

Art program inspires creativity among Diamond Spring residents



Brittany Snellen photos

A resident of Diamond Spring Lodge concentrates on a watercolor painting during a recent art workshop led by Brittany "Miss B" Snellen. The session encouraged participants to explore colour, texture and creativity without focusing on a finished masterpiece.



Residents of Diamond Spring Lodge gather around the table to experiment with watercolor techniques during a recent art session led by Brittany "Miss B" Snellen. The workshop emphasized creativity, curiosity and self-expression in a relaxed, supportive setting.



By Shelley Winger

Residents at Diamond Spring Lodge recently embraced their artistic side during a watercolor workshop that encouraged creativity, curiosity and self-expression.

Led by arts educator

Brittany "Miss B" Snellen, the session focused less on creating a finished masterpiece and more on enjoying the experience of painting. Residents experimented with colour mixing, different amounts of water and pigment, and even sprinkled table salt onto wet paint to create unique textures.

Snellen said the goal was to give participants the

freedom to explore without worrying about perfection.

"There is something to be said about the experience of sitting down with a material and just exploring how it interacts with the paper or canvas, without having an end goal," she said. "It was all about enjoying a tactile and curiosity-based experience where there was no pressure or expectation for

a finished product."

She added that the activity also encouraged mindfulness by allowing participants to focus on the present moment as they watched colours spread across the paper.

The workshop is one of several Snellen has led at Diamond Spring Lodge,

Continued on page 6

Smoky Lake Stampede kicks up dust



By Brandie Majeau

The spirit of the prairies was alive and well this past weekend as the Smoky Lake Stampede returned for its annual showcase of rodeo excitement and community celebration. Held on August 1 and 2, 2026, the two-day event drew hundreds of spectators and

competitors to the Smoky Lake Agricultural Grounds, providing a thrilling spectacle of Western heritage and grassroots connection.

Beyond the thrill of competition, the stampede was a true family affair. Children lined the streets for the parade, waving to floats and riders on horseback, community groups and rodeo royalty. The Farmer's Market served up classic

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Smoky Lake Stampede photos

Heritage Days Scavenger Hunt postponed



By Brandie Majeau

Residents and visitors will have additional time to explore the rich history of Smoky Lake County following the postponement of the Heritage Days Scavenger Hunt until the end of August. Initially set for July 27 to August 4, the community event has been rescheduled, providing participants with a greater opportunity to visit local heritage sites and compete for prizes.

The Scavenger Hunt invites individuals of all ages to visit some of Smoky Lake County's most significant historical landmarks, learning about the area's unique past while enjoying an engaging outdoor experience. Participants are required to visit locations listed on the official passport, collecting stamps where available or taking a photograph at each stop to verify their visit.

To qualify for the grand prize draw, participants must visit at least 10 locations and return their completed passport to the Smoky Lake County Office. Stamp stations will be available at Serben Farms and Métis Crossing, while all remaining locations can

Continued on page 10

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Youth Emergency Services Academy inspires future first responders



Students participating in the Sturgeon County Youth Leadership Academy hear from an RCMP officer during a presentation on policing and community safety.



Participants in the Sturgeon County Youth Leadership Academy were recognized during a graduation ceremony at the conclusion of the week-long program.



**By Shelley
Winger**

Thirty youth from across Sturgeon County spent three days exploring careers in emergency services during the 2025 Youth Emergency Services (YES) Academy, gaining hands-on experience alongside police officers, firefighters, paramedics and other emergency services professionals.

Held July 20 to 22, the academy introduced participants to the

demands and rewards of emergency service careers through practical training, demonstrations and interactive activities.

The inaugural academy brought together youth interested in emergency services for three days of learning and hands-on experiences with agencies from across the region. Participants worked alongside RCMP officers, firefighters, Community Peace Officers, paramedics, STARS Air Ambulance and members of the Canadian

Armed Forces, giving them a broad look at the many career paths available in public safety.

Throughout the program, recruits took part in fitness testing, toured the RCMP's Real Time Operations Centre, learned about specialized policing units and participated in emergency response scenarios designed to build teamwork, communication and leadership skills.

Beyond learning technical skills, the academy emphasized teamwork,

communication and problem-solving through realistic scenarios and physical challenges. Participants also had the opportunity to meet emergency services professionals, ask questions about their careers and gain insight into the day-to-day realities of working on the front lines.

