



A lasting splash: Dana DesRoches reflects on her years at the Redwater Pool



After 14 years at the Redwater pool, Dana DesRoches reflects on the memories, milestones, and community connections that shaped her time there.

Dana DesRoches photo

By Shelley Winger

For 14 summers, Dana DesRoches worked as a lifeguard, instructor, and manager at the Redwater Swimming Pool — a place that became her second home.

What first brought her to the pool 14 years ago was simple circumstance mixed with familiarity. Living in nearby Bruderheim with her grandparents after graduating from college, DesRoches already had experience lifeguarding and instructing. When she began searching for full-time work, taking a summer position in Redwater felt like a natural fit.

"I didn't think I



would be there that long," she said. "I worked there for a few summers and took a few years off in between, but the pool kept calling me back."

What started as a temporary job slowly became part of the rhythm of her life.

During the school year, DesRoches worked as an Educational Assistant. Later, she opened a dance studio in Redwater, teaching from September to May before shifting into pool life each spring and summer. The seasonal balance worked seamlessly, allowing her to remain active in the community year-round while

doing work she genuinely loved.

Over time, her role at the pool grew beyond lifeguarding and instructing. She stepped into leadership as manager, mentoring younger staff members — many of whom had once stood nervously at the pool's edge as her swimming students.

Looking back, she says those moments are what she is most proud of.

"I am most proud of the kids that I taught swimming lessons to that became lifeguards and instructors — some of whom I got to mentor as the manager at the pool," she said. "Watching them grow in confidence and take on leadership roles was really special."

For DesRoches, the impact of the pool extended far beyond teaching strokes and water safety skills. It was about building confidence, responsibility, and connection.

"I'm proud of many of the relationships I built over the years in the community," she added.

Across 14 summers, she witnessed the pool evolve alongside the town itself. Facility upgrades brought improvements to the

Continued on **page 3**



Radway Library basks in the glow of aurora borealis

By Brandie Majeau

Public libraries are often evolving from quiet reading rooms to fun-filled community centers, and on February 26, Radway Library exemplified this transformation, becoming a night of laughter and gentle self-deprecation paint night.

The creativity of events like these invites patrons of all ages and skill levels to pick up a brush and express themselves while learning new artistic techniques and using good humour to



acknowledge what is working within their painting... and sometimes what is not.

But why did over a dozen would-be artists sign up for a library paint night? The weather turned cool, the wind was howling and snow flurries came and went, yet not one painter canceled. The warmth of the library enveloped the guests as they found seats at blank canvases and discussed the feasibility of painting a picture resembling the one on display. However, layer by

layer, and with the soft guidance of instructor Lola Alsmo, filled the canvas with swirls of northern lights and shadowed mountain ranges and reflective bodies of water.

While some guests chose to wipe off their original northern lights and attempt to try again, others found the flow of bending lights and lost themselves in the magical evenings that are so often seen so vividly in the darkness of winter. So why did no one cancel? Because, beyond the miserable winter evening, it was a few hours

Continued on **page 3**

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How to Share Your Story:

- Reach out to us at redwaterreview@gmail.com
- Your submission can remain 100% anonymous if you prefer.
- Every story shared helps bring us one step closer to ending the cycle of bullying.

We believe in the power of raising awareness. Your story could be the one that helps someone find hope and strength. Let's take a stand together.

Submitted anonymously

Bullying stays with you

I started experiencing bullying when I was in 7th grade.

People weren't very nice to me, and I could tell that no one really wanted to be around me. One moment I remember very clearly happened when my teacher told us we had a project and that she was going to choose our partners. She paired me with a guy who was very well liked by most people in the class. I remember hearing a quiet commotion behind me. They were trying to whisper, but I could still hear him reacting, and I heard his girlfriend say, "She's ugly."

I will never forget that moment. Even though it may have just been a comment to them, it stuck with me.

Eventually I ended up switching schools. At my new school, things felt very different at first. People were really nice to me. I started making friends, and even some guys asked me out. It made me feel more confident and like I finally fit in somewhere.

But after a while, things changed again. Some kids started making mean comments to me because they had been bullying someone I was friends with. Since I was their friend, they started treating me differently too. It wasn't constant, and it wasn't everyone...just a couple of certain kids

who would say things here and there.

I am grateful that it never became worse than that. But even small comments can hurt more than people realize.

Bullying doesn't always look the same. Sometimes it's loud and obvious, and sometimes it's small remarks or whispers that stay in your mind for years. Words can stick with someone long after they are said.

That's why kindness matters so much. A simple choice to treat someone with respect can make a bigger difference than people think. Because while bullying may seem small to the person saying the words, the person hearing them may never forget.

