



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

Rainbow Wok & Grill grows with Redwater through the decades



Rainbow Wok & Grill photos

The newly renovated dining area at Rainbow Wok & Grill offers a warm and welcoming space for families, groups, and community gatherings.



Members of the Rainbow team pose in the lounge, where the darts area has become a popular gathering spot.

By Shelley Winger



A long-time fixture in Redwater, Rainbow Wok & Grill continues to evolve while honouring the history that has made it a local favourite for more than 40 years.

Originally opening

in 1984 as a small café beside the courthouse, Rainbow has grown alongside the community through several transformations over the decades. From its early days as a café and popular karaoke night spot in the 1980s and early 1990s to its more recent expansion into

a modern restaurant and lounge, the business has remained a familiar and cherished part of town life.

Many longtime residents still fondly share stories from Rainbow's earlier years, especially its lively karaoke nights and role as a popular gathering place. Those memories, the team

says, are a special reminder of how deeply rooted the business is in Redwater's history.

Now operated by its third owners, the team says the restaurant has always felt like more than just a business.

"Rainbow has been part of Redwater since

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Rainbow Wok & Grill's updated exterior and patio space welcomes guests in Redwater.



Local cat becomes family hero

By Brandie Majeau



A routine evening stroll turned into an unexpected wildlife

standoff recently as a local couple reported being "menaced" by a trio of deer, only to be rescued by an unlikely hero: their 5-pound calico cat, Jewel. According to witnesses, mostly the couple themselves and a very judgemental squirrel, the incident occurred when the couple was walking through their yard inspecting the spring thaw and checking for fresh growth in their perennial beds. The evening had been peaceful up until that point — the kind of

quiet that makes you think nothing could possibly go wrong.

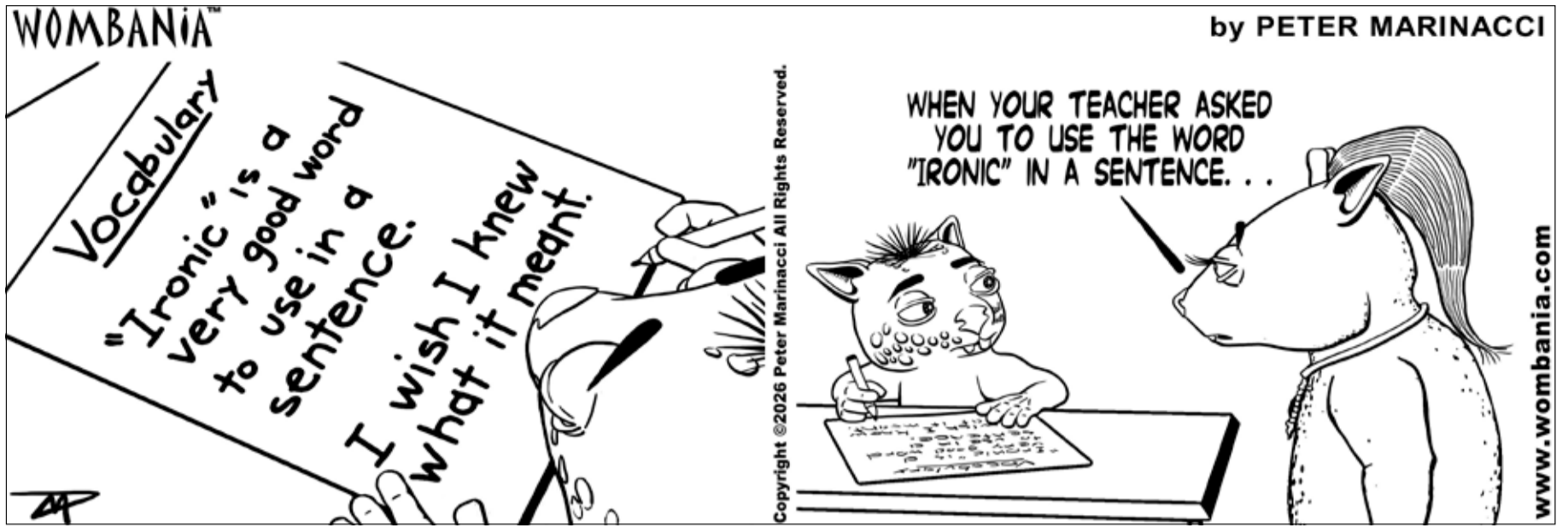
The couple explained that at first the deer were just standing there, but then they started inching closer like they were plotting something. Witnesses confirmed that, "You could just feel it, they appeared unreasonably coordinated and possibly a little bit smug." The largest of the three, a doe of considerable confidence, reportedly made sustained and unsettling eye contact.

Just as the couple considered making their hasty retreat, Jewel burst onto the

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Wendy Ross photos



If your life is in danger or you know someone's life is in danger DIAL EMERGENCY NOW 911!

<p>If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, you need to know that you're not alone. You can also call if you are not in crisis, seeking additional information. The new Canada Suicide Prevention Service (CSPS), by Crisis Services Canada, enables callers anywhere in</p>	<p>Canada to access crisis support by phone, in French or English: toll-free 1-833-456-4566 Available 24/7 Crisis Text Line (Powered by Kids Help Phone) Canada Wide free, 24/7 texting service is accessible immediately to youth anywhere in</p>	<p>Canada by texting TALK to 686868 to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to 686868 to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/SMS enabled cell phone. KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under</p>	<p>in Canada 1-800-668-6868 (Online or on the Phone). First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness 24/7 Help Line 1-855-242-3310 Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line 1-866-925-4419 Trans LifeLine – All Ages 1-877-330-6366</p>
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Stand Up Against BULLYING



If you or someone you know has been affected by bullying, your voice can make a difference. We are looking to hear your story and raise awareness about the impact of bullying in our community. By sharing your experience, you can help others understand they are not alone in their struggles, and together, we can take a stand against bullying.

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.

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Bullying needs to come to an end

My daughter is being bullied, and there is nothing simple about saying that out loud. It is not a misunderstanding or a one-time argument. It is ongoing, deliberate, and it follows her through her days in ways that are hard to fully see unless you are living beside her.

She is singled out at school in quiet but consistent ways. Other girls exclude her on purpose, talk about her within earshot, and make her feel like she does not belong anywhere she stands. It is constant enough that she expects it now.

There are messages too. Words sent through screens that do not disappear when the day ends. They linger. They get reread. They sink in. What might seem small to someone else builds up over time, and I can see the effect it has on her.

What hurts the most is how it has changed the way she sees herself. My daughter used to be sure of who she was. Now she questions it. She wonders why she is being treated this way and whether it means something is wrong with her. No child should carry that kind of doubt because of someone else's behavior.

I see it in the way she hesitates before speaking, in the way she withdraws from things she once loved. I see it in the effort it takes for her just to get through a normal day. These are not small impacts. They shape how she moves through the world.

As her parent, I feel a mix of anger and helplessness that is difficult to put into words. I cannot stand beside her every moment to shield her, and that reality is one of the hardest parts of this experience. What I can do is make sure she knows she is supported, believed, and not alone in this.

This is not just about kids being unkind. It is about repeated behavior that chips away at someone's confidence and sense of belonging. It deserves to be taken seriously every time it happens.