Sturgeon County said the academy aims to help youth explore career opportunities while building confidence and practical skills. For participant Dominic Kam, the

experience confirmed his interest in emergency services.

"I learned a lot, met some awesome people, and got to challenge myself in new ways," Kam said. "It made me even more interested in a career in emergency services. It was an awesome experience."

The academy was supported by numerous community partners, including the RCMP, local fire departments, Community Peace Officers, STARS Air Ambulance, the Canadian Armed

Forces, the Rotary Club of Morinville Sturgeon and Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch. Rotary volunteers also provided meals for the 30 participants throughout the three-day event.

Sturgeon County said the academy was created to inspire the next generation of first responders by offering meaningful, real-world experiences. Based on the success of this year's program, the county plans to announce details about the next YES Academy in the future.

A Plan for the Future, a commitment for today

**By Reeve Trevor
Dafoe, Thorhild
County**

Every Council meeting brings new topics, new challenges, and new opportunities. While each decision is important, they should not be made in isolation. Council's Strategic Plan provides the long-term direction that helps guide those decisions and keeps us focused on the future we want to build for Thorhild County.

Our latest Strategic Plan is built around four key priorities (1) Infrastructure,

(2) Recreation, (3) Accountability, and (4) Community Development. This Plan serves as Council's roadmap, and it helps identify the goals we are working toward and provides Administration with clear direction as projects, budgets, and recommendations are developed.

One of the ways this plan is put into action is through every Request for Decision that comes before Council. Administration identifies how each recommendation supports one or more of Council's strategic priorities. This

helps ensure that today's decisions continue moving us toward the long-term vision we have established for Thorhild County. By clearly connecting recommendations to Council's strategic plan strengthens our transparency and good governance tying us directly to our priority of Accountability.

Of course, even the best plans must leave room for the unexpected.

Over the past couple of months, our County has experienced significant rain, fall and severe weather that have created

challenges across our communities. Roads have been damaged, fields flooded out, trees knocked down, and many residents have experienced the impacts firsthand.

On behalf of Council, I would like to sincerely thank our residents for their patience and understanding as repairs continue. I also want to recognize the team at the County involved in the response. They have spent long hours inspecting roads, responding to concerns, completing repairs, unplugging culverts, and working to restore safe travel throughout

the County.

It is obvious that the prolonged wet weather has created significant challenges for our agricultural community. Many producers are facing an exceptionally difficult growing season. In recognition of these conditions, on July 14th Council declared an State of Agricultural Disaster. While this declaration does not provide direct financial assistance, it formally recognizes the hardships facing our producers and helps bring greater awareness to the impacts this year's weather has had on

agriculture throughout our region.

This summer has reminded us that no matter how carefully we plan, unexpected challenges will always arise. While Council remains focused on the long-term future of Thorhild County, we also remain committed to responding to the issues affecting our residents today. Both are essential responsibilities of your local government.

**To read more on the County's Strategic Plan, please visit: <https://www.thorhildcounty.com/Government/Council/Strategic-Plan>.*

Every shot tells a story...



By **Brandie Majeau**

Prodigy Archery celebrated its grand opening on July 30, 2026. The range first opened its doors in September 2025, transforming a former hayfield into a premier archery facility. The vision for Prodigy Archery originated last

year, even as snow blanketed the ground. Dean, a skilled technician, traversed the snow-covered landscape, hand-drawn map in hand, sharing his aspirations for the future range. Deana Sonleitner, the office manager and CFO, partnered with Dean throughout the process to bring this vision to life. Their individual

passion quickly grew to include the broader community, fulfilling a long-standing need for a dedicated archery space. Dean explained that he named Prodigy Archery in honour of his son's remarkable natural talent for the sport. From an early age, his son's skills surpassed even Dean's, leading him to train

and compete alongside athletes of similar caliber. The affectionate reference to him as a "prodigy" ultimately inspired the facility's name. The range features a uniform shooting line and a diverse array of targets, including both bullseye and 3D options, positioned from 5 to 25 yards, with a more challenging section extending to 100 yards. The entire facility has been meticulously designed, with comprehensive safety policies in place. Amenities include a comfortable viewing area and a BBQ with picnic tables, available for group rentals in addition to user fees. The space is thoughtfully arranged to encourage

groups to spend a day or afternoon fully immersed in the sport of archery. Both Dean and Deana are certified range officials, and bring with them expertise not only in archery, but also in parks and recreation and hunting. Their complementary skill sets have driven this collaborative project, with each knowing when to lead and when to support. The range offers a welcoming environment, inviting newcomers and seasoned archers alike to experience the sport. The calm atmosphere encourages relaxation and focus, while Dean and Deana's enthusiasm is evident in every guest interaction.

