



Smoky Lake FCSS photos



Canada Day gathering shines again



By **Brandie Majeau**

Smoky Lake came alive on July 1 as residents and visitors gathered for the much-anticipated Great Canadian Get Together, an annual event that has become something special for the community's Canada Day celebrations. The day, designed to create unity and celebrate individuality, welcomed people from all walks of life into what is extraordinary about Smoky Lake.

The festivities kicked off early in the morning with the Smoky Lake Fire Department trading their usual

firefighting gear for kitchen utensils to serve up a hearty pancake breakfast. The aroma of freshly cooked pancakes wafted through the air, drawing crowds of hungry celebrants eager to start their day with a home cooked meal.

Children and families flocked to the spray park, where laughter echoed amid an ever-growing mountain of bubbles at the foam party foam party. The excitement continued to build as kids showed up with their bicycles and got to spend a creative half hour decorating them with red and white streamers, flags, and other classic Canadiana. The anticipation was palpable as

the RCMP and Smoky Lake Fire and Rescue arrived to escort the young participants in the annual bike parade. Cheers erupted as the parade wound its way through the town, led by the flashing lights of emergency vehicles and the proud smiles of local heroes. Special thanks are given to the Fire Department and RCMP for their dedication in ensuring the safety and enjoyment of the children and their bike parade.

As the parade ended, the community joined together in a rousing rendition of O Canada, voices uniting in a display of national pride. The celebration continued into the afternoon as

guests lingered to enjoy hot dogs, cupcakes, and the sounds of local musicians, turning the town into a lively celebration filled with music and a shared spirit of togetherness.

This year's Great Canadian Get Together once again underscored what makes Smoky Lake truly remarkable, a place that not only honours its traditions but also celebrates the diversity and individuality of everyone who calls it home. For many, it was the perfect way to mark Canada Day... enjoying the company of friends and neighbours, sharing laughter, and experiencing the genuine warmth that defines Smoky Lake.

Boots n' Blues brings heart and harmony



By **Brandie Majeau**

The community of Egremont was recently treated to a performance by Boots n' Blues during their annual Egremont Days celebration. The Edmonton-based band, comprised of seasoned musicians Don (bass guitar), Mike (pedal steel guitar, guitar, vocals), Harvey (drums, vocals), "M" (rhythm guitar, fiddle, lead vocals), and Cliff (lead guitar, vocals), captivated the audience with a sound that bridges old-school country, rockabilly, and groovin' blues.

Formed a few years ago at a local Saturday afternoon jam, Boots n' Blues has grown into a tight-knit ensemble that values both musicality and friendship. Despite changes in line-up over the years, most

original members remain, united by their shared love of music. As each member returned to the stage after time away for family or career, the band found new energy in blending diverse musical backgrounds. Their unique name reflects this genre-crossing energy, resisting a strict label while staying rooted in country influences with a twist.

The Boots n' Blues set lists are as eclectic as their origins, featuring lesser-known gems alongside the "B sides" of popular artists. Their shows are known for infectious dance tunes and impressive guitar work, moving seamlessly from classics like "Amarillo by Morning" to surprising picks such as "Tainted Love." Whether playing originals or reimagined covers, Boots n' Blues keeps everyone

Continued on **page 9**



Photo courtesy of Boots n' Blues

Meta announces \$13B data centre investment in Sturgeon County



By Haylee Winger

A major technology investment is coming to the region after Meta announced plans to build its first Canadian data centre in Sturgeon County, representing an investment of more than \$13 billion.

The project, located within Alberta's Industrial Heartland, is expected to create more than 3,000 construction jobs and approximately 300 permanent operational positions. The development is one of the largest private-sector investments in Canadian history and is expected to bring significant economic activity to the region, including surrounding communities such as Morinville, Redwater and the broader Industrial Heartland area.

According to the Province of Alberta, the project is expected to generate approximately \$250 million annually through royalties, taxes, levies and fees. Meta has also committed about \$60 million toward local infrastructure improvements, including road and water infrastructure.

The facility will be built within Alberta's Industrial Heartland, a designated industrial zone in Sturgeon County intended for large-scale industrial

development rather than agricultural, residential or food production uses. The investment will also include new digital infrastructure designed to improve Alberta's connections to broader North American networks.

Provincial officials say Alberta has spent the past several years developing a regulatory framework for large data centres, creating requirements intended to protect electricity reliability, water resources and the interests of taxpayers. The province's approach requires major data centres to pay for the infrastructure needed to support their operations, including electricity supply requirements.

The Meta facility will operate under Alberta's "bring your own power" approach. Rather than relying entirely on Alberta's electricity grid, the project will use a combination of grid-connected electricity and new on-site natural gas generation. According to the province, Meta will fully fund the power generation and grid infrastructure required for the project.

The announcement also includes a connection to Project Greenlight, a separate \$4.6-billion, 970-megawatt natural gas-fired electricity generation



A conceptual rendering of Meta's planned data centre development in Sturgeon County. **META PHOTO**

facility announced by Pembina Pipeline Corporation, Morgan Stanley Infrastructure Partners and Kineticor. The province says the facility will provide behind-the-meter electricity for Meta's data centre, helping reduce demand on Alberta's electricity grid while potentially lowering electricity transmission costs for Albertans by up to six per cent.

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) independently determined that up

to 1,200 megawatts of electricity capacity could be allocated to data centre projects without compromising the reliability or stability of Alberta's power grid. According to the province, the assessment also considered future population growth to ensure additional industrial demand would not create power shortages or negatively affect electricity customers.

Water use was also considered during the project's design. Meta said the data centre will use a closed-loop,

liquid-cooled system with dry cooling technology that requires no operational water for cooling. Water at the site will be limited to domestic use, fire protection and equipment maintenance, with all required approvals subject to Alberta's Water Act.

Premier Danielle Smith said the investment demonstrates Alberta's ability to attract major technology projects while creating jobs and generating long-term economic benefits. Meta said Alberta's

energy infrastructure, skilled workforce and community partnerships were key factors in selecting Sturgeon County for the company's first Canadian data centre.

