt Tree Seedlings Program, providing a wide selection of shelterbelt trees, as well as ornamental trees and shrubs, at an affordable price.

Order soon – quantities are limited and this popular program always fills up fast.

Visit www.thorhildcounty.com and click on Services, then Agricultural Services > Shelterbelt Tree Seedlings Sale to view available seedlings and to complete an order form.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Amendment of Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015

On proposed Bylaw 04-2026 which would amend Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015 by changing 9.1 Land Use District Map of certain lands identified in Schedule A as attached to Bylaw 04-2026 as follows:

- a) That 15 acres of Lot 1, Block 1 Plan 092 0797 within NW 10-60-23-W4M be redistricted from AG – Agricultural to CR – Multi-Lot Country Residential District.

NOTICE THAT in accordance with section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of Thorhild County is giving consideration to a Land Use Bylaw Amendment.

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

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, that begins at 10:00 a.m. in 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 electronically by Teams Meeting, you are asked to register by noon on Friday, March 6, 2026. This is to ensure that 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(c). If you have any questions, please contact the Protection of Privacy Co-Ordinator at 780-398-3741.

FREE TAX CLINICS
Get your benefits and credits

If you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, volunteers can do your tax return for you!

For Thorhild County residents that have modest income and very basic tax returns.

Income limits for the 2025 tax year are as follows:

- Singles up to \$35,000
- Couples combined income up to \$45,000
- Families with combined income up to \$52,500

realdebtments2009@gmail.com

Taxes will be completed during March and April by appointments on the following dates:

- March 3, 2026 10:00am-3:00pm
- March 4, 2026 10:00am-3:00pm
- March 5, 2026 10:00am-3:00pm
- March 10, 2026 10:00am-2:00pm
- March 11, 2026 10:00am-2:00pm
- March 12, 2026 10:00am-2:00pm
- April 14, 2026 10:00am-3:00pm
- April 15, 2026 10:00am-3:00pm
- April 16, 2026 11:30am-3:00pm
- April 28, 2026 10:00am-3:00pm

To book an appointment or for information please call Kelly at 780-398-3741 ext. 2820.



Making Business Insurance Easy





Matt Winters
Insurance Broker

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Fax: 780-487-8770
www.insurelineclearcut.com



Personal & Commercial Lines

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Your career ad at
WWW.THEREDWATERREVIEW.COM

OPEN HOUSE

Legal Crossroads Area Structure Plan (ASP) Update

 February 25 | 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 ACFA (5109 46 St CP 328, Legal)

The Legal Crossroads Area Structure Plan update guides future land use and infrastructure development near the junction of Highway 2 and 651.

Attend the open house to meet the planning team, ask questions, and learn more about the project.



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

Michael Klassen
Planning and Development
780-939-8370
mklassen@sturgeoncounty.ca



LEARN MORE

Godelieve Wohland

1927 - 2026

It is with great sadness and much love we say goodbye to our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend who passed at the age of 98.

She will be forever remembered by her children, Lorraine (Lance), Robert (Carol), Roy, Norman (Brenda); eight grandchildren Amanda (Kent), Evan (Justyna), Jeremy, Daniel, Brittany (Rory), Jessie (Sarah), Tyler (Nicole), Joshua (Jessica); ten



Gerard, Micheal, and Carl.

Godelieve's children invite family and friends to join them in celebrating a mass of Christian burial on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 10:00 am at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, in Thorhild, Alberta, with interment to follow in the church cemetery.

For those who wish, donations can be made in Godelieve's name to the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories.

Expressions of sympathy may be shared at westlockfuneralhome.com



Westlock Funeral Home & Crematorium est. 1923
www.westlockfuneralhome.com

Eternal Memories

(780) 349-3474

 **Please recycle this paper** 



We are Hiring

Smoky Lake Forest Nursery Ltd. is hiring 2 General Greenhouse Labourers to join our team for the 2026 growing season (April 13 to December 13, 2026). Job location is approximately 19 km east of Smoky Lake, Alberta.