Looking ahead, there are plans to construct an indoor range to provide year-round shooting opportunities. The Grand Opening celebration and BBQ was a display of everything Dean and Deana have worked so hard to accomplish. Prodigy Archery stands as a space to bring bows for maintenance, build on existing skills, discover a new passion, for hunters to home in their shots, to find the perfect balance of draw and release, and to connect. Dean discussed ideas surrounding leagues and competitions in the future. And potentially July 30th becoming the Annual BBQ and Fun Day for Prodigy Archery.



Outstanding Acreage Auction Alex Bilobrowka, Newbrook, AB Saturday, August 22, 2026 10:00 AM

DIRECTIONS: 19302 Twp. Rd. 631B or Newbrook Corner on Highway 63, 6 Miles East on Sec. 661 to Sec. 831 and North to Long Lake Turnoff. Auction North and West of Trailer Court Park or South of Boyle on 831. Watch for Signs.

Major Items Sell @ 1 PM, Viewing Sale Day Only from 8 AM.

Major Items: * M.F. 294 Diesel Tractor w/ M.F.W.D. Showing 6126 Hrs. & M.F. 236 F.E.L. W/ 7' Bucket, 540 P.T.O., 3 pt. 18.4 X30 Rear, 12.4 X 24 Front, Needs Work. S/N 2236A77 * Cockshutt 30 Gas Tractor, Parts Only * 2007 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab w/ 5.7 L. 65,000 miles, Hemi, Larimie, Leather, Loaded, Roll Tarp & 5th Wheel Hitch (will be detailed by Sale) S/N 1D7HU18287J600486 * 1979 Rawhide Blue Color 16' T. Axle Stock Trailer w/ Ball Hitch, Spare Tires, ST20575, R15 Rubber, SN 7929 * 2007 Baja 400 Light Brown ATV Wheeled Quad, Parts Only S/N LWGZCSZ047A080405 * 2001 Honda 350 4X4 Red ATV Quad., 3345 km S/N 478TE25661A100115 * Custom Built T. Axle Trailer w/ 8'X20' Deck, Ball Hitch, Mobile Home Axles & Frame, NO VIN * Single Axle Enclosed Trailer w/ 80" Wide, 10' Long, 65" High, Insulated, Ball Hitch, NO VIN * Quad Trailer, 34" Wide & 52" Long; NO VIN * Util. Trailer w/ 7' Long X 56" Wide, 2' Sides, NO VIN **Yard & Garage (Brief & Partial Listing):** * Gun Safe for 8-10 Rifles * 14.5 H.P. Yard Works R. Mower w/ 36 Cut. * J.D. 118 Pressure Washer * Mastercraft & Beach 2 Piece Tool Box w/ Some Contents * 3 Powered Gas Ice Augers * Delta 12" Planer * Chain Saws * Gas Trimmers * Stair Climber Appliance Dolly * New Power Sewage Pump * Ryobi Sawzall * Battery Charger * Large Assortment & Good Selection Various Power & Hand Tools * Chain Boomers * Loggan Chains * Fishing Tent * 1 Ton Chain Fall * 3 Air Compressors * Quan. Of Lumber & Metal Roofing * John Wood 2 Compart. 300 Gal. Fuel Tank w/ S. Stands * 8" I.H.C. Bench Vise * Jackalls * Jacks * 2-72" Alum. Ramps * Elec. Wood Splitter * 2-12' Steel Gates * 8' Steel Gates * Mastercraft 10" Bench Saw * Jobmate 24" Drill Press * 6" Bench Grinder * Tires & Rims * Steel Shelving Units * Scaffolding * 4' Underslug Mount Util. Blade * Flow Thru Tailgate * Alum. Ladders * Golf Clubs * Fishing Gear * Various Lawn & Garden Equip. * Water Barrels * Gerry Cans * Numerous Other Common Farm & Acreage Items, Etc. **Households (Brief & Partial Listing):** * Mini Freezer * Karaoke Machine * Rodgers Silverware Set * Lots of Ukrainian House Goods * Furniture, Yard, Patio Misc., Etc.