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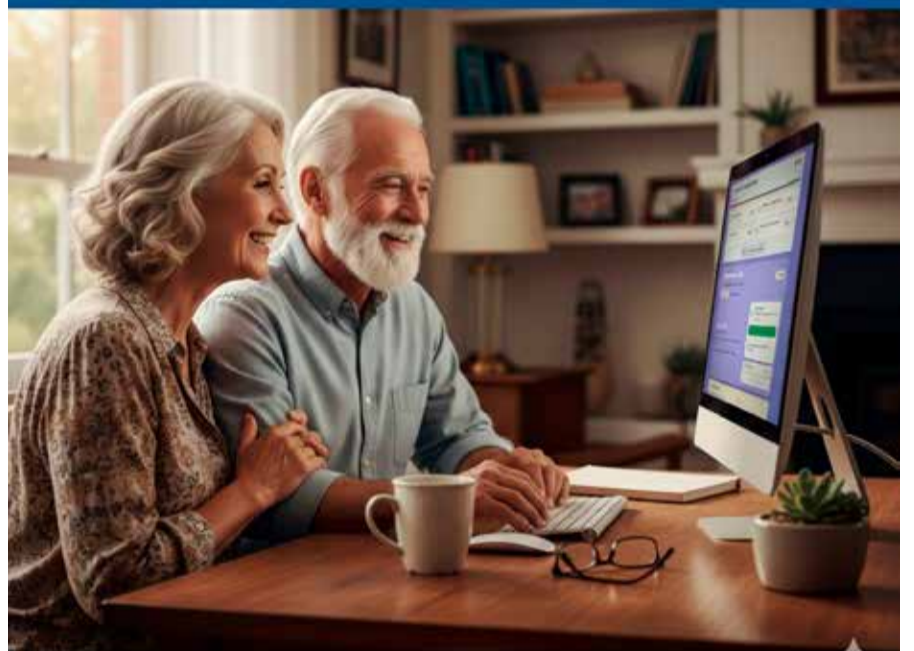
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Dana DesRoches

Continued from **page 1**

filtration system and water chemistry management, ensuring a safer and more efficient operation. Swim programming shifted as well, transitioning from the Red Cross curriculum to the Lifesaving Society model — a change that reflected broader trends in aquatic education across the province.

Municipal leadership changed during her time there too, with new CAOs, mayors, and community services managers coming and

going. Through it all, the pool remained a constant summer gathering place for Redwater families. And for DesRoches, that consistency mattered.

“I love the water and working outdoors,” she said. “Flexible hours were a bonus, but it was the friendships that were made working there and teaching kids something I love so much that meant the most.”

Each summer brought a new team of staff, each with its own personality and traditions. While she

struggles to name a single favourite memory, she recalls the small, simple moments that made the job joyful.

“I don’t know if I could pick just one,” she said with a laugh. “Each group of staff had their own silly things they would do to make it fun. One summer, we wrote funny quotes from each other on a whiteboard so we could look back and laugh.”

Those lighthearted traditions created bonds that often extended beyond the pool deck.

Nearly three years have passed since DesRoches stepped away from her role at the pool. Today, she works full-time as an Educational Assistant and, for the first time in many years, spends her summers focused on her own family.

“Since leaving the pool almost three years ago, I’ve been able to take my summers off to spend with my own children,” she said.

In a full-circle moment, her connection to the pool continues. Her family still visits the Redwater

Swimming Pool each summer, and her children now take swimming lessons in the same place where she once stood on deck teaching others.

It’s a transition that feels fitting — from instructor and mentor to parent watching from the sidelines.

When asked what she hopes people remember about her years at the pool, her answer is simple and heartfelt.

“I hope people know how much I loved that pool and that I tried hard to make it a great

place for the public who visited and for the staff who worked there.”

After 14 years, that legacy is already visible — in the swimmers she taught, the lifeguards she mentored, and the generations of Redwater families who passed through the gates each summer.

For DesRoches, the pool may have begun as a temporary job, but it became something far more lasting: a place where community was built one lesson, one season, and one summer at a time.

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Radway Library

Continued from **page 1**

to get out of the house and laugh at a friend’s attempt at a mountain before proper shading took over. It was a banter of sassy statements and laughter at their own skill sets. It was strangers admiring the work of their fellow artists, and it was a group of people leaving Radway Library feeling a little bit lighter than when they first walked in.

It was a reminder that these events support mental well-being, with studies showing that creative activities can reduce stress and boost mood. Libraries are not reminiscent of the strict silence once imposed. It is a space where people can relax, learn, and grow. Paint nights are just one way that can make that happen. And in small communities like Radway, events like the recent paint night prove that these institutions remain at the heart of creativity and connection.



Is it time for your mammogram? Screen Test is coming to Redwater

Screen Test is a free service provided by Primary Care Alberta that offers screening mammograms. Our mobile screening units travel to 120 communities throughout Alberta to provide convenient access to breast cancer screening.

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Breast density is the amount of dense tissue compared to the amount of fat in a person’s breasts. It can be harder to find cancer in dense breasts because this tissue appears white on a mammogram, the same

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The only way to find out is by having a mammogram.

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For more information on Screen Test and breast cancer screening, visit screeningforlife.ca/breast.

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St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church Annual Easter Ham Bingo & Bake Sale

Saturday, March 21, 2026

4:00 pm - Paska, Babka and Bake Sale

6:00 pm - Doors Open for Bingo

7:00 pm - Bingo Begins

Waugh Polish Recreational Society Hall

20 Ham Bingo Games (All Ages)

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Gerry Keith Westworth

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Gerry Westworth on February 17, 2026. Gerry was born in Cadomin, Alberta, to Art



them to retire in High River. While Gerry's love for his family was immeasurable, it was shared with his other great love, the Edmonton Oilers (even in their many rebuilding years).

and Peggy Westworth on June 21, 1948. Gerry spent time with his family in Neville, Saskatchewan, including his surviving siblings David (Sherilyn), Judy (Morris), and Susan (Tim), before moving to Edmonton.