The province says the project is expected to strengthen Alberta's growing technology sector, expand digital infrastructure and support future economic development across the region. Construction timelines for the project were not included in the announcement.

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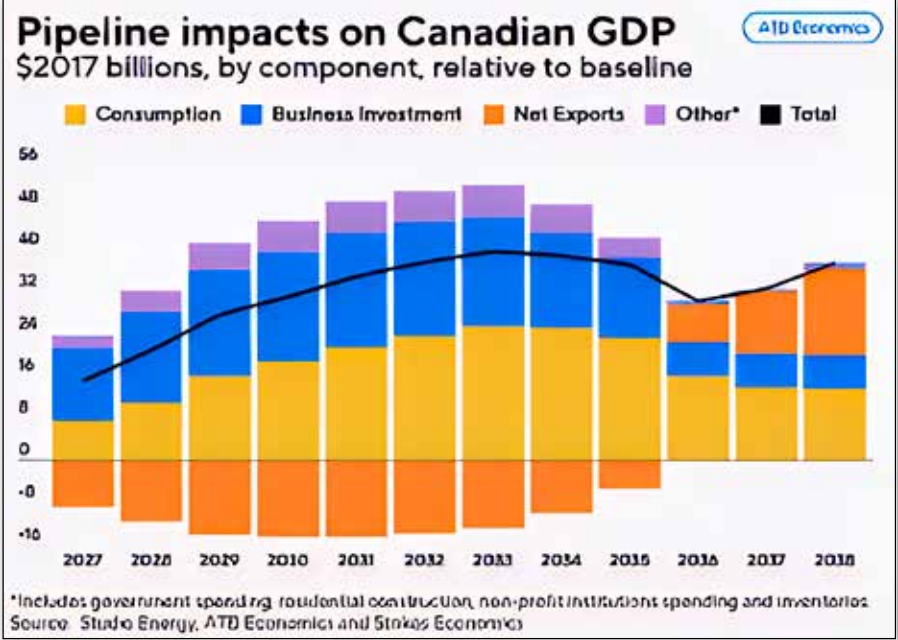
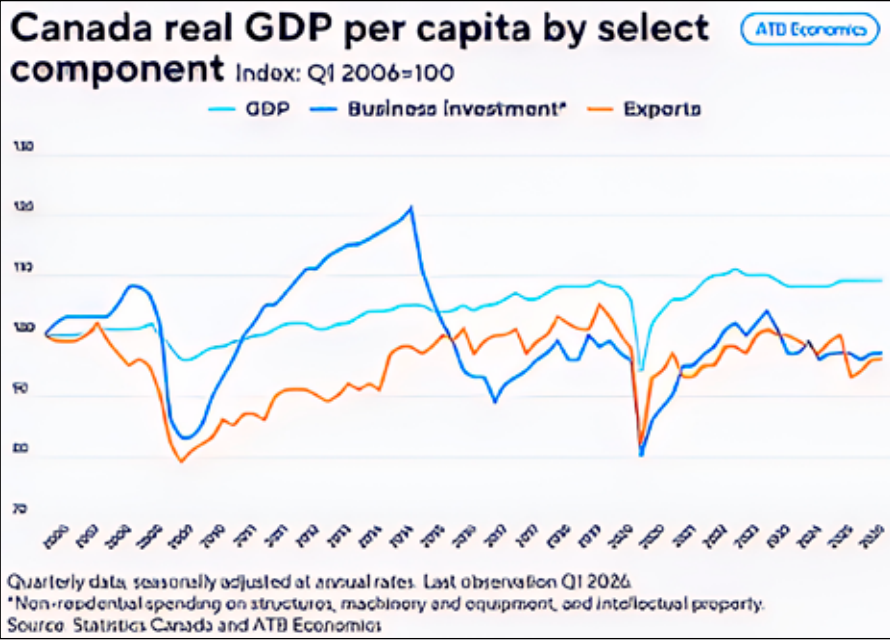
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Review

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Searching for growth: The proposed West Coast pipeline in context



By Mark Parsons, ATB ECONOMICS

The morning after Canada Day, we wait to see details of the Government of Alberta's submission of the West Coast pipeline to the federal Major Projects Office. An announcement is expected later today.

Much of the commentary on the pipeline has been focused on delivering on Canada's promises to be a global energy superpower, diversifying our customer base beyond the U.S., and getting better and more stable pricing for the energy we sell. Those are all very valid points.

But there is another factor that seems to get overlooked: Canada's economy needs to find ways to grow. Not just this year or next year, but for the decades to come. Tuesday's GDP release shows that the economy is poised to pick up again in the second quarter. That's positive, and should

quiet the recession chatter, but it says almost nothing about Canada's long-term structural challenge.

That challenge is that investment and exports have been missing from Canada's per capita growth picture for more than a decade. Much of this weakness in the headline GDP numbers has, until recently, been masked by record population growth, which helped keep consumer spending and housing going.

Consider this: Real business investment per person is 20% below its Q4 2014 peak and real exports are 9% below their Q1 2019 peak. Canada doesn't have a GDP per capita problem; it has an investment problem (exports too, but it's hard to get exports without investment).

Canada's related productivity struggles have also been well documented. It turns out that the energy sector is a highly productive sector and

delivers higher compensation per worker as a result. In recently released data, Canada's oil and gas extraction sector had a labour productivity level of \$438 (real GDP per hour worked, in 2017 dollars), compared to an all-industry average of \$61. Compensation per hour was \$92 versus the overall average of \$53. While the role of oil and gas in Canada's productivity growth has been debated, there's no question that the resource industry, as University of Calgary economist Trevor Tombe points out, is a "productivity powerhouse."

The federal government recognizes the growth problem and has set a goal to catalyze \$1 trillion in investment over the next five years and double non-U.S. exports over the next decade.