My daughter deserves to feel safe where she is. She deserves to be treated with respect. And until that becomes her reality again, this is not something I will ignore or accept as normal. To the girls bullying my daughter-do better. To anyone who bullies others do better. Enough is enough.

- Jennifer.
One frustrated mom.



Under pressure: Many households report strained finances

By Rob Roach,
ATB ECONOMICS

Under pressure: Many households report strained finances

On Monday April 20, received the Consumer Price Index (a.k.a. inflation) numbers from Statistics Canada for the month of March. These data help us understand the general direction of consumer prices, which is a handy thing to know when trying to figure out what's next for the overall economy.

What the inflation stats don't tell us is how people are actually doing when it comes to their personal finances.

Imagine, for example, you just paid a plumbing company to unclog a blocked pipe. It was worth the money, but it wasn't cheap

and now you're wondering how to pay off the charge on your credit card. Even if the fee was the same as it was a year earlier (i.e., zero inflation), you're probably not feeling great about how much it cost.

Or take that jug of milk your kids empty almost as soon as you put it in the fridge; the price may not be going up as much as it was, but between this year's soccer fees and a recent speeding ticket and your mobile screen shattering when you dropped it, your cost of living feels out of control.

There are different ways to define the cost of living and to measure it, but one of the most direct and telling ways is to ask people questions about their

finances. In this vein, the accounting, tax and business consulting firm MNP conducts a quarterly survey of Canadians* that asks about their ability to pay their bills, endure unexpected expenses, and absorb interest-rate fluctuations.

The latest results for Alberta came out on Monday and point to a high degree of financial stress with 77% of respondents saying rising prices for essentials like food and gas are straining their finances. It was essentially the same result nationally at 74%.

The composite national index, which combines answers to multiple survey questions, has remained steady the last year at levels well below those seen before the

pandemic (the higher the index, the more positive Canadians feel about their personal finances).

This suggests the level of financial strain among Canadian households has been elevated for several years.

Other survey results also point to the financial stress facing many households (see the chart below):

Turning to another source, the Bank of Canada's Canadian Survey of Consumer Expectations (done in January, prior to the Iran war) also points to weak sentiment, which the Bank attributes to high prices and trade uncertainty.

There are multiple ways to address the financial strain faced by households with

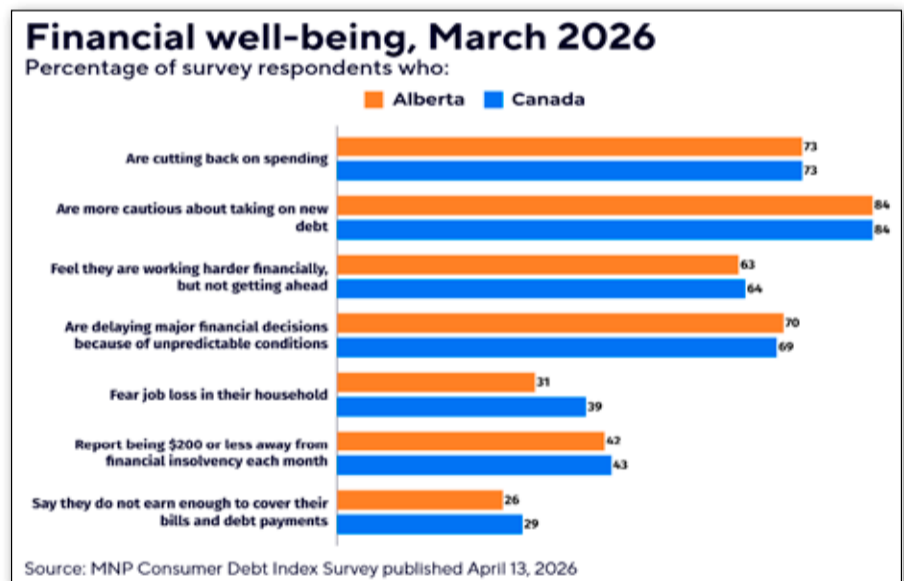
stronger economic growth—and the jobs and income that go along with it—playing a critical role.

In the short-term, U.S. tariffs, higher prices due to the war in the Middle East and the uncertainty related to both are significant headwinds holding back economic growth and there is little we can do about this on our own (other than doing the best we can negotiating with the U.S. on trade). Circling back to the Consumer Price Index numbers we get next week, inflation in March is going to be higher due to spiking gasoline prices with other costs rising the longer the conflict lasts and higher energy and fertilizer costs flow through to other goods and services.

On the bright side, U.S. tariffs are lower than originally threatened and the Alberta labour market has improved over the last year.

There is also much we can do in terms of improving Canada's productivity via reducing internal economic barriers, diversifying our international trade and successfully executing major projects. As the survey results highlight, this is not just about generating more GDP, but improving the financial situation of real people.

*The latest data were compiled by Ipsos on behalf of MNP LTD between March 10 and March 11, 2026. For this survey, a sample of 2,000 Canadians aged 18 years and over was interviewed.



Alberta raises a glass in excitement for the new whiskey act

By Brandie Majeau



On April 9, 2026 a rural media round-table discussion was held with Minister RJ Sigurdson, Minister Dale Nally, and Minister Andrew Boitchenko, marking a landmark moment for the province's distilling industry and setting the stage for what boosters hope will become one of Canada's most exciting tourism destinations...the Alberta Whisky Trail.

The legislation, championed by Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction Minister Dale Nally, aims to do

for Alberta what generations of tradition have done for Kentucky and Scotland. "What we're doing with the Alberta Whiskey Act is simple. We're making sure that when someone picks up a bottle labeled Alberta Whiskey, they know exactly what they're doing. Something made right here, something they can trust, and something that we can all be proud of," stated Minister Nally

For years, Alberta's distillers have struggled to differentiate their products from the broader "Canadian whisky" label, a

category so wide it offers little in the way of regional identity or prestige. The Alberta Whisky Act sets out to change that. Under the proposed legislation, a spirit can only carry the "Alberta Whisky" designation if it meets a strict set of requirements.

Participation for this program is voluntary. Distillers who do not wish to meet the standard can continue operating as before, but those who do qualify will be able to proudly label their product as "Alberta Whisky" which is a designation the government intends to carry real weight on the world stage.

Beyond the bottle, the Alberta Whisky Act has sparked excitement about an entirely new tourism opportunity: the Alberta Whisky Trail. The concept draws direct inspiration from Kentucky's famous Bourbon Trail, which draws hundreds of thousands of whisky enthusiasts to distilleries across the American South each year. Minister Nally has spoken openly about a fact-finding trip to Kentucky that opened his eyes to what Alberta's own spirits sector could become for visitors. The question being asked in industry circles is a tantalizing one, what if

even a small percentage of whisky tourists worldwide were to visit Alberta's distilleries?

The province already boasts a diverse and geographically spread network of craft distilleries, stretching from urban tasting rooms in Calgary and Edmonton to rural operations in towns like Turner Valley, Canmore, and Nisku. The legislation is expected to support the development of the Whisky Trail by giving the province a coherent, marketable identity, the kind of brand recognition that turns a regional product into a destination.

For Alberta's distillers, farmers, and

tourism operators, the Alberta Whisky Act represents something bigger than a label. It is a declaration that the province's spirits sector has come of age and brings with it an invitation to the world to come and taste it for themselves.