Following high school, Gerry found his calling and his greatest love at NAIT's baking school. Gerry and his wife, Reta, established the Redwater Bakery and baked together daily for the better part of their 55-year marriage. Together, they built a life based on love, happiness, and baked goods for their children, Wade (Jenean), Janet, and honorary son Curtis Kaban, as well as their grandchildren, Gage and Elora. It was Gerry's love for his grandchildren that led

When he wasn't making his family laugh, skunking them in cribbage, or watching the Oilers, he was either fishing or golfing, or talking about fishing while watching golf. Gerry's legacy of kindness, unconditional love, and infinite wit will live on through all of us who were lucky enough to be loved by him. His integrity and humility will continue to serve as our guideposts.

He will be missed more than any words can express, and we really regret not learning the cinnamon bun recipe. We also apologize to anyone who will be subjected to our attempts at recreating them.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to the High River District Health Care Foundation – Acute Care

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PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

SUDOKU

					1		6
	4	3					
			8		4	3	
6				9		5	
		4	8	5			
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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!

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- Blockchain-based entity
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- Painted with glue
- Legendary crooner
- Structure made with strips of wood
- Tropical fruits
- Commercial
- Comedienne Gasteroy
- The Ocean State
- Ancient Scot
- Basics
- Stated propositions
- Scottish island group
- Expression of annoyance
- Large tree
- Engine additive
- Conspiracy

CLUES DOWN

- Impression in a surface
- Computer language
- Drunkard
- Someone who is morally reprehensible
- Ancient Syrian city
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- Carry (slang)
- Sweet potato
- European river
- The Golden State
- Windy City ballplayer
- New Testament
- Possess spiritually
- Popular historical novel
- In a law-abiding way
- A place to sleep
- Criticize

CROSSWORDS

- Relating to the ear
- Occupant
- Member of Great Plains people
- Social media firm
- Digital audiotape
- Midway between east and southeast
- Chronic, progressive disease
- Chinese lute
- Not wet
- Moves wings up and down
- Communication devices
- Swiss river
- Female sibling
- Receive
- Relating to a type
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Steep bank
- Taxi driver
- Moves into without

- difficulty
- Bicycle manufacturer
- Traditional rhythmic pattern
- Fugitives are on it
- Bitter-tasting organic substance
- Die
- Matched
- Literary genre __-fi
- Cannot
- Pounded
- British rock group
- Debt relief order
- 2006 NL Cy Young winner
- Green vegetable
- Tough outer skin of fruit
- __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- Ailments
- Famed singer Charles
- Camper

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)

A collaboration brings out your best side, Aries. Someone else's strengths may complement your drive right now. You'll get a lot of things done this week.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)

Your patience pays off in a relationship, Taurus. A long-term goal you share with a partner starts to move into the planning stages this week. Enjoy the excitement ahead.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)

Gemini, joyful news arrives via a friend in the next few days. Celebrate the successes of others, as your own turn for good news is right around the corner.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)

This week you may have the opportunity to find beauty in small things, Cancer. A simple walk or a quiet meal with a loved one can bring about peace and insight.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)

You are the life of the party right now, Leo. Your warmth draws people to you, making this a great time for networking. A job offer may come from your efforts.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)

An act of kindness you performed recently may come back to you in surprising ways, Virgo. The universe will reward your generous spirit. You may continue to pay it forward.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)

Figure out the perfect middle ground between work responsibilities and fun this week, Libra. If you delegate some of your tasks, you may free up time for personal enjoyment.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)

Scorpio, optimism is your guiding light this week. Your "can-do" attitude may inspire others who cross your path in the days to come. Lots will get done in little time.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Deep conversations may lead to a breakthrough, Sagittarius. You might start to understand someone else or a situation on a whole new level.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Capricorn, financial stability is something you should carefully consider this week. A smart decision you made in the past may not be the best way to continue forward.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)

Aquarius, you may feel a strong draw toward community or giving back this week. Helping out a neighbor will bring you satisfaction, or you can volunteer.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)

It's important to trust your intuition, Pisces. This is leading you toward a very happy coincidence by the end of the week. Someone special becomes involved.

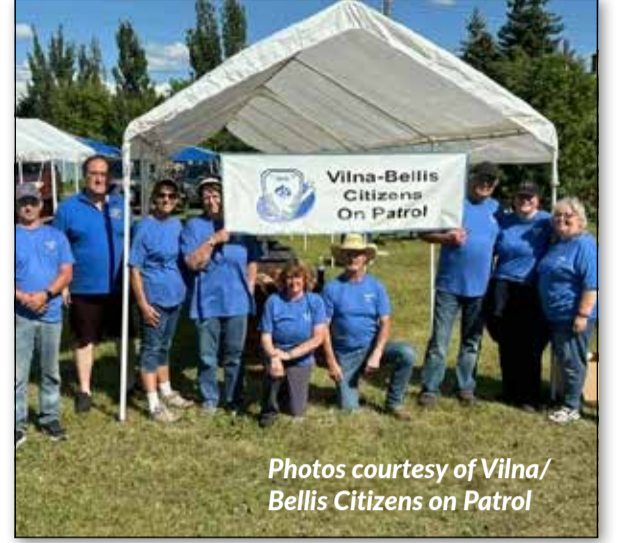
HOME REPAIR WORD SEARCH

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| WORDS | BIOAVAILABILITY | DIETARY | FATTY ACIDS | IRON | MICRONUTRIENTS |
| AMINO ACIDS | CALORIES | ELECTROLYTES | FIBER | LIPIDS | PROBIOTICS |
| ANTIOXIDANTS | CARBOHYDRATES | ENERGY | FORTIFICATION | MACRONUTRIENTS | PROTEIN |
| BASAL | CELLS | ENRICHMENT | GLYCEMIC INDEX | METABOLISM | SATIETY |
| | | | | | VITAMINS |

Vilna/ Bellis Citizens on Patrol offer huge thank you



Photos courtesy of Vilna/ Bellis Citizens on Patrol

By Brandie Majeau



Vilna/Bellis Citizens on Patrol expressed gratitude to community members and local businesses for their support of the recent meat raffle, held on November 29, 2025.