Recognizing the problem is an important step. Sending signals to global investors is also important, and

we've seen some early signs of interest from Germany's purchase agreement on LNG and Shell's purchase of ARC Resources.

The challenge, as we're now discovering, is that all this takes time. While foreign investment inflows have picked up, real business capital spending in Canada has continued to edge lower. So the question for Canada is: how are we going to reignite investment and then exports?

It turns out that expanding energy infrastructure is one powerful way to do this. Oil and gas is a highly capital-intensive and productive industry. Building a pipeline, and more importantly filling a pipeline, will require tens of billions of dollars. After construction, Canada then gets an export kick. A one-two punch.

In March, ATB Economics worked with energy expert Peter Tertzakian and

the Studio.Energy team to quantify the impact of expanding Canada's oil export capacity by 1.5 million barrels per day, which would include the West Coast pipeline. The study estimated that about \$40 billion would be spent on construction, \$100 billion in upstream investment to fill the new pipes, and \$20 billion for the Pathways carbon capture project. That's \$160 billion hitting the economy over the next decade.

Our estimated impacts? An average annual lift to real GDP of \$31.4 billion, and add an average of 112K to employment, between 2027 and 2035. At the peak, the impact would be \$39.7 billion of additional GDP and 136K jobs.

It can be done. We've already seen the benefits from recent investments in export infrastructure: energy exports to Asia have surged since the construction of TMX (oil), LNG Canada

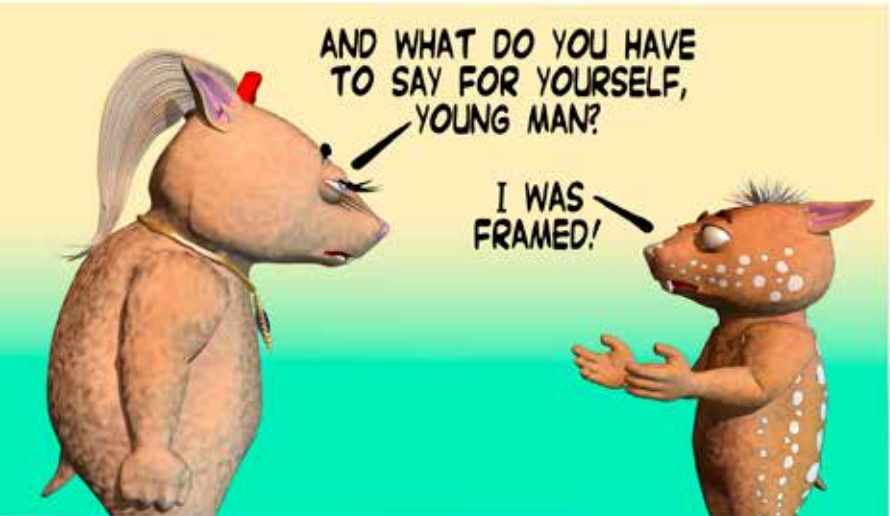
Phase 1 (natural gas) and the Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal (propane).

Of course, building energy infrastructure isn't the only way to improve Canada's growth. The country should look at all avenues, such as agri-food, critical minerals, defence, AI infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing.

Our view is that one does not need to come at the expense of the others. What's clear is that Canada's economy needs an investment jolt, and this is an avenue that builds on existing strengths.

So what's next? We haven't built the West Coast pipeline project into our forecast for Alberta and Canada as there's still uncertainty on ultimate execution. So treat it as a potential upside for now. The next big day to watch is October 1, when the federal government determines if it's in the national interest.

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by PETER MARINACCI

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UPDATED BON ACCORD BUNGALOW WITH DOUBLE GARAGE

Pride of ownership shines in this FULLY UPDATED bungalow! This 5br3ba home offers 3 bedrooms upstairs, including a primary bedroom with a 2-piece ensuite, plus a 4-piece main bath featuring an AIR JET JACUZZI tub. The dine-in kitchen includes CEILING HEIGHT CABINETS, while the east-facing living room welcomes bright morning light. The finished basement has a large family room, laundry and storage, 2 additional bedrooms, and an updated 3-piece bathroom. Enjoy HEATED FLOORS in both bathrooms, AIR CONDITIONING, and INSTANT HOT WATER. Outside, relax or entertain on the impressive 20'x18' COVERED DECK with BUILT-IN BBQ, roll-down sun screen, sunken hot tub, and a WALL FOUNTAIN! A detached double garage, large parking pad, and back lane access add extra space for vehicles and toys. Located across the street from a playground, this home is ideal for families and entertaining alike. Too many upgrades to list - come see what this home has to offer! **\$450,000. Call Glenn to view.**



74 ACRES OF LAND

74 Acres of land bordered by the Hamlet of Radway and Highway 28, less than an hour to Edmonton. Approx 25 acres of this land is high while the rest is wetland.

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



AUTO SHOP IN VILNA

Great opportunity to open your own automotive shop with a 45'x35' building all set up complete with all the tools you will need. Shop is heated with bathroom and laundry facilities.

Several smaller storage sheds, seacan and 1 bdrm, 2 bathroom mobile home also included. Owner ran a very successful business here for many years but has now retired. **\$200,000 plus gst. Call Heather for more info.**



NEW

UPGRADED REDWATER BUNGALOW

Welcome to this well-maintained family home located on a quiet street close to Ochre Park School. Backing onto open land, this property offers a peaceful setting with no rear neighbors and a large, fully fenced backyard complete with three storage sheds. Inside you'll find 4 bedrooms, including 3 on the main floor and 1 downstairs, along with 3 full bathrooms. The basement features a spacious den that could easily be used as a playroom, games room, or home office, and the basement bathroom includes a large walk-in main floor brings together the kitchen, dining, and living areas, creating a great space for everyday living and entertaining. Stay cozy year-round with a wood-burning fireplace upstairs and a wood stove in the basement. Numerous updates have been completed over the years, including windows, doors, eaves, siding, flooring, the main bathroom, and fencing. This year, the furnace and kitchen countertops have also been replaced. **\$299,900, Call Janine to view.**