Key Responsibilities May Include (but are not limited to): Seeding/Thinning/Transplanting/Weeding, Seedling Handling, Grading/Stacking/Wrapping Seedlings, Boxing seedlings, Washing/stacking/wrapping blocks for storage, Building boxes/labelling boxes/stacking boxes, Loading shipment trucks, General greenhouse work, cleaning, setup, and maintenance as required, Field work

Requirements: No experience is necessary, Fast-paced environment, Repetitive tasks, Handling heavy loads (physically demanding), Standing for extended periods, Bending, crouching, kneeling, Attention to detail, Hand-eye co-ordination, Requires own transportation to/from site

Starting wages at **\$18.34/hr.** Based on 40 hr/week, Monday to Friday (8-4:30). May require shift work and/or extended hours including weekends. Please forward your resume to slfn@c2ctrees.com.



The Redwater Lions Club members (some missing) celebrate fellow Lion Gerald Whaley receiving the Melvin Jones award.

NO.	NAME OF OFFICE / COMMITTEE	DATE	NAME OF OFFICE / COMMITTEE	DATE
50-55	Director			
56-57	President			
58-59	1st Vice			
60-61	2nd Vice			
62-63	Director			
64-65	Pres			
66-67	Melvin Jones Award			
68-69	1st Vice			
70-71	Chairman Park Com.			
72-73	Safety Board			
74-75	Township Chairman			
76-77	Chairman Park Com.			
78-79	Safety Board			
80-81	Police Services			
82-83	1st Vice Pres			
84-85	Director			
86-87	Safety Board			
88-89	Pres Committee			
90-91	Director			
92-93	1st Vice President			

A copy of the Record of Service from the first meeting in Peace River when Gerald Whaley became a Lion.



Lion Dave McRae presents Lion Gerald Whaley with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award from Lions Clubs International.



Smoky Lake RCMP Report – Week of February 2

By Haylee Winger



During the week of February 2, Smoky Lake RCMP responded to numerous calls for service throughout Smoky Lake and surrounding communities. Members completed several wellbeing checks, including checks on individuals in Smoky Lake and the Village of Waskatenau, as well as a family with children. Child and Family Services advised there were no safety concerns at this time. Police also investigated

a child welfare matter, with no current safety concerns identified. RCMP responded to a report of a suicidal youth who had left St. Paul Hospital. The youth was safely located in a vehicle on Highway 28, apprehended, and transported back to the hospital. In a separate incident, members were notified by the Health Centre that a patient had walked away from the hospital. The individual was located and safely returned.

Police received reports of copper wire theft from a TELUS

tower in Smoky Lake County, and the investigation remains ongoing. A break and enter to a business in the Village of Waskatenau was also reported. In another theft-related incident, RCMP responded to a report of a theft from a vehicle at the Petro Canada. The vehicle had been left unlocked, and a purse along with other items was stolen.

Members attended several calls that were later determined to be non-criminal in nature. These included a report of a helicopter sitting in a field, which was found not to be involved in a crash, and a

report of sounds consistent with gunshots that were determined to be fireworks set off for a birthday celebration. Police also responded to a 911 hang-up call at Bar V Nook, where no emergency was located, and to a report from ESSO regarding a male dropped off by taxi, which was also deemed not a police matter.

RCMP responded to a complaint of a semi-truck driving erratically westbound on Highway 28. The vehicle was located and stopped, and the driver showed no signs of impairment. The driver's licence, insurance,

and registration were all valid. Members also conducted proactive traffic enforcement throughout the week, issuing warnings and violation tickets. In a separate traffic-related incident, a minivan was found disabled on Highway 36, missing a tire and licence plate. The vehicle was towed due to a lack of insurance and because it posed a traffic hazard.

Police were dispatched to assist with a civil issue in the Town of Smoky Lake. Members also investigated a report of a suspicious person who had approached a caller and shared an unusual life

story. RCMP patrolled Smoky Lake, including local bars and convenience stores, but were unable to locate the individual.