Minister RJ Sigurdson said it simply, "At the end of the day, this is about backing Alberta agriculture, supporting local producers, and continuing to build a reputation

That's already respected around the world. Because, I'll say it, whether it's beef, wheat, canola or whiskey, Alberta does it best."

Vilna comes alive for Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza

By Brandie Majeau

The quiet village of Vilna was “hopping” with excitement on April 4 as Vilna hosted a town-wide Easter Egg

Hunt, drawing families and children from across the community in what turned out to be a standout first-year event.

More than

44 children signed up to take part in the festive occasion, gathering at the Vilna Pool Hall and Barbershop to collect maps before fanning out across Vilna in search of hidden eggs. Among the hidden treasures and prizes was the coveted golden egg, which carried a special reward for its lucky finder. Door prizes were also set up at the pool hall for everyone to get involved in the Easter excitement.

Streets around the venue were lined with cars as parents and families turned out in full force to support the event. And of course, adding excitement to the holiday spirit...the Easter Bunny made a special appearance stopping by for photos with children and families eager to pose or take a selfie.

The event was

Continued on page 15



Photos courtesy of Jenn Trider




Thorhild Central School
SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

All families and students are welcome!

The Open House is a great opportunity for families who:

- **Have children starting school in 2026-27**
 - Registration for Kindergarten and Great Beginnings (Pre-K) will be available
- **Are new to the community**
- **Are considering a return to public education**
- **Want to learn more about TCS**

We would love to meet you and answer your questions!

Registration for 2026-27 is open!
 Online registration for Great Beginnings and new K-12 students available @ tcs.aspenview.org

For more information, call us at 780-398-3610, or email tcs@aspenview.org

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With Heartfelt Gratitude

The family of Peter Ewasiw wishes to express their sincere thanks to all who offered sympathy, kindness, and support during his recent passing. Your flowers, visits, phone calls, and comforting words have been a great source of strength, reminding us that we are not alone in our time of sorrow.

For this, we are deeply grateful.

Our beloved husband, father, Gido and Great Gido will forever remain in our hearts and cherished memories.



Pictured on the ice are RMHA's graduating players Denver Lyons, Dylan Siebold, Zylar Tupper, Derek Harrison, Eric Lega and Carsten Dukewich, who proudly wore the association's jersey for the final time this season. The group is being recognized for their dedication, sportsmanship and leadership, as well as the lasting impact they have made on teammates, coaches and the RMHA community throughout their minor hockey careers. **Redwater Minor Hockey photo**



4823 46 ST REDWATER

\$319,500

Large walkout bungalow situated on an expansive lot with convenient back alley access. This property offers exceptional potential and opportunity. The main floor features a bright living room with a wood-burning stone fireplace, a spacious sunroom with direct access to the attached garage, a dining area, kitchen, full 4-piece bathroom, and three bedrooms, including a primary suite with a 2-piece ensuite. The walkout basement includes an additional bedroom, a generous mechanical room, a large recreation room, and a separate space currently set up with a hot tub. The oversized backyard provides ample room for RV parking, the potential to build an additional garage, or the perfect space to create a massive garden oasis. Some updates in recent years include shingles, hot water tank, and furnace, providing added value and peace of mind.

57312 RR 222 STURGEON COUNTY

\$674,900

Calling all equestrian enthusiasts! This exceptional 13.56-acre property offers endless possibilities. The large two-story home features 5 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, with a well-established yard site and two separate driveway approaches—one serving the residence and one dedicated to the farmyard. Equestrian facilities include a 70' x 110' indoor riding arena with three entrances, indoor stables, and a 70' x 90' sales ring, surrounding bleachers, and an auctioneer stand. The main building includes a public foyer, office space, concession stand, and a three-bedroom living apartment. The barn is equipped with a horse wash bay, grooming area, and tack room. Ideal for livestock operations or those requiring substantial indoor storage, this property offers incredible potential for the right buyer. With some TLC, it could truly shine.

5133 54 AVE REDWATER

\$469,000

Fully developed bi-level with no rear neighbors. This home currently offers 4 bedrooms, with the flexibility to easily convert back to 5 bedrooms by relocating the laundry to the basement. The main floor features a bright living room with a corner gas fireplace, a dining area, and a kitchen with great views and direct access to the deck. Also on the main level are a laundry room, a 4-piece bathroom, and one bedroom. The primary suite is located above the garage and includes a walk-in closet and a spacious 5-piece ensuite with a jetted tub and standalone shower. The fully finished basement offers two additional bedrooms, a large recreation room, a 3-piece bathroom, a generous utility room, and plenty of storage space. The heated attached garage is fully finished with durable industrial vinyl plank flooring and equipped with water taps. Recent upgrades include central air conditioning, select windows, and some appliances.

#4 PINEBROOK ESTATE, THORHILD COUNTY

\$799,900

Welcome to this 4.73-acre parcel in Pinebrook Estates, offering the perfect opportunity to build your dream home or enjoy as a recreational getaway. Located just down the range road from Half Moon Lake, you'll enjoy easy access to fishing, boating, and a playground. Surrounded by peaceful country living, yet only about 40 minutes from North Edmonton and St. Albert, with several small towns nearby for everyday amenities.



Redwater Citizen's on Patrol has donated \$250 to support the Party Program. Secretary Treasurer Sophie Smith, Sturgeon Safety Liaison Jennifer Penner and Vice Chair Jan Cosby of Sturgeon County accept the cheque. The program, scheduled for April 29 and 30 in Morinville, helps more than 500 youth make positive choices regarding impaired driving, decision-making and peer pressure. **Redwater Citizens on Patrol photo**

THE HOETMER TEAM Give us a call or visit our website to view all of our listings

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Facebook: [The Hoetmer Team](https://www.facebook.com/TheHoetmerTeam)

Austin Hoetmer
780-221-2842

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3rd Prize: 2026 CAN-AM Outlander MAX XT 700

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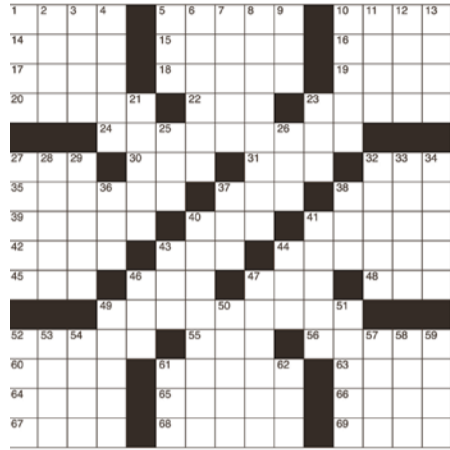
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SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

SUDOKU CROSSWORDS



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

- 1. Greek goddess of marriage
- 5. Tropical American blue jay-like bird
- 10. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 14. Dark olive black
- 15. Light, crinkled fabric
- 16. Notre Dame has a golden one
- 17. Leaked blood
- 18. Confronted
- 19. Negligible amount
- 20. Facilitated
- 22. Hill or rocky peak
- 23. Minneapolis suburb
- 24. Songs to one's beloved
- 27. Brake horsepower
- 30. Angry
- 31. Children's game
- 32. Spelling is a type of one
- 35. Obtained in return for labor
- 37. Indicates center
- 38. Chinese dynasty
- 39. Old World buffaloes
- 40. Slang for time off
- 41. Fabric
- 42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 43. Defunct regional economic organization
- 44. Philly footballers
- 45. Female sibling
- 46. Peter Griffin's daughter
- 47. Digital audiotape