11.21 ACRES TO BUILD ON

Perfect spot to build your dream home and lay out your new yard. Cultivated land, seeded to oats, just waiting for you to develop to your. Great location, just 2 miles north and 1 mile east of the Hamlet of Thorhild, with only 1 mile of gravel road. Power runs along the south property line. There are natural mature windbreaks on both the northwest and east property lines and the land is open to the road on the south side. Good productive land so it won't take long to landscape to your liking. Enough land here for a few horses, cows, chickens or goats. Start your hobby farm, have a garden, greenhouse or store your toys. Good high land with only one small low spot in the northeast corner. **\$99,000 Call Heather to view.**



SOLD

REGAL PARK ACREAGE

\$419,900



YEAR ROUND LAKE LIVING

Step into your own piece of Paradise at Bonnie Lake Resorts. This all season 900 sq foot bungalow and double garage are nestled amongst the trees in this 0.75 acre lot. Featuring a wrap around deck with wheelchair ramp that goes along the side and back of the house, 3 bedrooms, galley kitchen, and spacious living room. There is a fire pit and plenty of trees and privacy to enjoy your back yard in peace. Clean beaches, docks, a boat launch, playground, tennis courts, beach volleyball, walking trails and Vilna Golf Course are all within walking distance of your new home. Upgrades over the years include interior doors, flooring, furnace, hot water tanks and more. Bonnie Lake Resort is approximately 1 1/2 hours to Edmonton, just over a half hour to St Paul. **\$269,000. Call Janine to view.**



SOLD

AFFORDABLE 3 BEDROOM HOME IN NEWBROOK

This double wide modular home had many renovations in the early 2000s including new kitchen cabinets, flooring, and bathroom renovations. Currently there is a large corner shower in the 3 pce bathroom but there is room to install a tub. Features include a large living room with formal dining room, good size storage area at back entrance where washer and dryer are. Lots of room in the back for a future garage if wanted. Complete with all appliances (washer, dryer and fridge are only a year or so old. No lot rental as you own the lot. **\$125,000. Call Heather to view.**



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Sturgeon County Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament raises more than \$30K



By Shelley Winger

The annual Sturgeon County Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament raised more than \$30,000 for local charities while bringing together golfers, businesses and community

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The annual Sturgeon County Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament raised more than \$30,000 for local organizations during a sold-out event June 19 at Sturgeon Valley Golf & Country Club. **Alanna Hnatiw photo**



Participants took part in an Amazing Race-inspired day of challenges and activities during the annual tournament, which brought together golfers, sponsors and community partners. **Paradise Acres Ranch photo**

UNRESERVED

TIMED ONLINE AUCTIONS

Unreserved Online Farm Equip Retirement Auction for Ron Pierce, North of Thorhild, AB. Bids Start to Close Aug 4th at 6 PM. PH Ron (780) 717-0351 Preview: Aug. 1, 2 & 3, 1-7pm



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Online Farm Equip Retirement Auction for William Nedeljak, North of Thorhild, AB. Bids Start to Close Aug 4th at 11 AM. Ph Will (780) 206-6709 Preview: Aug. 1, 2 & 3, 1-7 pm



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Cheryl Paly's Celebration of Life



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Forever in our hearts, forever remembered.

Thomas "Tom" Henry Noble

November 14, 1944 – June 26, 2026

It is with profound sadness and deep love that we announce the passing of Thomas "Tom" Henry Noble of Redwater, Alberta, on Friday, June 26, 2026, at the age of 81 years, surrounded by his loving family. Tom was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta, to Hilliard and Dorothy Noble. He was the second of six children and grew up alongside his siblings: Carolyn, Elizabeth "Betty", James "Jim", Walter, and Richard "Rick". On October 3, 1964, Tom married the love of his life, Alice Delta Lavallee. Through their marriage, Tom gained a large extended family that he cherished deeply. Together, Tom and Alice built a family rooted in love, resilience, and togetherness that now spans five generations. This October, they would have celebrated 62 years of marriage. A hardworking and determined man, Tom left home at the age of 15 to work in the logging camps of northern Saskatchewan. As a young husband and father, he worked as an ironworker on projects throughout Alberta and British Columbia during the 1960's and 1970's. Never one to shy away from hard work, Tom pursued his dream of becoming a truck driver and, in 1976, obtained his Class 1 license. Over the next four decades, he built a respected career in trucking, hauling pipe for major pipeline projects, moving rig equipment, working as a "mudman" for a directional drilling company, and operating his own trucking business. Even after retirement, Tom continued sharing his knowledge by training aspiring drivers until health challenges forced him to step away from the profession he loved. Above all else, Tom was a devoted family man. He was a steady and dependable presence in the lives of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren—always there for sporting events, school activities, late-night rides, and life's milestones, both big and small. He loved road trips, scenic drives through the countryside, and spending time tinkering in his shop. Family visits were among his greatest joys, whether travelling throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, or British Columbia. He especially treasured trips to Dawson Creek to visit his beloved Aunt Renee. Tom



will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 61 years, Alice; his children, Joanne (Calvin) Williams of Redwater, Lianne (Fred) Dawson of Spruce Grove, Tracey (Garnet) Van Meter of Redwater, and Tom (Christine Sanderson) of Spruce Grove; his 21 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter. He is also survived by his sister Carolyn Guhl of Red Deer; his brother Rick (Florence) Noble of Calgary; and many members of the Lavallee family, including Phillip (Maxine) Lavallee, Emil (Annette) Lavallee, Marcel (Yvette) Lavallee, Fernand Lavallee, Doris Seltzer, Mauticie (Yolande) Lavallee, Victor Lavallee, Paul Lavallee, Lorraine (Earl) Huenison, and Alphonse (Glenda) Lavallee, along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Tom was predeceased by his parents, Hilliard and Dorothy Noble; his brothers, Walter and Jim; his sister, Betty; sisters-in-law, Cecile Dumas and Lilian Lavallee; brothers-in-law, Jules Dumas, Leslie Seltzer and David Guhl; and his nephew and dear friend, Eldon Purdy. Forever loved, forever remembered, and forever missed. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the University Hospital Foundation (Charitable Registration No. 88900-3240-RR0001). Please indicate "Direct to STREAM Project" in support of advancing stroke care. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 1:00 pm at Pembina Place, 4944 53 Street, Redwater, Alberta. Inurnment will take place on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at Hawkeye Cemetery, Saskatchewan.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Sturgeon Memorial Funeral Chapel (780) 921-3900