The organization acknowledged the crucial role played by local businesses in ticket sales and emphasized that ongoing community support significantly contributes to the group's initiatives.

Winners of the raffle were announced as follows: Cheryl Snyder of Smoky Lake claimed the first prize, a \$1,200 meat package; Sandra Cardinal of Lac La Biche received the second prize, a \$550 meat package; and four \$100 cash prizes went to Brian Benoit (Smoky Lake), Michael Rebinski (Vilna), Bernadette Duenas (Bellis), and Brian Lorenz (Westlock). The next meat

raffle is scheduled for November 28, 2026. Vilna/Bellis Citizens on Patrol is a volunteer organization that collaborates with law enforcement to enhance public safety in the region. Volunteers patrol neighborhoods, observe and report concerns, and maintain a visible presence at community events. While not a replacement for police, the group serves as additional support, acting as extra eyes and ears for local authorities. Over the past year,

members of the group have provided security and event assistance at various regional gatherings, including the Pumpkin Fair and Car Show in Smoky Lake, the Eagles Tribute Concert, the Smoky Lake Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party, and the Spedden Fish & Game Valentine's Dine and Dance. The organization takes pride in supporting events within Vilna, Bellis, and neighbouring communities. During the annual

Fair Days weekend, held on the third weekend of August, Vilna/Bellis Citizens on Patrol hosts a Silent Auction and complimentary burger BBQ in conjunction with the car show. The silent auction remains successful and is made possible by the generous contributions of local businesses. Proceeds from fundraising initiatives support member training, patrol mileage reimbursement, and essential operational expenses, enabling

the organization to continue serving the community effectively. Those interested in learning more or attending a meeting are invited to the next session, scheduled for March 25, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the Bellis Curling Rink. Updates and additional information can be found on the group's Facebook page, Vilna/Bellis Citizens on Patrol. For broader details about Citizens on Patrol programs in Alberta, visit ACOPA.ca.




Raven Woods Studio hosted a paint night at the Redwater Legion on February 28, where participants enjoyed a fun-filled evening of creativity, laughter, and impressive artwork. **Raven Woods Studio photo**

Ad Booking Deadlines

11:00 AM THURSDAYS

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MARCH 2026

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

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

Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 13 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Regular County Council Meeting
March 26, 2026 @ 9:00 AM
April 16, 2026 @ 9:00 AM
May 28, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

County Budget Meeting
April 1, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

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

Smoky Lake County
Main and Public Works
Offices will be

CLOSED

April 3, 2026
and
April 6, 2026

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Approved the closure of the Main Office and Public Works Shop on Friday, April 10, 2026, to allow all staff to attend the Annual Safety Meeting.
- Adopted Policy 08-27: Community Hall Grant Program.
- Approved a \$500 sponsorship of the 2026 Grazing School for Women event being held in Smoky Lake County.
- Approved a \$1,000 bronze sponsorship for the Alberta Invasive Species Council.
- Approved \$1,129.50 in funding to the Heartland Training and Support Hub towards their 2026 farm safety program initiatives in Smoky Lake County.
- Amended Policy 62-10: Agricultural Service Board 2026 Business Plan.
- Amended Policy 62-08: Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Ways.
- Amended Policy 61-16: Road Closure Policy.
- Gave Third Reading to Bylaw 1497-26: Roadway Licensing Bylaw.
- Amended Policy 62-13: Surface Lease of Municipally-Owned Lands.
- Amended Policy 01-03: Organizational Chart.

Donations

- \$2,000 of FCSS funding to the Vilna & District Agricultural Society for their volunteer appreciation.
- \$2,500 to the Warspite Revitalization Foundation for a platinum sponsorship of the 2nd Annual County Fair.
- \$400 to Smoky Lake Rural Crime Watch Association towards a Scam Alert presentation.
- \$2,000 to the Victoria Trail Agricultural Society towards the Victoria Trail Agricultural Society Fair Days.
- \$500 to the Spedden Fish and Game Association for a Family Fishing Day event.
- \$500 annual sponsorship to the Smoky Lake Riding Club towards the Smoky Lake Stampede.
- \$3,000 towards Derek Zplotinsky, National High Performance Para Athlete.

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY APPOINTS CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Smoky Lake County Council is pleased to announce that Ms. Chyenne Shaw has been appointed as the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) on February 18, 2026. Council would also like to sincerely thank Brenda Adamson for her service as Interim CAO and for her steady leadership during the transition period. Chyenne brings extensive experience in emergency management and municipal administration. She is recognized for her professional drive, attention to detail, and commitment to ensuring projects are completed thoroughly and accurately. Her focus on accountability and clear communication will be key assets as the County continues to grow and evolve.



IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Contract Trucks & Equipment: Notice to Register

Policy No. 03-04

Contractors must complete and submit annually a registration form listing each piece of equipment they wish to hire out. Registration forms must be **delivered in person** to the Public Works Shop prior to, **4:00 PM on April 30, 2026**.

For more information call the Public Works Shop at 780-656-3755.

Dust Control/ Suppression Applications

Policy No. 03-39

Public Works is accepting applications for blade mix oil or magnesium chloride dust control/ suppression for rural roads within the County in front of residences.

Deadline to apply is prior to 4:00 PM on May 31, 2026.

For more information and how to apply: www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/dustcontrol

PROCLAMATIONS: Canadian Agriculture Safety Week March 15 - 21, 2026

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

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

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



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The A final winning team of the Vilna Curling Club bonspiel, led by Shawn Cherniwchan, celebrates their victory during the tournament held February 27 to March 1. Teams, spectators, and sponsors all contributed to a successful and fun event, with the B final won by The Other Drunks and the C final by Nathan Cherniwchan. **Vilna Curling Club photo**

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Contact Bill: 780-235-4024.

SCHOOL NEWS



Grade 7 students from Kostash School take part in relay races held last week. **H.A. Kostash School photos**

Smoky Lake emergency department to see temporary physician coverage gaps

By Haylee Winger



Residents in the Smoky Lake area are being advised of several upcoming periods when the emergency department at the George McDougall – Smoky Lake Healthcare Centre will not have a physician on site.

Alberta Health Services says the service disruptions are

due to a shortage of available clinical staff and the inability to secure temporary physician coverage.

The emergency department will be without an on-site doctor during the following times:

- 4 p.m. Thursday, March 12 to 8 a.m. Friday, March 13
- 4 p.m. Thursday, March 19 to 8 a.m. Friday, March 20

- 4 p.m. Thursday, March 26 to 8 a.m. Friday, March 27

While a physician will not be present during those hours, nursing staff will continue to work in the emergency department. Nurses will provide patient assessments, triage services and assist individuals in seeking care at nearby emergency departments when needed.

Health officials

emphasize that the measure is temporary and say efforts are ongoing to maintain access to health services for residents in the region. Anyone experiencing a medical emergency is advised to call 911 for immediate assistance. Residents may also be directed to surrounding healthcare facilities for urgent care during the affected times.

Wildfire season begins in Alberta: Residents urged to prepare

By Haylee Winger

March 1 marked the official start of wildfire season in Alberta, and residents are encouraged to begin preparing their homes, properties and families for the months ahead.

One of the most effective steps homeowners can take is clearing combustible materials from around their homes. Experts recommend removing items such as dry leaves,

branches, firewood, yard debris and lawn furniture from within five feet of buildings to help reduce the risk of fire spreading.

Pet and livestock owners are also encouraged to develop evacuation plans. Having a strategy in place for safely moving animals during an emergency can save valuable time if an evacuation is ordered. Using FireSmart practices



to protect livestock areas, barns and other outbuildings can also help reduce wildfire risk.

Staying informed throughout wildfire season is another key step in preparedness. Residents can download the Alberta Wildfire mobile app or visit the provincial wildfire website to receive the latest updates on active fires and conditions across the province.

Residents are also

reminded to review local regulations regarding responsible burning and fire permits. Information about safe burning practices and permit requirements can be found on local municipal fire service websites.

Wildfires are one of several natural hazards that can affect communities each year. Understanding the risks and taking steps early in the season can help protect homes, families and property.



Small Business Incentive reopens following strong first-year results

Sturgeon County press release

Sturgeon County's Small Business Incentive (SBI) program reopens today, building on the measurable success achieved in its first year.

Launched in August 2025, the Small Business Incentive provides eligible

businesses up to \$5,000 in reimbursed matching funds to invest in education, marketing, and equipment and technology upgrades. A total of \$75,000 is available to support long-term growth, improve competitiveness, and encourage reinvestment within the local economy.

The results from the

initial intake period demonstrate the program's impact:

- 19 applications received
- 13 businesses approved for funding
- \$53,341.84 in matching funds awarded
- \$192,697 generated in total private sector projects

This strong return shows how targeted public investment

can stimulate broader economic activity. Businesses used funding to improve irrigation systems, enhance security measures, and modernize equipment. These upgrades increased efficiency, reduced labour demands, and strengthened overall operations.

"The early success of the Small Business

Incentive shows how strategic, shared investment can create ripple effects throughout our community," said Mark Morrissey, Director of Economic Innovation and Growth at Sturgeon County. "By supporting entrepreneurs as they grow and modernize, we're strengthening the County's small business sector and

building a more resilient local economy."

With the program now open again, eligible businesses are encouraged to apply early. Funding is limited and will be awarded through scheduled intake periods. For full program details, eligibility criteria, and application information, visit: investsturgeon.ca/incentives.

Are you looking to pursue a career in print journalism?



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CA MacLean Bursary Foundation



Trickster Theatre brings interactive storytelling to H. A. Kostash

By Brandie Majeau



H. A. Kostash student got a firsthand lesson in the power of creativity and collaboration, thanks to Trickster Theatre's latest tour of schools throughout the province. The acclaimed Calgary-based theatre company, known for its unique brand of interactive, issue-based performances, is once again partnering with educators and children to create memorable theatrical experiences in classrooms and gymnasiums. Trickster Theatre has been a staple in Alberta's arts-in-education scene for over four decades, bringing workshops and residency programs

to schools from Edmonton to remote rural communities.