- 48. Insecticide
- 49. Scientific instrument
- 52. Pages may be dog-__
- 55. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Middle Eastern military title
- 61. Wise individuals
- 63. French Polynesian island Bora __
- 64. Popular shoe type
- 65. One of 50
- 66. Divulge a secret
- 67. Dish of cooked meat mixed with potatoes
- 68. Actress Zellweger
- 69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Greek cupbearer of the Gods
- 2. Ancient Syrian city
- 3. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- 4. Range of mountains
- 5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 6. Spoke
- 7. City in Georgia
- 8. Theatrical
- 9. CNN's founder
- 10. Icelandic poems
- 11. Bjorn __, tennis player
- 12. Bowfin genus
- 13. One point north of northeast
- 21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 23. Electroencephalograph
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Male parent
- 27. Where some gymnasts work
- 28. Capital of Vietnam
- 29. Sailboats
- 32. Shelter (Scottish)
- 33. Completed
- 34. Discharge
- 36. Arrest
- 37. Partner to cheese
- 38. Coffee receptacle
- 40. Stagnate
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Snakelike fish
- 44. Consume food
- 46. Type of school
- 47. Erase
- 49. Inform
- 50. Girl's given name
- 51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 52. Every one of two or more things
- 53. Northern India city
- 54. Seventeenth stars in a constellation
- 57. Weapon
- 58. Amounts of time
- 59. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
- 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 62. Witness



STURGEON GIVES Edmonton Humane Society

Councillor Amanda Papadopoulos, alongside Community Peace Officer Nathan Schmidt and Animal Control Officer Kim Guckert, presented a \$2,500 donation to the Edmonton Humane Society last week. Since 1907, the organization has been dedicated to helping lost and stray animals across Edmonton and nearby communities, including Sturgeon County, while working to bring people and pets together through advocacy, education, and community programs.

Sturgeon County photo



Redwater Schools Open House, held on April 14, was a great success, bringing together students, families, staff, and community members for an engaging and informative evening. Visitors had the opportunity to tour classrooms, meet teachers, and learn more about programs and student learning across the division.

Redwater School photo

MILITARY SERVICE WORD SEARCH

O H E K M S C V I U Y T D R A U G N A V
 U L C U T H S I M R I K S F Q P I B A Y
 R T N R N N H I B A R R A C K S S T O U
 B T A E O H A I P A R T I L L E R Y F N
 G I S E R Y K N S B U I V F H V G M D L
 I P S D D T O R E A E N M L T M V E Q O
 N U I N A T T R U T N G O R T F P F N G
 F K A A U P V A E A U C A N O L S K C I
 A L N M Q L P C R G O E E L O F Y S T S
 N U N M S O N E T T N M I Y F Q I A O T
 T T O O A T S O P I U M L Q U C N N I
 R F C C N E T R T G P E K U F T O D U C
 Y R E D V R P G E B N C O K I T L M S S
 H G R A A E T R C T L S P C L L G H A B
 G O R T I T Q N C R K H S C M K T H S C
 M O E F O R T I F I C A T I O N T K K C
 H G H N V M M L B A T T A L I O N K C B
 Y M E C R E V U E N A M B N T P O L Q Y
 C O A L I T I O N Q O V L D Y V Y H L L
 Y E P I H E C F N O S I R R A G R T S E

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

WORDS

- ARTILLERY
- BARRACKS
- BATTALION
- CAMOUFLAGE
- COALITION
- COMMANDEER
- DEPLOYMENT
- FORTIFICATION
- GARRISON
- INFANTRY
- LIEUTENANT
- LOGISTICS
- MANEUVER
- ORDNANCE
- PROTOCOL
- RECONNAISSANCE
- REGIMENT
- SKIRMISH
- SQUADRON
- STRATEGY
- TACTICS
- UNIFORM
- VANGUARD
- VETERAN

Sturgeon County approves 2026 tax rates

By Haylee Winger

Sturgeon County Council has approved its 2026 property tax rates, with residential taxes seeing minimal change and business properties facing a slight increase.

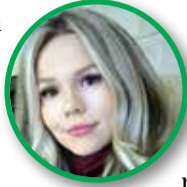
The approved rates include a 0.7 per cent increase on the residential portion of the tax bill and a 3.57 per cent increase for non-residential properties.

For homeowners, the change translates into a small annual impact. A residential property assessed at \$500,000 with no change in value

would see an increase of about \$14 per year, or just over a dollar per month.

A larger share of property tax bills, however, is tied to provincial decisions rather than municipal ones. This year, the Education Property Tax collected within Sturgeon County increased by about \$2 million, or roughly 9 per cent, placing additional pressure on overall tax bills.

The county also says municipalities continue to absorb costs



shifted from the provincial government. One of the most significant examples is policing, which is expected to become increasingly expensive over the next several years, with costs projected to rise by as much as 78 per cent over the next five years and reach nearly \$5 million per year.

Residential taxpayers should also note that only part of their bill is controlled locally. Sturgeon County retains 58 per cent of residential property taxes for local services, while

the remaining 42 per cent is remitted to the province or provincial agencies.

“While residents look at their tax bill as a whole, it’s important to understand that the County does not control the entire amount,” said Mayor Alanna Hnatiw. “Only 58 per cent of residential property taxes are set by the county and stay with the County to fund local services. The other 42 per cent must be sent directly to the province or provincial service providers—meaning nearly half of residents’ property tax

bill does not go to the County.”

Commercial and industrial property owners will face a 3.57 per cent tax increase in 2026. On a property valued at \$500,000, this works out to approximately \$195 annually, or about \$16 each month.

Officials with the county say the change is intended to help address ongoing financial pressures related to major industrial holdings, along with uncertainty tied to assessment appeals and fluctuations in property values.

“Even with this slight increase, Sturgeon County’s non-residential tax rate remains competitive and, together with the County’s other supports and incentives, continues to position Sturgeon County as a top domestic and global investment destination, which we know is critical for the community’s growth,” said Mayor Hnatiw.

Sturgeon County residents have until June 30, 2026, to pay their property taxes, unless they are signed up for a pre-authorized payment plan.

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Arrows fly in Smoky Lake as H.A. Kostash hosts annual archery tournament



By **Brandie Majeau**



H.A. Kostash School welcomed student archers from across Alberta and Saskatchewan for its Annual Archery Tournament, held April 10 and 11 in Smoky Lake, Alberta.

The tournament has become a beloved fixture on the regional

archery calendar, drawing competitors who travel significant distances to take part in one of the area's most anticipated school-based sporting events. This year's two-day event was no exception, welcoming teams eager to test their skills before the season's larger provincial and

national competitions. Competitors gathered in the school's gymnasium, bows drawn and focused, as the atmosphere buzzed with the quiet intensity that defines competitive archery.