Finally, members responded to an injured moose in the driving lanes on Highway 855. The animal was humanely dispatched, and the roadway was cleared to ensure public safety.

Anyone with information related to ongoing investigations is encouraged to contact the Smoky Lake RCMP at 780-656-3550 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



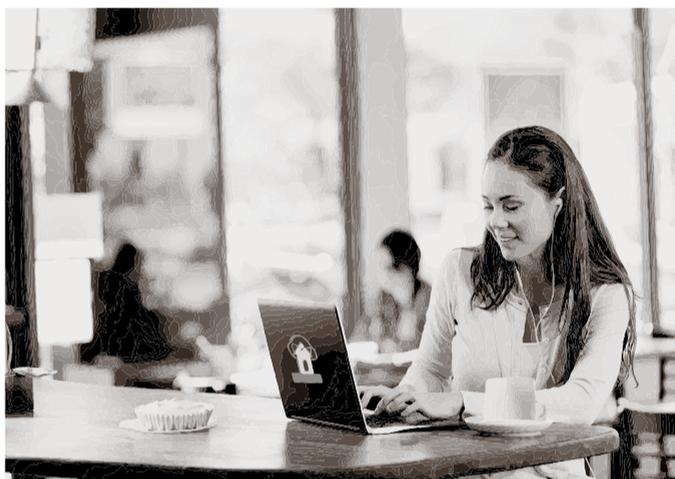
What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Logo on laptop 2. Pastry on table
3. Cup upside down 4. Missing sunglasses

CANADA



HISTORY

2010

Canadian Alexandre Bilodeau wins the first ever Olympic gold medal won by a Canadian on Canadian soil.

People FACT:



Approximately 73 per cent of the world's population uses this.

Answer: The internet

NEW WORD

WEB

resources interconnected by the internet

Get out, explore, and connect with Redwater Pioneer Club bus trips

By Shelley Winger



The Redwater and District Pioneer Club is welcoming everyone to join its monthly bus trips, offering a chance to socialize, explore, and enjoy outings in the community. Located at 4916 - 50th Street, Redwater, the club is fully wheelchair accessible, ensuring everyone can participate comfortably.

The club organizes two types of trips each month. The shopping bus trip takes place on the third Wednesday, running from 9:15 a.m.

to 5:00 p.m. Participants can look forward to visiting a variety of local stores, exploring new shops, and taking advantage of a full day to enjoy a leisurely shopping experience. Many riders enjoy stopping for coffee, sharing a meal with friends, or browsing through the latest deals, making the day as relaxing or as active as they like. For some, it's a chance to catch up with old friends; for others, it is an opportunity to meet new people and discover favorite spots around town.

The last Wednesday of every month features a trip to River Cree Casino for those who enjoy gaming and entertainment. The bus departs at 9:15 a.m. and returns at 4:00 p.m.

Participants can spend the day trying their luck at the tables, enjoying the various amenities and dining options, or simply taking in the lively atmosphere. The casino trips are designed to provide a fun-filled day away from home, combining excitement, relaxation, and camaraderie.

Each trip costs \$15

per person, and advance booking is required. Community members are encouraged to call Sharon at 780-942-3838 or Vina at 780-942-3524 to reserve their spot.

The Pioneer Club encourages everyone, regardless of age, to participate in these outings, making it an inclusive and welcoming experience for all.

For many, the Pioneer Club has long been more than just a venue; it is a hub for community activity. Its programs and events are designed to foster social connections, provide meaningful

engagement, and give residents opportunities to enjoy life outside their daily routines. Monthly bus trips are just one way the club helps people stay active, connected, and entertained, while also creating memorable experiences outside of Redwater.

For first-time participants, the trips are easy to join. Riders simply need to arrive at the club on the morning of the trip, where friendly staff and volunteers are ready to assist with boarding and answer any questions. Many people find that by the end of

the day, they have not only enjoyed a fun outing but also made new friends and discovered a sense of community they didn't expect.