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SOLD

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**THORHILD
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1.24 acres of commercial land in the Hamlet of Thorhild, just about an hour north of Edmonton. Great community with lots of business opportunities. Right across the road from the local Arena and community hall so lots of visible exposure. Build your own building to your needs. **\$49,900. Call Heather to view.**



**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.**



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**VACANT
RESIDENTIAL LOT**

Great opportunity here to buy a large serviced lot in Newbrook. The older building on this 50'x150' lot was recently taken down to leave a lot ready to build on. There is municipal water and sewer on site and also gas. Newbrook is a small hamlet in Thorhild County and is a little over an hour to Edmonton. This is a quiet hamlet with a library, post office, drop in centre and active community centre. Close to lots of recreational opportunities with Long Lake Provincial Park, golf course, ski hill all just a few minutes away. **\$9,900. Call Heather for more info.**



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Janice and Henry's property was recently named Redwater in Bloom's Yard of the Week. Their yard, featuring colourful flowers, mature trees and thoughtfully landscaped garden beds, has been transformed over more than three decades into a welcoming outdoor retreat. **Town of Redwater photo**



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Beanbags and wellness go hand in hand



By **Brandie Majeau**

In the heart of every senior living community, a quiet revolution is taking place. Exercise classes, communal games, and group activities are transforming the lives of older adults, improving physical health as well as emotional well-being and creating a sense of belonging.

For many seniors, transitioning into a residential care setting can be accompanied by feelings of isolation and a loss of independence. However, regular exercise and communal activities play a

crucial role in counteracting these challenges. Physical activity, even when tailored to meet the needs of those with limited mobility, significantly improves cardiovascular health, enhances balance, and reduces the risk of falls. Studies have shown that seniors who participate in daily movement, such as chair yoga or gentle aerobics, experience greater flexibility, strength, and overall vitality. The benefits of these games and activities extend far beyond physical health. Social interaction is especially important in healthy aging, with research linking regular engagement in group activities to lower rates

of depression and cognitive decline. Bingo, trivia competitions, art workshops, and group game sessions offer opportunities for laughter, mental stimulation, and building new relationships. Thorhild Lodge, for example has a monthly calendar filled with a rotation of exercise programs, celebrations, friendly competitive games, shopping outings, and a variety of other activities and services.

One such Thursday afternoon at Thorhild Lodge felt like a page from a special memory. Residents gathered for a friendly game of beanbag toss, and with each turn, the room filled with the familiar

sounds of cheers and laughter that echoed from days gone by. Encouragement flowed easily, and though years had passed, the spark of friendly competition was as strong as ever. When one resident scored that first perfect 300, the game took on a spirited energy, reminiscent of childhood contests. Wheelchairs and walkers seemed to fade into the background, mere details in the timeless pursuit of victory, this time, for the glory of the biggest chocolate bar. Fists were raised

in triumph, and each personal win felt like a return to youthful days. As the final scores were announced, playful accusations about scorekeeping and comments of “good job” brought the afternoon to a close. But as the group drifted apart, the afternoon lingered as a gentle reminder, no matter how many years pass, the heart remembers how to play. The laughter, the focus, and the teasing calls to mind sun-drenched afternoons of ball games in the park and kick-the-can

played until dusk or later beneath the trees. Exercise and communal games are never just pastimes, never just a way to pass the time. They’re vital components of holistic care in senior homes. They nurture the mind, body, and spirit, ensuring that residents enjoy longer, richer, more fulfilling lives. As senior living communities continue to embrace these programs, they are redefining what it means to age gracefully, proving that it’s never too late to play, move, and connect.



Continued from **page 1**

where she has watched residents become more comfortable expressing themselves through art.

"A lot of them said they had never made art or painted when I first met them, so it is an honour to have them trust me to teach them something new," she said. "Their work is really beautiful and expressive."

Now living in Edmonton, Snellen continues to bring art programming to Redwater because she believes creative opportunities should be available to everyone, regardless of where they live.

"I don't mind commuting," she said. "It fills my bucket knowing that I make a difference in someone's day by giving them a unique creative experience."

Snellen said she hopes to continue offering art classes and community events in Redwater and throughout Sturgeon County, creating welcoming spaces where people of all ages can discover their creativity and build confidence.

"My hope is that I can make a positive difference in someone's life by sharing my love of art with them."



PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice that the following Development Permit has been approved on July 23, 2026 in accordance with **Land Use Bylaw No. 1272-14** of Smoky Lake County:

Permit Number: DP 029-26
Legal Land Description: LOT 10 & LOT 11, VICTORIA SETTLEMENT
Area: VICTORIA SETTLEMENT
Division: 3
Land Use District: VICTORIA COMMERCIAL (C2) DISTRICT
Use Type: DISCRETIONARY USE
Proposed Development: (SOLAR ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM, PERSONAL)

For information or to view this Development Permit, please contact Jordan Ruegg, Development Authority Officer & Planning and Development Manager at 780-656-3730 to arrange an appointment.

Persons wishing to appeal the above decision must do so by filing a written "NOTICE OF APPEAL" along with the \$250.00 appeal fee, to the Clerk of the Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (ISDAB) 4612 McDougall Drive, Box 310, Smoky Lake, Alberta T0A 3C0, no later than **Monday, August 17th, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.** The appeal letter should indicate the Development Permit number, contact name, phone number, mailing address, and reason(s) for appeal.

Jordan Ruegg
Development Authority Officer/
Director of Community Services

Smoky Lake RCMP report



By Haylee Winger

The Smoky Lake RCMP responded to a variety of calls for service during the week of July 27, including impaired driving investigations, wellbeing checks, disturbances, property-related incidents and traffic enforcement.

Officers conducted a traffic stop involving a vehicle that was reportedly being driven erratically. The driver was unable to produce a driver's licence and was issued a violation ticket.

A report of a dog-related issue in the county was referred to the County Peace Officer for further investigation.

Members also

responded to a report of a vehicle parked on a street in the Town of Smoky Lake without a licence plate. Police determined the vehicle was not registered, and it was towed under the Traffic Safety Act.

RCMP executed an outstanding arrest warrant on behalf of the Edmonton Police Service and Sherwood Park RCMP.

Police received a report of a lost ATV licence plate that had gone missing sometime within the past year. The location where it was last seen is unknown.

An investigation is ongoing after ATCO reported a break-in at a substation near Vilna.

A motorist reported being tailgated and passed unsafely by three vehicles. No licence plate information was available. RCMP

and the Smoky Lake Peace Officer patrolled the area but did not locate the vehicles involved.

RCMP assisted the Smoky Lake Peace Officer with a suspected impaired driver. Following an investigation, an Approved Screening Device demand was made and a provincial sanction was issued.

Police also responded to a disturbance at a residence in the Town of Smoky Lake, where a female was arrested and held until sober.

Several wellbeing checks were conducted during the week, including one requested at approximately 4:40 a.m. involving a female experiencing thoughts of suicide. Officers also conducted a wellbeing check on another female, who was found

to be safe, and on an elderly male, where no concerns were identified.

Officers received a complaint of a resident in the Village of Vilna pumping water from one property to another that did not belong to them.

The Town of Smoky Lake also reported two abandoned vehicles parked on Wheatland Avenue.

Members attended a local business where an individual was arrested for public intoxication and lodged until sober.

RCMP responded to a report that turkey vultures had killed a calf in a local field. Fish and Wildlife officers attended and assumed responsibility for the investigation.

Alberta Sheriffs notified RCMP of a vehicle fleeing police involving a newer beige Ford F-150.

A Smart car was located on Highway 28,

approximately 200 metres east of Range Road 171, with a licence plate that did not match the vehicle. Neither the vehicle nor the plate had been reported stolen. The vehicle, which was missing its rear left tire, was towed because it was uninsured and posed a safety hazard after attempts to contact the owner were unsuccessful.

At a local concert, a male who had been asked to leave by security punched and broke a window while exiting. He was arrested and lodged until sober.

A reported stolen vehicle investigation determined the vehicle had not been stolen. Police found the incident stemmed from a domestic dispute in which one party had left the residence to cool off.

RCMP also attended the rodeo grounds after receiving a report that several males were becoming unruly and there were concerns they might drive or cause a further disturbance. Officers did not find any disturbance but spoke with the group, confirmed a designated sober driver was present, and reminded them that disruptive behaviour would not be tolerated.

Members later located a vehicle that had been the subject of a BOLO issued by Redwater RCMP while patrolling Highway 831. A traffic stop was conducted, and an Approved Screening Device demand resulted in a "FAIL." The driver received a first-offence Immediate Roadside Sanction, and the vehicle was seized and towed.