Local kids made the most of a heavy rainfall in the Redwater area, turning a roadside ditch into a makeshift lazy river as they floated and laughed their way into summer. The unexpected adventure proved that sometimes the best summer memories come from a little rain. **Submitted photos**

The rodeo goes on



By Brandie Majeau

For the organizers behind Thorhild’s annual July 1st festivities, each year brings a new adventure, often a new set of challenges, and 2026 was no different. Under a beautiful morning sky, crowds gathered at St. Anne’s Parish, eager for the legendary pancake breakfast that marks the start of a day brimming with excitement. The “Around the World” parade followed, filling the air with music and energy. Highlights included a march of horses, an assortment of organizations and antique cars, Seeds to Sprouts Daycare’s float, blasting the “Little Einsteins” theme song, and a convoy of semi trucks honking along the route. Anticipation grew as

the rodeo grounds overflowed with vehicle and foot traffic, food trucks fired up their grills, bouncy castles were inflated for the littles, and food booths opened their windows to hungry visitors. The first can of beer opened with a snap-crack, releasing a hissing rush into the air, signaling the beginning of the events. Just as the rodeo began, the first event fired up, the weather delivered an unforgettable twist. A torrential downpour sent everyone scrambling for cover, drenching participants and spectators alike. Instead of halting the festivities, the sudden storm only seemed to strengthen everyone’s resolve. Attendees bundled together beneath awnings and umbrellas, watching the skies and waiting. The echo of rain pelt- ing tin roofs was roar- ing. The thunder and

lightning rolling along with the storm. As the rain finally subsided, organizers sprang into action, checking the grounds for safety of athletes and animals before giving the green light for the show to continue. Cheers erupted as the first youth bronc rider charged into the arena, mud flying from pounding hooves. As each rider was thrown from the backs of the beast, they jumped up, drenched in mud but throwing fists to the air in silent victory. the riders faced the messy conditions with determination, they drew passionate support from the crowd. Children ran bare- foot through puddles while jeans and boots were caked in mud, turning the day into one joyfully mucky and wild celebration. Between the rodeo and the demolition derby, over 400 steaks were

cooked on the grills, and the rodeo arena was scraped as clean as possible before en- gines revved and the demolition derby be- gan. The spectacle of crashing cars and fly- ing mud kept everyone on their feet, laughter

and excitement rever- berating throughout the stands. Although not a sin- gle shoe stayed clean, the joy and determina- tion shared by every- one was unmistakable. Even visitors from at- tending from Kentucky

embraced the celebra- tion with enthusiasm. Despite the conditions, the event became a memorable tribute to Canadian resilience and their ability to embrace any weather, a true re- flection of the phrase, “I am Canadian!”



From the Reeve's Desk

Message from Reeve Trevor Dafoe, Thorhild County

One of the best parts of living in a rural community is that people know one another, help one another, and care about what happens close to home. As members of Council, we are fortunate to represent the people of Thorhild County and to be part of the conversations that help shape our future.

Today, I am pleased to begin what I hope will become a regular conversation with you.

Thanks to the generosity of The Redwater Review, Council has been provided with space each month to share a message with residents. On behalf of Thorhild County Council, I would like to thank the newspaper for this opportunity and for helping keep our communities informed.

A lot of people see the decisions made at Council meetings, but there is often more happening behind the scenes. Council members meet with residents, attend community events, learn about local issues, work with neighbouring municipalities, advocate to other levels of government, and spend time planning for the future of the County.

Through this monthly message, we hope to share more of that work with you. We want to explain decisions when we can, provide updates on projects and services, recognize the people and groups making a difference, and share some of the good things happening across Thorhild County.

This space will also be a chance to

celebrate people. Rural communities are built by neighbours helping neighbours, volunteers giving their time, businesses supporting local needs, and residents who care about where they live. Those contributions matter, and they deserve to be recognized.

As we begin this new initiative, I invite you to follow along each month. My hope is that these messages help you stay informed, feel connected, and see more of the work happening throughout our County.

On behalf of Thorhild County Council, thank you for your continued support and for everything you do to make our communities strong, welcoming, and resilient. We look forward to continuing this conversation in the months ahead.



The Redwater Lions Club served up hot dogs during the Redwater Public Library's Word on the Block Party on July 8. The free summer kickoff event featured activities, animals, bubbles, emergency vehicles and treats for families to enjoy.

Redwater Library photo

Continued from page 5

partners for a sold-out day on the course.

The tournament was held Thursday, June 19 at Sturgeon Valley Golf & Country Club and supported three organizations making an impact throughout the region: Out of Africa Animal Sanctuary, Changing Lives Through Horses at Paradise Acres Ranch and Oakhill Ranch.

The event combined a traditional day of golf with an Amazing Race-inspired theme, featuring checkpoint challenges and activities throughout the course designed to encourage teamwork, connection and fun among

participants.

Organizers thanked golfers, volunteers and sponsors for helping make the annual fundraiser a success.

"We raised over \$30K for local charities and showed our golfers and sponsors just how much we appreciate them," Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw shared following the event.

The funds raised will help support programs and services offered by the three selected organizations.

Out of Africa Animal Sanctuary provides care and refuge for animals in need, while Changing Lives Through Horses at Paradise Acres Ranch

uses equine-based programs to support personal development and growth. Oakhill Ranch provides support services for youth and families. The tournament also highlighted the role of local businesses and industry partners in supporting community initiatives.