Whether you are new to the community or a long-time resident, the club's bus trips provide an inviting and inclusive way to meet new people, enjoy a day out, and take part in a valued local tradition. With shopping and casino trips scheduled every month, there is an opportunity for everyone to find something that suits their interests and make the most of their day.



PO Box 460, 56 Wheatland Avenue
Smoky Lake AB T0A 3C0
PH: 780-656-3674 | FX: 780-656-3675
smokylake.ca | town@smokylake.ca

Employment Opportunity – Legislative Services Assistant

The Town of Smoky Lake is seeking a highly organized, professional, and detail-oriented Legislative Services Assistant to join its Administration team. This position plays a critical role in supporting the Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor, and Council through the coordination of Council and Committee meetings, legislative and governance functions, records management, and access to information and privacy administration.

The Legislative Services Assistant also provides key support in municipal communications, including preparation of correspondence, public notices, and governance-related information, helping to ensure transparency, accuracy, and effective communication between Council, administration, and the public. The successful candidate will bring strong communication skills, sound judgment, and the ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced municipal environment while handling confidential and sensitive information with professionalism and discretion.

This is a full-time (35 hours/week) office-based position with regular interaction with Council, administration, and the public. Attendance at evening meetings and events outside of regular business hours is required. Periods of high workload may occur around Council meetings, elections, and statutory deadlines. May be required to adjust work hours to meet operational and legislative requirements. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

For more information, please visit smokylake.ca/employment or call Molly Fyten, CAO at (780) 656-3674.

Closing Date: February 28, 2026 (or until a suitable candidate is found)

Submit resumes to:
Human Resources – Personnel & Confidential
P.O. Box 460, 56 Wheatland Ave, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0
Email: hr@smokylake.ca

WANTED

Experienced local farmer in Thorhild County seeking farmland to rent or purchase. Cultivated or hay land ready for future crop production in Thorhild, Smoky Lake, Sturgeon County. In addition to offering competitive rates, I am committed to responsible soil management and crop rotation for sustained productivity. I am currently seeking a long-term lease for farmland, but I am open to discussing various options to accommodate the needs of landowners. If you have cultivated or hay land available and are interested in flexible lease arrangements, please feel free to reach out to discuss terms that would work for both parties.

**Contact Bill:
780-235-4024.**



**PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1682/25
JACKSON RENTALS LAND REDISTRICTING**

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1682/25.

The applicant has requested that a land parcel near the Villeneuve roundabout (at Highway 37 and Highway 44) be redistricted to bring the property into compliance.

The proposed bylaw would redistrict a portion of NE-31-54-26-4:

- Current zoning districts: Highway Commercial (C1) and Agriculture (AG)
- Proposed zoning districts: Rural Industry Support (I1) and Agriculture (AG)

Learn more: sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1682-25

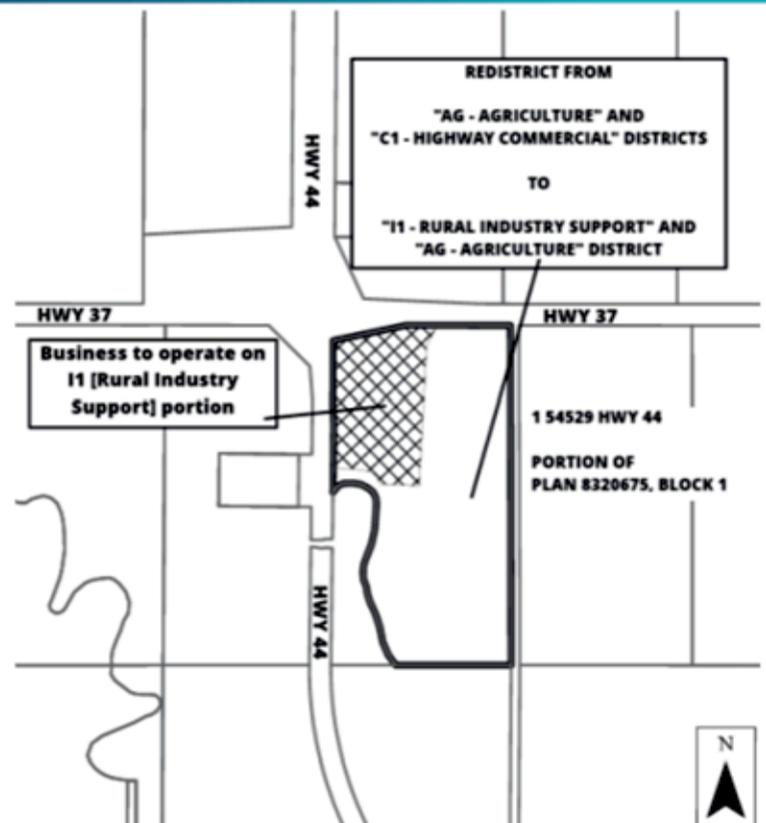
Questions? Contact us!