This year's tour, invites students to explore their own stories and cultural backgrounds, transforming them into original plays performed for peers, parents, and teachers.

Each school visited by Trickster Theatre presents a unique narrative. The company collaborates closely with students and staff, utilizing theatre as a medium to articulate the values and priorities of each community. This process empowers participants to express themselves and builds that confidence through performance.

The Trickster Theatre crew spent a week at H. A. Kostash, while professional artists collaborated directly with students to develop scripts, choreography, and simple staging. The process is highly participatory as students are encouraged to contribute ideas, improvise scenes, and even handle some technical aspects of the production.

The result is an exciting, student-driven show that reflects the collective imagination of everyone involved.

The program energizes student engagement and teamwork, creating a dynamic atmosphere throughout the school. It's uplifting to see even the most reserved students step into

the spotlight and thrive. This hands-on and personalized approach to theatre brings every participant to feel valued and connected.

As arts funding in public schools faces ongoing challenges, programs like Trickster Theatre offer vital opportunities for creative learning. The company's inclusive, hands-on model ensures that every participating student, regardless of background or ability, has a role in bringing a story to life.

After its week spent at H. A. Kostash, the students along with the Trickster Theatre stepped into the spotlight on February 27 and performed a play featuring the history of Smoky Lake.



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If you have a claim against this Estate, you must file your claim by April 10, 2026.

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Logan lands largest fish on Redwater School ice fishing trip



Students from Redwater School's junior high enjoyed a successful ice fishing trip. Congratulations to Logan for catching the largest fish and to Hunter for landing the first fish of the day. A great day was had by all.

Redwater School photo



We are Hiring

Smoky Lake Forest Nursery Ltd. is hiring 2 General Greenhouse Labourers to join our team for the 2026 summer harvest season (June 1 – July 31, 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 coordination, 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.

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Upcoming auctions

<p>ANNUAL ANTIQUE AUCTION Sunday, April 12 – LIVE Auction Spedden Hall – Spedden, AB</p>	<p>For Sheila Dumais & the late Ivan Dumais, 60441 RR 131 Vilna For information: Sheila – 587-579-6987</p>
<p>ACREAGE AUCTION – VILNA Saturday, May 9 – LIVE Auction</p>	<p>ONLINE CONSIGNMENT AUCTION May 25–27, 59520 RR 135 – Vilna</p>

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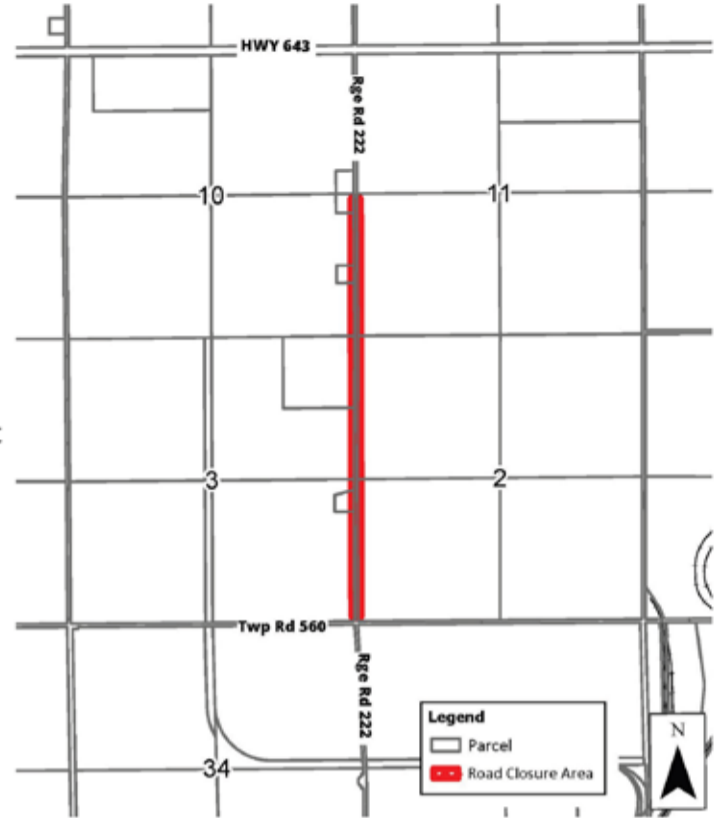
Mike Ouellet

PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1694/25 TO CLOSE AND DISPOSE OF PORTIONS OF RANGE ROAD 222

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1694/25.

This bylaw would close and dispose of a portion of Range Road 222, beginning 800 meters south of Highway 643, and north of Township Road 560. The subject area is within the Industrial Heartland, and alternate routes are available.

Learn more: sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1694-25



Public Hearing details

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

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

Questions? Contact us!

Kyle Schole
Senior Planner, Land Management
780-939-1397
kschole@sturgeoncounty.ca

Legal Land Description: All that portion of original government road allowance adjacent to the west boundary of the west half of Section 2 and west boundary of the southwest quarter of Section 11 and portion of Road Plan 252 0361 within southeast quarter of Section 3 Township 56 Range 22 west of the Fourth Meridian. Excepting thereout all mines and minerals.