H.A. Kostash School, known locally as HAK, has a long-standing commitment to archery. Serving over 300 students from the communities of Smoky

Lake, Waskatenau, and Bellis, the school has embedded the sport deeply into its programming. The tournament traces its roots back fifteen years, when Mr. Ziprick launched the initiative as part of a pilot program modeled after the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) in the United States, beginning with just 78

archers in their first tournament. Since then, H.A. Kostash has cultivated a dedicated coaching staff united by a shared passion for a program that remains accessible and inclusive to all students. The growth of the tournament over the years reflects that inclusive philosophy, from a modest pilot to an event that gives students of all skill

levels a stage to compete. This year's tournament welcomed 700 archers, nearly nine times the number that participated in that very first event.

Among the visiting teams at this year's tournament were archers representing the Unity Composite High School from Unity, Saskatchewan. Their

Continued on **page 9**

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PUBLIC NOTICE - BYLAW 1708/26

In accordance with section 648 of the *Municipal Government Act*, notice is hereby given of **Sturgeon County Council's intent of passing Bylaw 1708/26, which would repeal Bylaw 1259/11**, the Sierra Ridge and Riverside Springs Development Area Off-Site Levy Bylaw.

Details of the Bylaw can be found online at or by contacting Development Engineering and Land Services using the information below.

sturgeoncounty.ca/public-notice-bylaw-1708-26

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

For questions, or to provide input on Bylaw 1708/26, please contact Chris Krath by phone or email by **April 30, 2026**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chris Krath, Senior Development Engineer
780-939-1318, ckrath@sturgeoncounty.ca



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



Continued from **page 8**
 performance was notably strong, with one competitor earning the top ranking in the Grade 12 Boys category after recording a score of 294 in the bullseye round. Competition was fierce across all age and grade categories, with archers pushing personal bests and demonstrating the hours of practice put

in throughout the school year. For the students and staff of H.A. Kostash, hosting the event remains a source of school pride, a celebration of focus, discipline, sportsmanship, and the enduring appeal of the bow and arrow. As another successful tournament wraps up, the program's legacy in Smoky Lake only continues to grow.



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Sturgeon County Council Meeting updates

Sturgeon County release

Mayor Hnatiw proclaimed April 11 and 12, 2026, as Alberta's Get Outdoors Weekend in Sturgeon County.

Public Hearing – Bylaw 1694/25 – Closure and Disposal of a Portion of Range Road 222

Council held a public hearing to receive submissions regarding Bylaw 1694/25, a proposed closure and disposal of a portion of Range Road 222 to facilitate proposed development within the Industrial Heartland.

No public submissions were received on the proposed bylaw. The Bylaw will be sent to the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors for approval. After that, Council will make a decision.

Consolidated Contract Award Report – January 15, 2026 to March 15, 2026

Council received the Consolidated Contract Award Report of January 15, 2026 to March 15, 2026 as information.

Bylaw 1682/25 – Redistricting a Portion of NE-31-54-26-4 from C1 and AG to I1 and AG

Council approved Bylaw 1682/25, the redistricting of a portion of NE-31-54-26-4 from Highway Commercial

(C1) and Agriculture (AG) Districts to Rural Industry Support (I1) and Agriculture (AG) Districts, bringing the property into line with the rules for running a heater rental and crane mat business.

Debenture Bylaws for 2026 Capital Projects

Council approved Bylaw 1702/26, Bylaw 1703/26, and Bylaw 1704/26, allowing for the use of long-term borrowing to fund capital projects approved as part of the 2026 Capital Budget and the 2027 Capital financial forecast.

2026 Financial Update and Tax Rate Options

Council directed Administration to prepare the Taxation Rates Bylaw to reflect no change in the projected 0.73% tax rate increase for Residential, Farmland, Residential Vacant Reduced, and Residential Vacant; and a tax rate increase of 3.57% for Non-Residential, and Machinery and Equipment.

Council also directed Administration to provide options and recommendations for the allocation of the County's 2025 operating surplus when they present the 2025 Audited Financial Statements.

2026-2029 Strategic Plan

Council approved the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan as presented. This is the highest-level

document from which all Administration's work flows, guided by three community outcomes supported by 4-year Council objectives; Planned Growth, Thriving Communities, and Environmental Responsibility.

Planned Growth focuses on guiding growth to priority areas in a financially sustainable way by coordinating land use, infrastructure, and services. It aims to strengthen the local economy, protect farmland, and invest in reliable infrastructure to keep the County a great place to live, work, and invest.

Thriving Communities centers around a strong quality of life, supported by safe neighbourhoods, accessible services and spaces, inclusive relationships, and active community participation, including respectful collaboration with Indigenous and neighbouring communities.

Environmental Responsibility emphasizes protecting land, water, air and ecosystems by integrating environmental considerations into planning, strengthening climate resilience, and reducing impacts through sustainable municipal practices.

Advancing Major Investment Infrastructure in the Industrial Heartland

Council approved funding in the amount

of \$75 million for infrastructure improvements in the Industrial Heartland, with any expenses being subject to collecting the cost from industry partners through a Cost Contribution Agreement.

Council also authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into Cost Contribution Agreements for infrastructure development in the Industrial Heartland to facilitate completion of these infrastructure improvements.

Wetland Replacement Program – Memorandum of Understanding and Calahoo Wetland Project Approval

Council directed the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a renewed Memorandum of Understanding with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for the Wetland Replacement Program for 2026.

Council also approved the Calahoo Wetland Project for \$1.4 million, to be fully funded by the Wetland Replacement Program.

Living Snow Fence Program Options

Council directed Administration to incorporate a Living Snow Fence Program into existing operations, adding education on living snow fences into the annual Shelterbelt Workshop and Tree

Pruning Workshop, and on the Tree Program website.

Emergency Management Communications Options

Council directed Administration to proceed with the development and implementation of a County Public Notification System (PNS), employing Everbridge, with one-time project costs in 2026 estimated at \$25,000 from the Protective Services operating budget, and ongoing operating costs of approximately \$3,500 annually to be incorporated into the 2027 budget.

Fire Services Agreement Renewals

Council directed Administration to advance the proposal to renew five-year term Fire Services Agreements with the Towns of Legal, Bon Accord, and Redwater and the Summer Villages of Sandy Beach and Sunrise Beach as recommended.

CLOSED SESSION

Intergovernmental Update

Council received a closed session intergovernmental update.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Sturgeon County Parks Feasibility Study
The Committee recommended the Sturgeon County Parks Feasibility Study to Council to approve for

planning purposes, incorporating comments provided at the March 24, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Sandy Lake Wilderness Area Concept Plan and Natural Area Management Plan

The Committee recommended the Sandy Lake Wilderness Area Concept Plan and Natural Area Management Plan to Council for planning purposes, incorporating comments provided at the March 24, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Sturgeon County 2025 Year in Review Report

The Committee received the Sturgeon County 2025 Year in Review Report as information. The report highlighted big wins of 2025 such as the successful launch of the YES Academy program, an event designed for youth ages 14 to 17 who are interested in emergency service careers. As well as a Fire Master Plan, a twenty-year strategic framework for fire services.

Northern Lights Library System Update

The Committee received the Northern Lights Library System Update as information.



Smoky Lake RCMP Report

By Haylee Winger



The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Smoky Lake Detachment responded to a variety of incidents during the week of April 6, including break-and-enters, suspicious activity, traffic complaints, and community wellbeing checks across the region.