Rebecca Schapansky, RPP, MCIP
Planner, Current Planning
587-404-9866, rschapansky@sturgeoncounty.ca

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on:
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter)

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



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 register.

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

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **February 23, 2026 at 1:30 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.

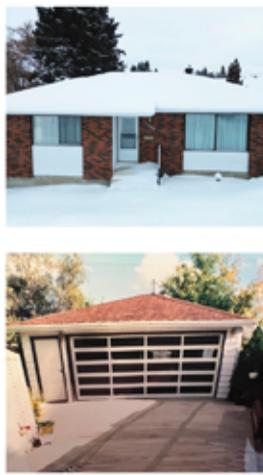
Watching the Public Hearing

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.





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! **\$365,000. Call Glenn 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.**



SOLD 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. **\$210,000. Call Heather for more information.**



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.**



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 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. **\$244,900. Call Janine to view.**



SOLD 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.**



GLENN FISHER TEAM



Each office independently owned & operated.
10018 - 100 Avenue, MORINVILLE
Website: www.glennfisher.com Email: glennfisherteam@gmail.com



IRP Approved Agent

GLENN FISHER:
780-913-2493
HEATHER MOELLER:
780-699-7914
TARA FISHER:
780-932-0196
JANINE PEQUIN:
780-349-0361

Borrowing Bylaw 1704/26 Pave Range Road 10 from Highway 37 to Pinesands

Section 251 – The Municipal Government Act

Take notice that the Council of Sturgeon County, in the Province of Alberta, has given first reading to Borrowing Bylaw **1704/26** which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of said County to borrow monies from the Province of Alberta, or another authorized financial institution, to pay for the cost of the paving of Range Road 10 from Highway 37 to the Pinesands Subdivision.

The total cost of the aforesaid project amounts to **\$6,500,000. A total of \$2,916,133** is to be borrowed on the credit and security of the municipality at large by a fixed term debenture. The debenture is to be repayable to the Province of Alberta, or another authorized financial institution, in installment payments with an annual interest not to exceed ten per cent (10%), or the interest rate as fixed from time to time by the Province of Alberta or other authorized financial institution.

NOW THEREFORE NOTICE is hereby given by the Council of Sturgeon County that, unless a petition of the electors for a vote on Bylaw 1704/26 is demanded, as provided for by the terms of Section 231 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the said Council may pass the said borrowing bylaw.

The proposed bylaw may be examined between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the office of the Legislative Services Officer, Sturgeon County, 9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta.

Questions?

Financial Services 780-939-4321
TreasuryFinancialPlanning@sturgeoncounty.ca
www.sturgeoncounty.ca



PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1697/25 Development Compliance Enforcement Update

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1697/25 - Development Compliance Enforcement Update to the Land Use Bylaw.

The proposed amendment proposes to replace the entire enforcement section to:

- Clearly define authority, offences, inspection powers, stop orders, fines, and penalties
- Introduce structured and progressive processes for warnings, tickets, and prosecutions
- Update the penalty schedule with progressive penalties

View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1697-25

Public Hearing details

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

Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 1 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St., Morinville)

Questions? Contact us!