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 **780-939-8029** to register.

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

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **March 23, 2026 at 1 p.m.** by contacting Legislative Services at **780-939-8029**. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca.

Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing. If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings.

To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the minutes of the public hearing or otherwise made public. This information is collected under section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information, please contact the Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Advisor at 780-939-1306 or accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca.



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2026/2027



At a Glance

Generations United

With support from the Town of Redwater, our award-winning Generations United program connects senior volunteers with students to teach cooking and baking.

Nature-Based Learning

At Ochre Park School, students learn beyond the classroom through outdoor play, a thriving school garden, and hands-on experiences that connect them to the land.

Leadership Opportunities

Our school promotes leadership at every grade, including a dedicated Grade 4 Leadership Club that builds confidence and responsibility through hands-on projects.

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Logan Rahn shares his pink duck find during the Smoky Lake Youth Council Pink Duck Hunt



Photos courtesy of Smoky Lake Youth Council

Hudson Luchyk finds a pink duck, promoting kindness during the Pink Shirt Day anti-bullying campaign.

By Brandie Majeau



The Smoky Lake Youth Council is a group of local volunteers who work together to promote positive change, community engagement, and leadership opportunities for young people in Smoky Lake. The council organizes events and initiatives, such as Pink

Shirt Day activities, to encourage kindness, inclusion, and youth involvement in the community. Smoky Lake Youth Council Spreads Kindness with Pink Duck Hide & Seek Hunt. The Smoky Lake Youth Council has once again brought creativity and fun to Pink Shirt Day, an annual event dedicated

to promoting kindness and standing up against bullying. This year, the council once again organized a unique hide-and-seek game by hiding pink ducks around the town and throughout the school in the days leading up to the event. The activity was designed to engage both students and community members,

Continued on page 15



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Alberta photo

On February 24, 2026, Alberta RCMP officers in Redwater received a complaint about a box truck driving dangerously on Highway 63 in Thorhild County. The truck, weighing more than 14,000 kilograms, was reportedly swerving into oncoming lanes and had even come to a stop in an active traffic lane.

Members of Alberta RCMP Traffic Services quickly located the vehicle and performed a traffic stop. During the interaction, the officer observed signs that the driver may have been impaired. When the driver attempted to move the truck again, officers safely took the individual into custody.

Further investigation revealed the driver also had several outstanding warrants. These were executed with assistance from the Edmonton Police Service. Police would like to thank members of the public for reporting unsafe driving and helping keep Alberta's highways safe.



Smoky Lake RCMP Report

By Haylee Winger



Smoky Lake RCMP responded to a variety of calls for service during the week of February 23. Members attended a report of an abandoned vehicle on Township Road 604. Police determined the vehicle had simply run out of fuel and there was nothing suspicious. In a rural incident, a local resident was

attacked by a deer while outside their home. The homeowner defended themselves with a shovel. Fish and Wildlife officers attended and the deer was dispatched. No further concerns were reported. Police continue to conduct an ongoing well-being check. All available resources have been utilized and there are no concerns at this time.

Members are investigating after an individual reported seeing tires advertised on Facebook Marketplace that matched those taken from their previously stolen truck. The investigation is ongoing. Smoky Lake RCMP assisted the St. Paul RCMP with a BOLO (Be On the Lookout). Members located the suspect vehicle and arrested the driver without incident. The individual, who was wanted out of St. Paul and had

numerous outstanding warrants from Smoky Lake, was held for a Judicial Release Hearing. RCMP also received a complaint regarding a verbal agreement dispute between two parties involving the sale of an item. The matter was determined to be civil in nature and not a police matter. Members responded to a report of a reckless driver but were unable to locate the vehicle. In the Village of Vilna, RCMP attended a complaint of a possible breach of a court

order. After investigation, members determined no breach had occurred. Police received a report of approximately 25 snowmobiles on a rural property. Due to riders wearing helmets and no visible licence plates, individuals could not be identified. During a curfew check on a habitual offender, the individual was found to be non-compliant. A warrant has been issued for their arrest. RCMP also received a driving complaint on Highway 831 involving

a semi-truck allegedly cutting off a pickup truck. Members were unable to intercept the vehicle, which was travelling toward Fort Saskatchewan. The appropriate detachment was notified. Traffic enforcement continued throughout the week, with members conducting speed enforcement on Highway 28. Anyone with information about these or other incidents is asked to contact the Smoky Lake RCMP at 780-656-3550 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Redwater RCMP release

Redwater RCMP urging seatbelt safety in rural and remote areas
The RCMP is asking motorists and their passengers in Redwater to wear

seatbelts. Proper use of a vehicle's safety restraint can reduce the likelihood of death or serious injury if a collision occurs. Redwater RCMP encourages drivers

and passengers to remember the following when it comes to seatbelt safety: • Seatbelts must be worn by all occupants of a vehicle. • The lap portion of the seatbelt should

be snug across your hips, with the shoulder belt resting across the middle of your chest. Be sure the seatbelt is not twisted, and the latching mechanism moves freely along the belt itself. • Wear a seatbelt even when you're

on backroads, private property, or only traveling a short distance. • Motorists are responsible for ensuring both themselves and passengers under the age of 16 years-old are using proper occupant restraints. • Fines for seatbelt

infractions is \$162. It is recommended that seatbelts be worn when riding an off-road vehicle, if the vehicle comes equipped. For more traffic safety information, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and X @RCMPAlberta.