Police also responded to a report of an intoxicated male causing problems and attempting to start fights at the beer gardens. By the time officers arrived, he had been sent home with a friend and was instructed not to return. Police also spoke with the victim, who reported being struck several times while attempting to remove the individual.

The week concluded with a report of loose calves on Highway 2.

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

FORM 3

Notice of Nomination Day

Local Authorities Election Act
(Section 26)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: Smoky Lake, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Day is August 24, 2026 and that nominations for the

Date

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 June 24, 2026

Date

and ending at 12:00 noon on Nomination Day.

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Ward or Electoral Division Number (If Applicable)
Councillor	1	n/a

Location (Address) of Local Jurisdiction Office:

Town of Smoky Lake

P.O Box 460, 56 Wheatland Avenue

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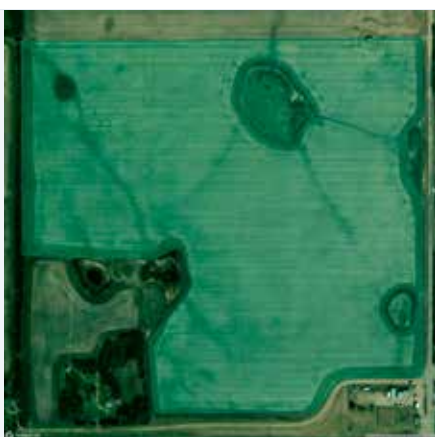
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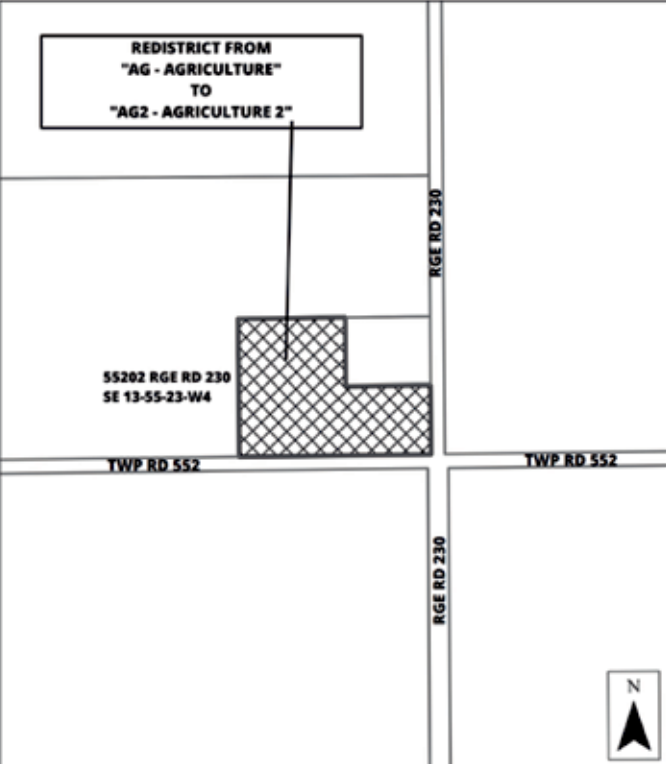


PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1713/26
LINGHAM EVENT VENUE REDISTRICTING

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1713/26.
The property owner would like to operate an event venue on their land at 55202 Range Road 230. This land is zoned as AG-Agriculture, which does not allow this type of activity.
The applicant is requesting the land be rezoned to AG2 – Agriculture 2 District, which would allow them to apply for an event venue development permit.
Each time land is rezoned, a bylaw is needed to amend the Land Use Bylaw, and a public hearing must be held.
Legal land description: SE-13-55-23-W4

Public Hearing details
The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference:
Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 1 p.m.
(or as soon as practical thereafter)
Sturgeon County Council Chambers
(9613 100 St., Morinville)

Learn more:
sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1713-26
Questions? Contact us!
Kimberly Mickelson
Planner, Current Planning
(587) 200-4322
kmickelson@sturgeoncounty.ca



Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers
All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.
Speaking in person
To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at **780-939-8029** to register.

Speak via videoconference (phone or video call-in)
To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **August 24, 2026 at 1 p.m.** by contacting Legislative Services at **780-939-8029**. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

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

Watching the Public Hearing
You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings.
To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

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



Continued from **page 1**

prairie fare, from sizzling burgers to homemade pie, while artisan booths showcased the creative talents of the Smoky Lake region.