Tyler McNab
Program Lead, Development & Safety Codes
tmcnab@sturgeoncounty.ca
780-939-8342

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

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Speak via video conference

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North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance builds awareness around river

By Brandie Majeau

Following the screening of "A River Runs Through Us" at Métis Crossing, the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance would like to acknowledge that the film was written and directed by Kaila Belovich (North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance), Steph Neufeld (EPCOR), and Ryan Northcott (Panoramic Media), and produced by Panoramic Media.

The documentary "A River Runs Through

Us – The Story of the North Saskatchewan River" is the culmination of a journey that began approximately two years ago, driven by a commitment to help those who live, work, and recreate within the North Saskatchewan River watershed connect with their water source. This connection extends beyond the river itself to encompass the entire landscape that sustains it. The film seeks to convey a key message: water does

not originate from the river; rather, it flows into the river. The waters of the North Saskatchewan begin their journey in the region's forests, wetlands, farms, lakes, and neighborhoods, each of which filters and shapes the water before it reaches the river. Consequently, every action within the watershed ultimately impacts the quality of our water, and ultimately our daily lives. By emphasizing this central message, the

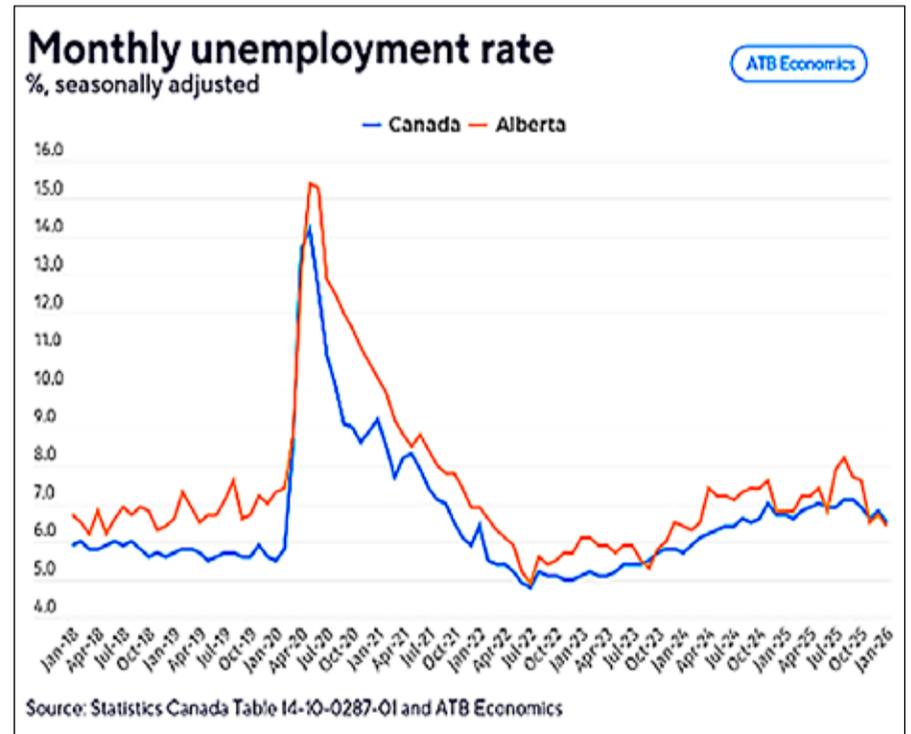
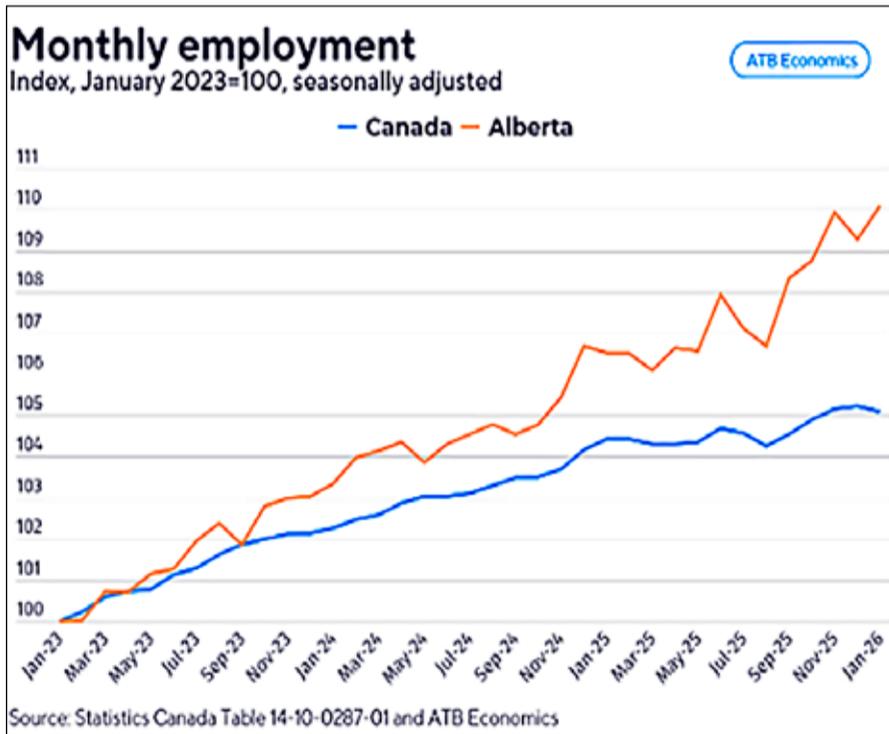
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance hopes to inspire a sense of shared responsibility, recognizing that stewardship of the river is a collective effort and cannot be managed by any single organization or entity alone.