Sponsors included Northwest Redwater Partnership, Pembina, Redwater Site-ron Ventures, Cando Rail and Wolf Midstream, among others.

Hnatiw thanked the many organizations and individuals who contributed to the event, saying their support helped make the tournament possible.

Red Apple Stores Grand Reopening



Red Apple Stores in Redwater, kicked off its grand reopening on Friday, July 3, with a full day of celebrations, special offers, giveaways, and big savings on food, fashion, home goods, and more. The store at 4916-49 Avenue welcomed shoppers with free \$10 shopping cards and laundry baskets for the first 100 customers, plus shopping totes while supplies last. Red Apple Stores photos



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Pembina completes major expansion at Redwater Complex



By **Shelley Winger**

Pembina Pipeline Corp. has completed a major expansion at its Redwater Complex, with the start-up of its new Redwater Fractionation and Storage IV (RFS IV) facility.

The facility officially began operations in May and adds 55,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids (NGL) fractionation capacity, increasing total throughput at the Redwater Complex to approximately 256,000 barrels per day.

Located within Alberta's Industrial Heartland, the Redwater Complex is part of Canada's largest hydrocarbon processing region and plays an important role in the processing, storage and distribution of energy products.

The expansion strengthens Pembina's ability to process natural gas liquids, which are separated into products such as propane, butane and ethane. These products are used in a variety of everyday

applications, including heating, fuels and the production of plastics.

Natural gas liquids fractionation is the process of separating a mixed stream of liquids into individual products such as propane, butane and ethane. Once separated, the products can be transported and used across a number of industries, including residential heating, transportation, agriculture, manufacturing and petrochemical production.

The Redwater area has become a key location for energy development because of its access to infrastructure, transportation networks and storage facilities. Alberta's Industrial Heartland spans several municipalities and continues to attract large-scale investment in energy processing and related industries. According to Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association, the completion of RFS IV represents a major milestone for the region.

"Projects of this scale are never straightforward. They require careful

planning, difficult decisions, close coordination, and sustained focus over years of execution," the association stated.

The organization congratulated Pembina employees, contractors and partners involved in the project, noting the work required to bring the facility from concept to completion.

The project was completed following four years of planning, engineering and construction, involving thousands of workers, contractors and business partners.

The expansion represents continued investment in Alberta's energy sector and adds additional processing capacity to support current

demand and future growth. Alberta's Industrial Heartland includes more than 40 companies and represents approximately \$50 billion in existing capital investment. The region supports industries including energy processing, petrochemicals, hydrogen, carbon capture and fertilizers.



Pembina Pipeline Corp.'s Redwater Complex has expanded with the startup of the new RFS IV facility, adding 55,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids fractionation capacity. **Pembina Pipeline Corporation photo**



A HYPE summer program participant proudly shows off a crayfish discovered during the Fearless in the Forest adventure at Gibbons River Valley on July 7. Youth spent the day exploring aquatic life, hiking trails and learning outdoors with the Fearless in the Forest team. **Redwater Hype photo**

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Photo courtesy of Boots n' Blues

Continued from page 1

entertained and entangled in their rhythm. Songwriting and rehearsal are collaborative, with each member contributing ideas that help songs evolve and take on new life. While only a few originals currently make

the set list, the band finds inspiration in personal experiences, memorable moments at gigs, and even humorous events, like the prospect of a “ham sandwich” tune inspired by Egremont’s midnight lunch. For Boots n’ Blues, performing is about more than just music. Members say the best part of being on stage is the camaraderie, the feedback from enthusiastic crowds, and the joy of sharing songs that may be new to many listeners. Even mishaps, from broken strings to toddlers on the dance floor, become memories. “Watching moments happen from stage, the love you see in an old couple's eyes as they dance together, the tiny toddlers trying to bop along as they try so hard not to fall. As much as there may be a show on stage, just the same we get to experience the show and special moments we see from stage,” explained the band. The band enjoys playing rural events most, noting the importance of such gatherings in keeping communities connected. “Families and generations keeping the rural community together in these special events – we are lucky to be a part of them,” they shared, expressing gratitude for the chance to be involved in Egremont Days.

Looking forward, Boots n’ Blues aims to refine their sound, uncover musical gems that showcase each member, and continue performing together. Their message to readers is simple: support local events, keep traditions alive, and find joy in music and community. Boots n’ Blues left Egremont with fond memories and hopes to return for more music and memorable moments. As they say, “Be sure to get out to your local communities, dance, hum, tap a toe, meet a neighbour, and keep these wonderful events going!”

**Smoky Lake County
NOTICE – PUBLIC HEARING
on Proposed Bylaw #1509-26**



TAKE NOTICE THAT in accordance with sections 216.4, 606 & 692 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Council of Smoky Lake County is giving consideration of Bylaw #1509-26:

- To redistrict portions of the lands legally described as Pt. NE 4-62-13-W4M, from AGRICULTURE (AG) DISTRICT to MULTI-LOT COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL (R1), under the County’s Land Use Bylaw #1272-14;
- To reclassify portions of the lands legally described as Pt. NE 4-62-13-W4M, from AGRICULTURE AREA to RESIDENTIAL AREA, under the County’s Municipal Development Plan Bylaw #1249-12; and
- To reclassify portions of the lands legally described as Pt. NE 4-62-13-W4M, from AGRICULTURE AREA to RESIDENTIAL AREA, under the Whitefish Lake Area Structure Plan Bylaw #1189-09.

A Statutory Public Hearing will be held in relation to Bylaw 1509-26, both in-person and via videoconference on **Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter) at: Smoky Lake County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0 or online: <https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/219324220> Meeting ID: 219324220 or via phone: 1-844-511-2074

In-person Speakers:
If you intend on participating in person, you are encouraged to pre-register for the Public Hearing by contacting Jordan Ruegg at 780-656-3730 Ext. 113.