Police are investigating multiple reports of suspicious persons and property-related offences in rural areas. In one incident, a resident reported two

suspects entering their property overnight carrying an angle grinder. The individuals allegedly cut the lock on a gate before leaving after a short time. In a separate occurrence, a break-and-enter was reported at a rural property on Range Road 122, where appliances and tools were stolen.

Officers also responded to reports of suspicious activity on several occasions. These included an abandoned trailer on Range Road 183 believed to be connected

to a potential break-and-enter, as well as individuals seen on surveillance footage walking around a rural property. In both cases, members attended and cleared the scenes. Additional calls regarding suspicious persons and vehicles in the area were investigated and determined to be non-criminal in nature.

In the Village of Vilna, RCMP attended an alarm at the local agricultural society building, which was determined to be false. Officers also responded to a civil dispute and spoke with both

involved parties.

Traffic-related incidents were also reported throughout the week. Police received a complaint of a driver being forced off the road; information was obtained and a ticket is expected to be issued. Members also responded to a report of a vehicle in the ditch along Highway 28 near Warspite, though the vehicle was removed prior to their arrival. Regular traffic enforcement initiatives were conducted as well.

Several calls involved public safety and wellbeing concerns. Officers responded to a report of a possible suicidal

individual and made a referral to the Rural Police and Crisis Team (RPACT). A separate wellbeing check resulted in locating an individual in Medicine Hat with assistance from local police, confirming they were safe.

Emergency responders were also called to a sudden death during the week; the investigation determined the death to be non-suspicious. In another instance, Smoky Lake RCMP assisted the Edmonton Police Service with a death notification, though it was later determined the individual no longer resided in the area.

Other calls for service included a

suspicious vehicle at a Petro-Canada location in the early morning hours, later found to be a non-stolen, disabled vehicle, and reports of individuals loitering or seeking rides in the community. Officers also attended calls involving a person walking near traffic and another sleeping in a vehicle; both situations were resolved without incident.

The Smoky Lake RCMP continue to encourage residents to report suspicious activity. Anyone with information can contact the detachment at 780-656-3550 or submit anonymous tips through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

SCHOOL NEWS

Grade 4 students bring fur trade history to life with dioramas



Thorhild Central School Grade 4 students culminated their learning about the fur trade in Alberta by working in teams to build dioramas depicting the interior of a fur trading fort. **Thorhild Central School photo**

Demonstrating strong sportsmanship, H.A. Kostash School athletes bring home medals



Congratulations were extended to all students in the below photo for earning gold, silver or bronze in their badminton categories at last week's tournament. Many other teams also advanced to bronze medal games in their respective divisions. All participants were recognized for their efforts, with sportsmanship evident throughout the event. **H.A. Kostash School photo**



Kindergarten students at Holy Family Catholic School in Waskatenau eagerly dig into planting activities, welcoming spring with muddy hands and big smiles even as the season takes its time to arrive. **Holy Family Catholic School photos**



NOTICE OF NOMINATION DAY
Local Authorities Election Act (S. 26)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: TOWN OF REDWATER, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given that Nomination day is May 4, 2026 and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the location of the local jurisdiction office set out below within the period beginning on April 8, 2026 and ending at 12:00 noon on Nomination Day

Offices	Numbers of Vacancies
COUNCILLOR	1

Location (Address) of Local Jurisdiction Office:
4924 47th ST, REDWATER, ALBERTA, T0A 2W0

DATED at the TOWN of Redwater, in the Province of Alberta, this 13th day of April, 2026.

Returning Officer, Miranda Dewit



For more election information:
Scan the QR code or visit www.redwater.ca



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

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

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

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

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

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS April 14, 2026

Below is a brief summary of decisions made at the April 14, 2026, Regular Council meeting:

Unfinished Business - Second and Third Reading for Road Closure Bylaw 09-2025 - Long Lake Block Wells

Council approved second and third readings of Road Closure Bylaw 09-2025 with Schedules "A" to "N", Long Lake Block Wells.

Long Lake Cottage Owners Association - Sports Court

Council directed Administration to contact the Long Lake Cottage Owners Association to obtain further information on the plans for the Sports Court and report back to Council.

Lemonade Day Funding Request for 2026

Council sponsored \$100 towards the Local Lemonade Day and with funds to come from Policy 1405 Community Grants.

Emergency Management Advisory Committee

Council, acting as the Emergency Management Committee, accepted the Municipal Emergency Management Plan dated April 14, 2026.

Scenarios for the 2026 Mill Rates Bylaw

Council directed Administration to schedule a Special Council Meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss options for the 2026 Mill Rates Bylaw.

Community Economic Development Advisory Board (CEDAB)

Council directed Administration to work with the Community Economic Development Advisory Board to provide further information, including a draft policy, feasibility and costs of a Thorhild County Community Beautification Recognition Program.

DISCRETIONARY USE PERMIT ISSUED – APPEAL BY MAY 5, 2026

Take notice that the Municipal Planning Commission for Thorhild County has approved the following Development Application:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|
| i. | Legal Description: | Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 2020710 within NW 09-61-22-W4 |
| | Land Use Designation: | CR – Multi-Lot Country Residential District |
| | Proposal: | Approval for an Existing 528 sq.ft. Bunkhouse (Cabin) with Services to be in Accordance with Required Alberta Building Code and Safety Code Requirements. |
| | Division: | 4 |
| | Permit # | DP25-2725 |

Date of Decision: April 14, 2026; Appeal by: 4:00 PM, May 5, 2026

Additional Information:

For additional information regarding this permit, please contact Manager of Planning and Development David Blades at 780-398-3741 Ext. 2825 or email: David.Blades@thorhildcounty.com.

Appeal Information:

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must appeal to the following appeal body (see below for details):

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB)

Appeals must be filed with the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board via email at carol.revega@thorhildcounty.com or via mail to Thorhild County, P.O. Box 10, 801 – 1st Street, Thorhild, AB, T0A 3J0. Telephone enquiries can also be made to the Planning & Development Department at 780-398-3741. Pursuant to Section 686 (1) of the Municipal overnment Act, an appeal may be commenced by filing a notice of appeal within 21 days of the decision date. Please note that there is a \$200.00 fee for any appeal.



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 a combined income up to \$52,500

Taxes will be completed by appointments on the following date:

Tuesday, April 28 10 am -3 pm

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

Phone: 780-398-3741 | www.thorhildcounty.com | 801 – 1st Street, Box 10, Thorhild AB ToA 3J0

2026 DUST SUPPRESSION PROGRAM

Thorhild County's Dust suppression program can help reduce nuisance dust on residential properties. For more information on our dust suppression program, please contact us at 780-398-3977 or view the application form at www.thorhildcounty.com/Services/Infrastructure/Dust-Suppression-Program for details. Please fill out the application form and bring it to the Thorhild County Administration Office or Public Works Office with your payment.