Amanda Kramer, B.Sc. Watershed Planning Technician for the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance shared the following statement, "From the glacial past to the present-day, the North Saskatchewan River

has shaped the land and the lives of those who rely on its waters. This documentary traces the river's geological origins, explores the delicate balance of its ecosystems, and examines the ways in which human activity—industrial, agricultural, and recreational—has influenced its health. Through the voices of scientists, stewardship groups, Indigenous peoples, and local communities, the film uncovers the evolving

relationship between people, the North Saskatchewan River and its watershed. As environmental pressures increase, so too does the urgency to protect this vital resource. Carving its way through rugged landscapes and historic communities, the North Saskatchewan River is more than just a waterway—it's a lifeline, shaping industries, ecosystems, and cultural identities across time immemorial."

Mixed review: Employment rises in Alberta, falls nationally



By Mark Parsons,
ATB ECONOMICS

It was a soft, though somewhat mixed, report for the Canadian labour market to start the year. Employment fell 24.8K in January, led by losses in Ontario. But the unemployment rate dipped from 6.8% to 6.5% as fewer people looked for work, and December jobs were revised up ever so slightly (+10.1K vs 8.2K previously).

It's been a rollercoaster ride in the labour market. The autumn months saw a resurgence of job growth following a summer cooldown. Amid the trade war,

talk of recession was replaced with talk of resiliency. But we have warned that Canada was likely overdue for a setback given that forward-looking surveys pointed to soft hiring intentions and the economy itself has slowed (Q4 GDP is tracking slightly negative). January's report is a reminder of that.

A key theme for 2026 will be much slower population growth - this means, fewer jobs that need to be added each month to hold the jobless rate steady (all things equal).

Alberta's labour market - The year of rebalancing
Alberta posted a solid

gain of 20.3K, entirely due to full-time jobs. It was enough to pull down the unemployment rate from 6.7% to 6.4% - its lowest since February 2024. Alberta leads all provinces in year-over-year employment growth at 3.4% vs. 0.6% nationally.