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Continued from page 14

encouraging them to search for the hidden ducks as a playful way to spread the message of kindness. With heavy snowfall making outdoor activities challenging, the

council thoughtfully chose to hide ducks inside the school for younger children, ensuring everyone could take part safely and comfortably.

By incorporating this personalized element, the Smoky Lake

Youth Council continues to build a spirit of inclusion and positivity, showing that small acts (like searching for a pink duck) can make a big difference in building a caring community.

The Smoky Lake

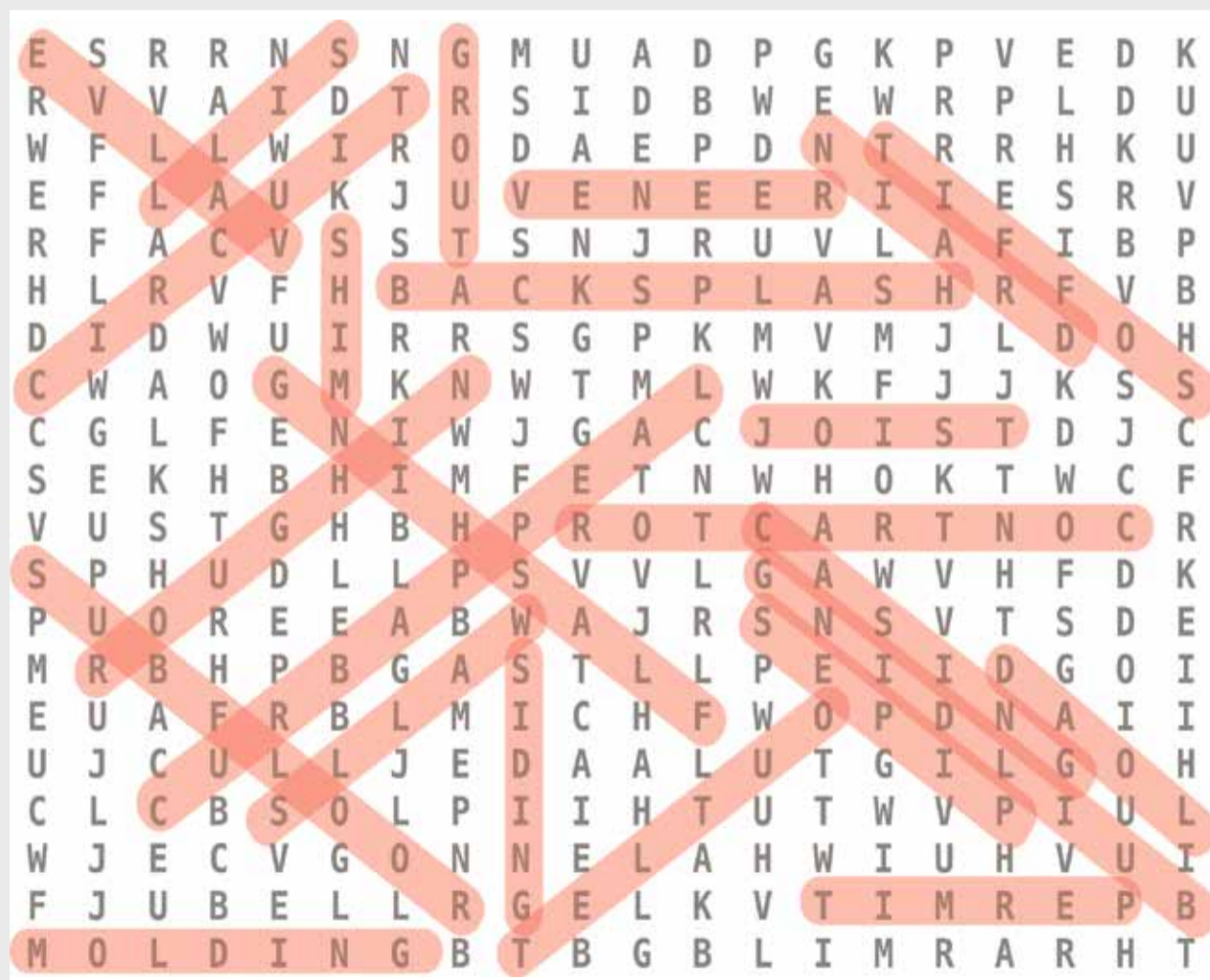
Youth Council serves as an advocate for young people in Smoky Lake. Through its board structure, the council plans and organizes events and workshops for all age groups and focuses on addressing issues

that are significant to youth. The council fosters a safe and welcoming environment, supports skill development through teamwork and fundraising, encourages participation in a variety of community events and leads

initiatives to prepare individuals for future success. Additionally, guest speakers and workshops are offered for teens. For more information, please visit the Smoky Lake Youth Council's social media pages.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

WORD SEARCH



CROSSWORDS



SUDOKU

8	7	9	3	5	4	1	2	6
2	4	3	6	1	7	5	9	8
1	6	5	9	8	2	4	3	7
6	8	1	7	3	9	2	5	4
7	3	4	8	2	5	9	6	1
5	9	2	4	6	1	7	8	3
9	2	8	1	4	6	3	7	5
3	1	7	5	9	8	6	4	2
4	5	6	2	7	3	8	1	9



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