On Saturday evening, the festivities continued with an unbeatable performance from Corb Lund, hosted by the Smoky Lake Agricultural Society. His toe-tapping tunes kept the crowd on their feet, the energy was palpable as neighbours gathered to celebrate the

traditions of rural life. For many, the stampede isn't just a rodeo, it's about reuniting with friends and supporting local causes through silent auctions and fundraising raffles. From the opening pancake breakfast and parade to the final buck of the broncs, the stampede delivered non-stop action. Cowboys and cowgirls from across Alberta and beyond competed in classic rodeo events, including barrel racing, steer

Continued on **page 11**



Clifford Edward Mask
September 15, 1937 – July 04, 2026
(Cliffy - Cliff - Quiffy)



Cliff passed peacefully at home in Kerensky, Ab. Cliff loved a challenge and was a man of many talents. Heavy Duty Mechanic-Ont. A long time friend said Cliff was a "mechanical genius." 'B' Pressure- mig and tig welding tickets- Ab, B.C. 'A' Welding ticket and pipefitter. Operating a welding shop and mobile rig in Kerensky for 18 years until retirement. Cliff also witched for water (dousing)

which he was very good at and enjoyed immensely. In later years Cliff designed metal art for relatives and many friends. Cliff enjoyed life and accomplished everything on his bucket list. Forever kind and willing to give a helping hand. To quote another friend, he had to a good haul. Come join us at Redwater Legion, August 22, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Luncheon to be served.



Smoky Lake Stampede photos





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Continued from **page 1**

be verified through photographs. These featured destinations include Métis Crossing, the Smoky Lake Grain Elevator, Victoria Settlement, Free Traders Cabin, and the Victoria District National Historic Site. Each site offers visitors insight into the stories and traditions that have shaped the region.

The Scavenger Hunt grand prize is a one-night stay at Métis Crossing, and all eligible completed entries will also be entered into an additional prize draw. Organizers anticipate that the extended timeline will enable more families, history enthusiasts, and visitors to participate. It is designed as a self-guided adventure that combines education with exploration, encouraging everyone to travel throughout the county, support local tourism, and celebrate Smoky Lake's heritage. By discovering a historic settlement, visiting a restored landmark, or admiring the iconic grain elevator, visitors can connect with the region's history at each destination.

Participants are encouraged to use this additional time to revisit a piece of Smoky Lake history, capture memorable photographs, and experience all that the region has to offer. The Scavenger Hunt continues to build on community pride while drawing people to the historical sites that distinguish Smoky Lake County as a unique destination in Alberta. Updated details, including the new deadline at the end of August, will be provided by Smoky Lake County. Organizers look forward to welcoming participants as the Heritage Days Scavenger Hunt resumes later this month, inviting everyone to explore, discover, learn, and celebrate Smoky Lake and Alberta Day on September 1.

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780-603-9047.

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**Putting a Face
on Suicide**



Steven Ice Willis
Age 29

Every 40 seconds, somewhere in the world, someone dies by suicide. Behind every number is a name, a family, a community that felt the loss. This week we remember one of our own.

THIS WEEK'S TIPS

TIP #1

POSITIVE COMMUNICATIONS TIP

**Put your phone away
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TIP #2

CONFLICT RESOLUTION TIP

**Focus on the issue,
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Smoky Lake Stampede photos



Dale Nally (left), MLA for Morinville-St. Albert, thanked volunteers for braving the hot weather during a recent campaign stop in Redwater, where the group spent the day knocking on doors and connecting with local residents. **Dale Nally photo**

Continued from **page 9**

wrestling, team roping, and the ever-popular bull riding. The grandstands echoed with cheers as local favourites burst into the arena.

The Kinette Club of Smoky Lake kept the energy moving on Sunday with their annual Beer Gardens and BBQ with live entertainment of the Ryan Snow Band. As the dust settled on Sunday evening, attendees departed with fond memories and a renewed appreciation for the real spirit of rural Alberta. With its blend of adrenaline, hospitality, and heart, the 2026 Smoky Lake Stampede proved once again why it remains a highlight of the summer calendar. Organizers of the Smoky Lake Stampede extend their gratitude to their sponsors, contractors, contestants, volunteers, and fans. Next year, 2027, marks the 44th Annual Smoky Lake Stampede.

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