Thorhild County has approved the 2026 dust control program for residents residing adjacent to a gravel County Road. Residents may apply to have a minimum of 100 metres of:

- Dust suppressant is either Mg30 or Calcium Chloride infused with a rust inhibitor, it is at the County's discretion as to which agent is applied on the County gravel road adjacent to them for the cost of:
 - \$460.00/100 METRES PLUS GST (same fee applies to each)

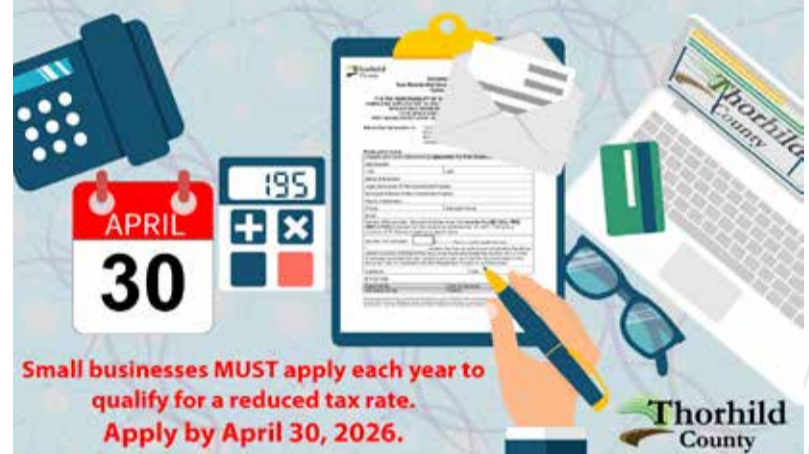
Deadline May 1st, 2026

We are expecting to start the dust suppression program in early June or earlier weather permitting.

No guarantee regarding the dust suppression is implied and the County reserves the right to grade the road if surface conditions so require.

ARE YOU A SMALL BUSINESS IN THORHILD COUNTY?

You may qualify for a reduced property tax rate through the Non-Residential Small Business Property Sub-Class Bylaw.



Small businesses MUST apply each year to qualify for a reduced tax rate. Apply by April 30, 2026.

Obtain your application online at www.thorhildcounty.com or in person at the County office (801-1st Street, Thorhild, AB).

For further details call the Tax Clerk at 780-398-3741 ext. 2822; taxes@thorhildcounty.com or visit www.thorhildcounty.com, then click on the Services tab > Corporate Services > Assessment & Property Taxes > Tax Rates, then click on "2026 Non-Residential Small Business Sub Class Declaration."

READY TO LEVEL UP YOUR BUSINESS ON FACEBOOK?

Join Community Futures North Central Alberta, in partnership with Thorhild County, for a workshop on Facebook (Meta) for business, and learn how to:

- Optimize your Business Page for maximum impact
 - Create engaging, scroll-stopping content
 - Schedule posts like a pro
- Share effectively with relevant groups
- Use insights to grow your online presence



Whether you're just starting out or looking to improve your strategy, this class will give you the tools to stand out and succeed online.

April 30, 2026 at 9 am - 4 pm, Thorhild Legion Hall

\$10 Full Day Workshop, Materials included

Register at <https://shorturl.at/XYRmk>

GRAVEL HAULERS & EQUIPMENT REGISTRATION

To ensure that Thorhild County has an adequate number of trucks and equipment for the 2026 road maintenance program, residents who own gravel trucks or heavy equipment and are interested in offering their services are invited to register their equipment.

For more detailed information or to request a registration package, please contact Thorhild County Public Works at 780-398-3977 ext. 3973.



Good food, great conversation at Mayor's Breakfast

The Town of Redwater hosted a Mayor's Breakfast on April 10, welcoming community members for an early morning of food, entertainment, and local updates. The event began at 7 a.m., with attendees enjoying a buffet-style breakfast that featured waffles, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, fresh fruit, yogurt, croissants and toast, along with coffee and juice. Mayor Dave McRae addressed those in attendance, providing an update on current initiatives and developments in Redwater, and offering insight into what's ahead for the community. Guests were also treated to lively entertainment that added a vibrant and energetic atmosphere to the morning.



TIMED ONLINE AUCTION

Closes May 5th - Consignment Sale, Equipment can be Sold from Your Yard 1 Mile East of Redwater & 2 1/2 Miles North to 58020 RR 214

TRACTORS - PH (780) 717-9902 on IH 3688, 5500 orig. hrs - Different Consignors - JD 8440 - JD 4630 - JD 4440 - **TRUCKS & TRAILERS** - PH (587) 357-4243 on 2012 Freightliner, 935,721 km - PH Stan on the Next Four Units (780) 218-6125, 1998 Kenworth Tandem c/w 5th wheel - 1997 Ford Tandem c/w 5th wheel - 1996 Volvo Tandem c/w 5th wheel - 2008 Castleton Super B. Grain Trailers - PH Ed (780) 222-9394, 2005 Quad Cab 4x4 Dodge 3500, 207,500 km, D. Eng. is poor, 1 Owner - **SEEDING, TILLAGE & COMBINE** - PH (780) 512-8300, Bourgault 62' - 5710 Air Drill, 10" spacing, 5440 tank V.G. - IH 5100 12' Drill c/w grass, V.G. - JD 1910 35' D. Till - JD 1600 30' Cult - Flexi-Coil 30' Coil Packer - Leon Prong R.Picker - IH 1480 & 24' straight-cut - Valmar Air Flo 30' - **INDUSTRIAL** - Hyster XL 300D F.Lift - JD 333E Skidsteer, 4500 hrs - 2- New V1903 39 HP Kubota Motors - 20- New Skid Steer tires - 8' x 40' Seacan - 25,000 Litre Steel Skid Tank - **RECREATIONAL** - 2015 Polaris RZR, S by S, 150 orig. km - Arctic Cat 1000 Quad, V.G. - Older River Boat 21' c/w 2- V8's, not running - 2002 Arctic Cat Mountain 800 Sled - 6- Flat Bottom Grain Bins - Lots of Equip. Pending - No More Misc. Accepted

Viewing May 2, 3 & 4, 1-7 pm

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TOWN OF Redwater

Notice of Statutory Public Hearing: Bylaw PD-01-2026

Statutory Public Hearing | PD-01-2026
Land Use Bylaw Amendments & Consolidation
Tuesday, April 28, 2026 | 18:00 | Council Chambers 4924 47 St.
Any member of the public may attend to speak or hear comments.

What is Bylaw PD-01-2026?
Bylaw PD-01-2026 is a proposed amendment and consolidation of the Town of Redwater's Land Use Bylaw PD-01-2023. Over the past three months, the bylaw has undergone ongoing review and refinement, reflecting our approach of treating it as a living document. These continual updates ensure the bylaw can adapt to the community's evolving needs and respond effectively to emerging issues.

What does this mean?
Bylaw PD-01-2026 will amend Bylaw PD-01-2023 and consolidate it's amendments. The amendments will provide greater flexibility and adaptability to the Town's land use regulations. These amendments will:

- Land Use Districts:** Clarify that all districts must conform to section 4.2 on Accessory Developments, addition of Care Centre, Major as a permitted use in the Downtown Commercial District, removal of Storage, Recreational as a discretionary use from General Commercial District, addition of Manufacturing and Sales as a permitted use in the Designated Industrial Park and the addition of Intermodal Shipping container as a discretionary use in Recreational District.
- General Uses:** Deletion of redundant/duplicate sections within regulations on Corner Lots, Double Fronting Sites and Site Line Protection Areas
- Accessory Building:** clarify location requirements (setbacks) for Accessory Developments.
- Definitions:** Addition of definition for Manufacturing and Sales
- Rezoning:**
 - 4701 46 St rezoned from Residential High-Density to General Commercial District
 - 5020 50 St from Residential Medium Density to Residential Low Density

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

Can I provide comments?
Members of the public may address Council in person or virtually at the public hearing, with registered speakers called first. To register, email redwater@redwater.ca or call 780-942-3519 ext. 250 by 18:00 on April 21, 2026. Written comments may also be submitted by email; to appear in the agenda, they must be received by the registration deadline. Late submissions will be read into the record but not included in the published agenda. Submissions will not be considered after the hearing closes. Each speaker has 10 minutes, and all names and comments become part of the public record.