Digging into the details, over half the monthly gain in January came from the goods-producing industries, led by construction and manufacturing. Finance, insurance and real estate led the charge for the service sector.

Over the last two years, the Alberta economy has churned out jobs, but struggled

to keep pace with the people looking. The result: elevated unemployment. That theme has changed as of late, with unemployment off its post-pandemic peak of 8.2% in August 2025. That is, jobs have more than kept up with job seekers. This will be easier to do in 2026, as population growth slows considerably.

Does today's report change our view of the Alberta labour market? It was a much stronger start than we were expecting and, on its own, it would be enough to upgrade our forecast. But it's only one month. We expect these readings to be choppy given the tough

geopolitical backdrop. Our December forecast for 6.5% average unemployment and 2.8% employment growth in 2026 looks reasonable for now, but we now see some upside to that forecast.

We are still looking for a more forceful rotation into goods-sector hiring, which tends to anchor broader gains in the province. After a year of flat growth, January's jump in the goods sector is reassuring. However, the construction gains may be difficult to sustain given the expected cooldown in home building. Oil and gas employment dipped again, consistent with

the recent pullback in oil prices, and with a flat profile for investment, we don't expect much there.

Not enough for the Bank of Canada to cut

Despite the soft jobs report, it won't be enough for the Bank of Canada to cut at the next meeting in our view. Core inflation is still sticky above target and the Bank is already at the low end of its neutral range. We maintain our forecast for the Bank of Canada to hold this year.

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this paper

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BLANKET THE PROVINCE with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach 75 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903; www.awna.com; email classifieds@awna.com.

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For Sale

Small home for sale in Thorhild, large yard, carport, quality renovation, main floor bedroom, quartz countertops, new doors, windows, shingles, ceiling insulation, large 20x14 deck, basement with half bath, laundry area, cold room and bedroom. Price \$132,400 Phone or text

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TRADITIONAL FOOT REFLEXOLOGY Now offered at Haven Holistic Health Clinic in Morinville, Alberta TO BOOK a Reflexology session with Janet Gordon, Certified Reflexologist visit: havenclinicmorinville.com

Travel

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Redwater School hosting Open House for grades 5-10

Redwater School is inviting students and families to attend an upcoming Open House for Grades 5 through 10 on April 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. The event offers an opportunity for

current and prospective students, along with their families, to learn more about what Redwater School has to offer. Staff will be on hand to share information about academic

programs, extracurricular activities, and the many opportunities available to students throughout the school year. The Open House is designed to give families a closer

look at the school environment, meet teachers, and explore the spaces where students learn and grow. It's also a chance to ask questions and connect with members of the school

community. In addition to information and tours, the evening will feature door prizes, games, and other fun activities, making it an engaging event for all ages.

Redwater School encourages everyone interested in Grades 5 to 10 programming to stop by, meet the team, and discover what makes the school a great place to learn.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

WORD SEARCH

CROSSWORDS

S	N	I	P	A	S	S	E	R	T	D	E	E
W	I	D	E	G	A	U	C	H	E	E	R	A
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SUDOKU

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Vaillancourt, Chantal Rita

Chantal Rita Vaillancourt passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the age of 67.

Chantal was a devoted mother to Christine, Michelle (Peter), and David (Carrie); a cherished grandmother to Carter, Caitlyn, Austin, James, Jacob, Jordan, and Jemma; and a loving great-grandmother. She will be lovingly remembered by her siblings, her extended family, and her many dear friends.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Ted Boykiw; her grandson, Austin; her parents; and her sibling, Rejean.

Chantal was a kind, thoughtful, and hardworking woman who loved her family dearly. She was also a loyal and generous friend who brought warmth and humour to the lives of those who knew her, and great care to her beloved pets. She had an affinity for travel and new experiences, but found great peace and comfort in caring for her beloved home, yard, and gardens, which were a true reflection of her spirit.

The family extends sincere thanks to her palliative and home care teams, the Smoky Lake Healthcare Centre, and Park Memorial for their care and compassion.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

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

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