Speakers participating through Telus Business Connect videoconference:
If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you are asked to register 24 hours prior to the opening of the Public Hearing by contacting Meaghan Andreychuk at 780-656-3730. This is to ensure that virtual participants receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Requirements for all Speakers:
All speakers will be given a 5-minute time limit and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission in advance of the Public Hearing.

Written Submissions:
All interested parties are encouraged to express their views by providing a written submission by email at jruegg@smokylakecounty.ab.ca.

Persons wishing to view the Bylaw and/or the Public Hearing are invited to attend in person or view the Meeting at the County website at <http://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca> or view the Bylaw <https://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/notices>

Questions? Contact:
Jordan Ruegg Planning & Development Manager, Smoky Lake County at 780-650-5207 / jruegg@smokylakecounty.ab.ca



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From the Mayor's Desk

By Dave McRae,
Mayor of Redwater

In 2019 the Town of Redwater experienced severe overland flooding based on a sudden deluge of rain. Depending on the source nearly 6" of water inundated the municipality via overland flooding in a few short hours. Residents will recall the rivers of water cascading through town and of course the widely circulated video of canoeing in the drainage ditch alongside the railway tracks. While disturbing and damaging this catastrophe was short lived and limited in impact. While many were affected, overall, the damage could have been much worse.

Two weeks ago, we again experienced overland flooding but in this case the cause was substantial rain over continued days which super-saturated the ground. The result was massive amounts of water

sitting in low spots, ditches and channels. With no ability to be absorbed the water created huge amounts of pressure on the sub-surface water causing it to push into every possible crevice. To make matters worse, the sitting water was being added to with more runoff and falling rain thus causing more pressure. This is called Hydrostatic Pressure.

Hydrostatic Pressure is why some basements in town flooded. The ground water was being compressed with such force it was driving ground water through cracks in walls and foundations. Likewise, there were flooded roadways, washed out culverts, damaged crops and probably more than one frantic call for carpet cleaners or shop vacs. In my case my two sump pumps kept up until the water sitting in the swale between my neighbor and I overpowered

the seal between my slab and my grade beam. I was fortunate the damage was minimal and that I had a spare pump to help clear that standing water. Many were not so lucky. Some will have insurance coverage and some not but in reality, water damage is harsh and permanent.

At Council last night we discussed some of the outcomes from this event. Hopefully we will never see rain-fall in that quantity ever again, but what are we doing to help mitigate the result? Town crews have assessed our overland drainage system and identified pinch points such as vegetation, engineering and improvements. You will see some of the crews replacing culverts or access points to assist in getting water to flow downhill to the river. We are also working on improvements to the wastewater system as events such as this overload the

system due to down spouts or weeping tile emptying into sewer lines, incursion into the system through cracks or separated joints and people not understanding our requests to cut back on using the system, if possible.

Will this happen again? Probably but hopefully not for the 1 in 100 we are often told to prepare for. Compared to other areas we fared well but we know we have room to improve our municipal infrastructure. In the meantime, your role is to check your insurance policy for the terms of fire or flood coverage, landscape your yard especially if subsidence has caused a back slope to your foundation, keep downspouts well away from your basement, install (maintain) sump pumps, clean your eaves troughs regularly (spring and fall) and prepare an emergency plan just in case!



Scam text messages circulating about your Alberta Health number

The Better Business Bureau issued an alert today after reports about fake texts being sent out about Alberta Health identification.

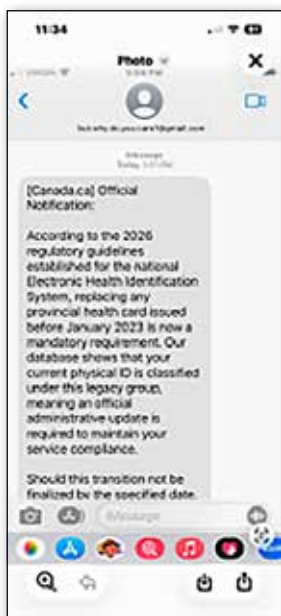
"This is another phishing scam that every Albertan should be aware of," says Mary O'Sullivan-Andersen, President and CEO of BBB Serving Alberta and East Kootenay. "The scammers are sending out texts claiming Albertans have to update their personal information because health cards issued before January 2023 are invalid."

She adds, "There are often clear indications of phony texts. In this case it says it's official communication from the government of Canada. Health is a provincial jurisdiction. Another indication is an email attached to the text which is from a large private email provider. Delete this text - do not engage."

Protecting yourself from fake text message scams:

- **Don't trust unsolicited messages.** Scammers will try to get you to click a link or call a number in a text message claiming you've won a great prize, your subscription account is about to be deactivated, or there was a problem delivering a package to your home. They may even claim fraudulent activity has been detected on your account and tell you to "Act now!". Before you get too worked up and respond, ask yourself, "Did I give this company permission to text me? Did I enter a contest recently? Am I expecting a package? Is it normal for this business to send me messages?" If an out of the blue offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you receive an unsettling text message from a company you do business with, but they never text you in the past, look up their contact information on their official website and get in touch to find out what the message is really about.

- **Watch out for**



suspicious links.

Most scam text messages contain a link for you to click on. Scammers hope their message will cause you to feel so scared or excited you'll click the link without thinking. Some of these links could download malware onto your device. Others may lead you to lookalike websites where scammers hope to harvest your personal information, log-in ID, and passwords.

- **Know that a personalized message doesn't make the sender trustworthy.** Thanks to data breaches and online directories at least some of your personal information is probably online. Scammers may have access to your name, address, where you bank, your phone provider and other details about your life. They may include some of this information in their text to appear more legitimate. When in doubt, contact the businesses directly to find out if they really tried to contact you.

- **Look for spelling and grammar errors.** A large number of fake texts originate with offshore companies where they may be crafted by someone who isn't completely fluent in the English language. Some scammers are highly skilled in English and it may even be their first language, so not every fake text you receive will follow this rule. Still, legitimate companies usually hire professional writers and editors to craft their business communications,

so if you notice strange phrasing along with spelling and grammar errors, you're probably dealing with a scammer.