Call Us: 780.942.3519 ext. 250
Speak or provide comments at the Public Hearing: In person & Virtual: Registration not required; those registered to speak will speak first. Deadline to Register: 18:00 on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Written submissions, visuals: 18:00 on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 to be included in the published agenda package.
Email Us: redwater@redwater.ca

ELECTED COWLEY

Over 30 years experience as a business owner-operator in Redwater

Redwater is a great town but is facing infrastructure and economic challenges. I would like to be part of finding solutions to street, sidewalk, sewer and water issues as well as emphasizing people services while controlling taxes. Communication was my career until retiring in 2023 and if elected I will be happy to meet with community groups and individuals throughout my term.

Redwater town councillor JUNE 1 by-election



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Local cat

Continued from **page 1**

scene from a nearby bush like a furry, five-pound grenade. She did not hesitate, but went straight into puffed-up cat mode and intimidated those deer with her best sideways crab walk, tail bristled to maximum volume. The deer were obviously unprepared for such an aggressive display of compact fury and paused. The standoff lasted a full ten seconds, an eternity in

backyard wildlife diplomacy. Then, as if silently agreeing that this was not worth the trouble, they turned and ambled back toward the tree line. Jewel, having clearly won the engagement but also having spent every last nerve doing so, beat a hasty retreat to safety herself, as adrenaline commanded she flee the now-resolved tense situation.

Local experts have weighed in and suggested that the deer

were most likely just a little curious and were enjoying nibbles of freshly exposed grass, not actually part of a suspicious woodland gang. However, they did agree that being aggressively approached by a small furious cat would have been deeply unsettling for the trio.

The couple has repeatedly remarked, "That's our Jewel," and have considered rewarding her with an extra helping of

her favourite treats for this act of heroism. Neighbours, upon hearing the story, have reportedly begun referring to Jewel as "The Sheriff," a title she seems to neither acknowledge nor dispute. As for Jewel herself, she was last seen napping in a sunbeam by the shed, undisturbed by the events of that unnerving day...resting, no doubt, for whatever threat dares to wander into the yard next.

Rainbow grows

Continued from **page 1**

the early 1980s, and we're proud to carry that history forward," the team shared. "It's something we've grown up with and into."

Since taking over in 2019, the restaurant has expanded into the neighbouring bay, added a patio, and reimagined the space for the next era while keeping the familiar Rainbow name that means so much to the community.

Recent upgrades were inspired by the needs of local residents, with a focus on creating a more flexible space for larger groups, families, and lounge guests alike. The newly connected

patio and expanded main dining area have already become popular features, while the dedicated lounge and darts area continue to offer a welcoming social space.

The menu has also grown significantly, blending long-standing Chinese takeout favourites with burgers, house-made appetizers, steak nights, Wing Wednesdays, buffet events, and crafted cocktails. By combining classic comfort favourites with modern touches, the team has worked to create a dining experience that appeals to both longtime regulars and first-time visitors.

The team says

community support has meant everything, especially after taking over just months before the pandemic.

"This is home," they said. "We live here, our family was raised here, and even our own kids had their first jobs at Rainbow."

Employing approximately 16 local staff members and supporting community groups through sponsorships, raffle donations, and other local initiatives, Rainbow continues to be deeply rooted in Redwater. The team says giving back to the community that has supported them for so many years remains one of their top priorities.

Looking ahead, the

team is also preparing for its 5th annual Mother's Day brunch buffet on Sunday, May 10, an event that has become a well-loved tradition and regularly draws families from Redwater and surrounding communities. The annual brunch has become a highlight for many local families and is expected to once again bring together generations of residents for a special celebration.

As dining habits continue to change, the team says they remain committed to growing alongside the community while keeping the familiar feel that has made Rainbow a Redwater staple for generations.

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Continued from page 4

organized by Councillor Jennifer Trider, who made community engagement a priority of her election. Trider had previously pledged to bring more events to the village, and the Easter Egg Hunt delivered on that promise in a big way.

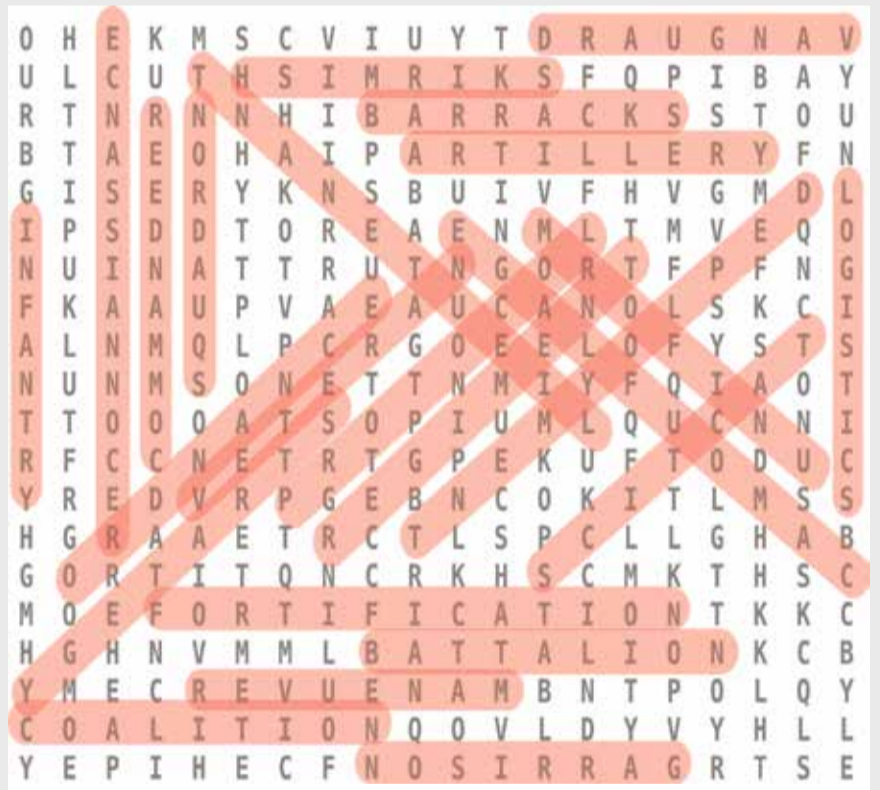
The pool hall served

as the ideal home base, with staff on hand to welcome children through its doors and distribute treat bags and maps to everyone who attended.

While the day was widely considered a success, organizers have already noted a few adjustments they plan to make next year to ensure the hunt

is fair for all participants. Despite being a first-time event, the turnout and enthusiasm from the community have confirmed that the Easter Egg Hunt is set to become an annual tradition in Vilna. Everyone had an amazing time and for a debut event, that is more than enough of a win.

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