- **If a website looks real, check again.** If you do click on a link in a suspicious text message and it appears to take you to an official business website, don't feel safe straightaway. Scammers can create a carbon copy of a legitimate website and if you login on the fake site they can steal your username and password. Check the URL carefully to make sure you are on the official website before you navigate within it.

- **Look up phone numbers before you call.** Scammers may prompt you to call a number, claiming you need to resolve some kind of issue or register to receive a prize. They may do so under the guise of a real business, so always double check any numbers they send you before you call. If the scammer gets you on the line, they'll likely ask you to "confirm your identity" by telling them your PIN, password, social security or social insurance number, or other personal details. No legitimate company will ever ask you to reveal your security information over the phone. If you realize you're talking to a scammer, hang up and block the number.

- **If you spot a scam text, don't reply.** Some scammers ask you to text "STOP" or "NO" so you won't receive future texts. In reality, your reply tells them they have a real, active phone number and could open you up to future attacks. If a text message seems suspicious, don't reply. Block the number and erase the message.

- **Keep your anti-virus software up to date.** Antivirus software can alert you to fake and unsafe websites if you happen to click on a link in an unsolicited text message. Keep the software installed and up to date to protect yourself against scammers.

RCMP ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Smoky Lake RCMP Report



By Haylee Winger

The Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment responded to a variety of calls for service during the week of June 22, including vehicle-related incidents, family disputes, property complaints and several reports requiring police assistance throughout the area. Members investigated several property-related complaints during the week. Police received reports of a damaged wireless internet tower site near Vilna and a school bus converted into a camper that had been reported stolen from a property near Vilna sometime within the past year.

RCMP also responded to a break-in at a CNRL site near Bellis, where copper wire was reported stolen. Evidence was collected from the scene and the investigation remains ongoing.

Several abandoned and suspicious vehicle reports were received throughout the detachment area. Members attended reports of abandoned vehicles in Smoky Lake, Vilna and near Bellis, as well as a suspicious vehicle at Vilna School. Police determined the vehicle at the school belonged to an employee. Other suspicious vehicle complaints included reports in Vilna and at Smoky Lake School, although the vehicles had left before members arrived.

Traffic-related calls included several incidents involving transport trucks. Members attended a transport truck rollover on Highway 28, where no injuries were reported, as well as another transport truck that had broken down in the driving lane of the highway. Police also responded to a

vehicle collision involving a deer on Highway 28, with no injuries reported.

Members assisted motorists and other agencies throughout the week, including helping with a vehicle stuck in a ditch on Range Road 175. The driver was okay and a tow truck was arranged. RCMP also assisted Bonnyville RCMP with locating a missing person in the area and later assisted with locating and arresting a suspect involved in a domestic dispute. Police responded to several family and community-related complaints, including family disputes in Smoky Lake, Vilna and near Spedden, a neighbour dispute regarding lawn mowing, and a complaint involving unwanted individuals refusing to leave a residence in Smoky Lake.

RCMP also attended a number of public safety and welfare calls. Members responded to a request to check on a resident while the homeowner was in hospital, a report of a male consuming alcohol in a Smoky Lake park, and a complaint involving an intoxicated female walking on a rural road near Spedden. Police also responded to a sudden death in Smoky Lake.

Other calls included a report of a resident in Vilna being targeted by an online extortion scam, a complaint regarding alleged defamation in Vilna, and several 911 calls where members attended

and determined there were no emergencies. In Waskatenau, police attended a static 911 line call and determined the issue was likely related to weather affecting phone service.

Members also assisted with several animal-related calls during the week, including reports of escaped cattle on Highway 831, a deceased bear in the driving lane of Highway 28 that was removed, and a dog left in a vehicle. Police attended the vehicle complaint and determined the dog was okay with the windows down.

Additional calls included assisting Conservation Officers with a report of youth setting off fireworks at Garner Lake Campground, a suspicious ATV complaint at Garner Lake where the vehicle was found to belong to a camper, and a youth experiencing mental health concerns who had left a residence. RCMP Police Dog Services and the RCMP Remote Piloted Aircraft attended, and the youth was located and transported to hospital.

Throughout the week, Smoky Lake RCMP also received several driving complaints. Members issued multiple violation tickets and warnings as part of their enforcement efforts.

Anyone with information about a crime is asked to contact the Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment at 780-656-3550 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



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Doreen Marie Stachniak

It is with profound sadness and deep love, we announce the passing of Doreen Marie Stachniak (née Wilflingsider), who was called home to rest in the loving arms of our Lord at the age of 88, on July 7. A woman of boundless compassion and an artistic soul, Doreen graced our lives with beauty, consideration and benevolence. She will be deeply missed by her sons Gary, Barry, Terry (Nicole), and Perry (Isabel); her grandchildren Olexa, Vincent, Morgan and Kyra; and her great-grandchild, Aiden. She was predeceased by her parents, Carl and Sophie Wilflingsider; her brother-in-law and sister, Laurie and Morea; her beloved husband, Paul. Stachniak; her special friend, Jack Holt; as well as many dear friends over the years. Born and raised in the Radway, Opal, Redwater, and Egremont area, Doreen married Paul in 1956.



Together, they lovingly raised four spirited sons, on their farm just north of Redwater. Doreen was a woman of remarkable talents and had a tireless work ethic. She worked alongside her husband on their farm, as a bank teller at the Bank of Commerce, and as an Admitting Assistant at the Redwater Hospital. An accomplished and celebrated artist, Doreen's creative spirit shone brightly through her beautiful gardening and painting. She founded the Redwater Art Society, taught art classes, and received numerous provincial awards for her work, leaving a lasting legacy of beauty in her community. Please join us to celebrate her life and honor her memory on Friday, July 17, at 11:00 AM. The Mass will be held at St. Clare's Roman Catholic Church (4935 50 St, Redwater, AB). Following the services, a reception will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 251 (4708 50 Ave, Redwater, AB).

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