

Jordan Park looks to build on Rookie of the Year season



By **Shelley Winger**

After making an immediate impact in his first season with the Redwater Rebels, Jordan Park is returning for another season with plenty of motivation — and a clear goal in mind.

The 18-year-old forward put together an impressive rookie campaign in 2025-26, scoring 27 goals and adding 24 assists for 51 points in 33 games. His strong performance earned him NJHL Rookie of the Year honours.

Following his successful

first season, Park has resigned with the Rebels and is looking forward to getting back on the ice with the team.

“Last year was a big year for me, and I want to keep that going,” Park said. “I can’t say there’s anything in particular that I want to accomplish. I just want to put in the work and get better.”

For Park, getting better has meant putting in work during the offseason rather than simply relying on what he accomplished last year.

“I’ve been working on my skating a lot this summer,” he said. “My skating is probably one of the best parts of

my game, but I want to push myself harder to make it better.”

After putting up more than 50 points in his first season, Park isn’t looking to put a specific number on what he wants to accomplish individually this year. Instead, his focus is on continuing to develop his game and contributing wherever he can.

When it comes to the Rebels, however, Park has one goal in mind.

“I want us to be the best team in the league and win a championship,” he said.

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Jordan Park photo

Schesnuk Memorial Tournament surpasses expectations



Tania Schesnuk with daughters Amanda Schesnuk and Amy Fedyna, alongside Dean Hiemer, Scott Wosnack, and Debbie From of Connect Energy, proudly announce the overwhelming generosity and support of the second Larry Schesnuk Memorial Tournament.



By **Brandie Majeau**

On June 19, 2026, the second annual Larry Schesnuk Memorial Golf Tournament brought together the community for a day of golf, laughter, and remembrance, alongside its Live and Silent Auction and Dinner. The event, born from a simple idea, “Hey, want to have a golf tournament?” began last year to

honour Larry Schesnuk, who lost his battle with pancreatic cancer in November 2024. What started as a casual suggestion quickly became a powerful homage, reflecting Larry’s deep-rooted passion for giving back to Redwater and those around him. The tournament, now in its second year has become a living legacy, propelled by the overwhelming generosity and enthusiasm of volunteers and supporters.

Last year, more than \$44,000 was

Continued on **page 2**

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Adam Corey
Age 27

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.

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Alberta government announces \$21 million investment



**By Brandie
Majeau**

In a decisive move to address the growing concerns around sexual violence, Alberta's Minister of Children and Family Services, Minister Searle Turton, has announced substantial new investments in the province's sexual assault centers and support services. The funding of over \$20 million is aimed at

expanding access, reducing wait times, and strengthening resources for survivors across Alberta.

At a rural media roundtable discussion on August 27, Minister Turton emphasized the critical need for immediate and sustained support for survivors of sexual assault. "Enough is enough," the Minister stated. This investment comes with the promise of "no Albertan left behind" as it works to increase

dialogue and continue to address the concern that 95% of assaults go unreported due to stigmatization of those turning a blind eye. The minister emphasized that this is a societal issue and people need to be more aware of what's happening around them.

The funding boost will be distributed among more than a dozen sexual assault centers province-wide, including key organizations in Edmonton, Calgary,

Lethbridge, and Red Deer. The centers provide a range of services including crisis intervention, counseling, legal advocacy, and educational programming. According to provincial data, demand for these services has surged in recent years, with some centers reporting wait times of several months for counseling support.

In addition to direct support services, the Alberta government looks to aid child advocacy groups and

support public education campaigns aimed at prevention and awareness. The government has also pledged to work closely with organizations that support the vulnerable, strengthening and re-focusing supports such as Family Resource Networks since these are often the first places families turn to.

Advocates have long called for more funding, citing the wide-reaching impacts of sexual violence and the need

for trauma-informed care. Recent statistics from Statistics Canada indicate that reported sexual assaults in Alberta have steadily increased over the past five years, underscoring the urgency of the new measures.

Minister Turton reaffirmed the government's commitment to ongoing consultation with survivors, front-line workers, and community organizations to ensure the effectiveness of these investments.

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raised for the Canadian Cancer Society, supporting pancreatic cancer research. This year, that profound support soared even higher, humbling family and friends with an incredible \$60,361.14 raised. The proceeds will be split: \$30,000 will establish a Trade Scholarship for Redwater High School students, a fitting tribute, as the family shared, "Dad was a tradesman and went to Redwater School."

They hope this scholarship will open doors and provide support for students entering the trades for at least the next decade. The remaining funds will be donated to Pancreatic Cancer North America.

Announcing the proceeds was a deeply moving and emotional moment. The kindness and commitment from the community were palpable, and the tournament itself was easy to rally behind because it carried Larry's name and legacy. His daughter Amy reflected, "I

didn't realize how many people knew and loved my dad." Around the table, conversations ebbed between laughter and introspection. Each story shared was a reminder that everyone has been touched by cancer in some way, that everyone has their own personal journey.

Though the Memorial Tournament began to keep Larry's memory alive, its impact has a rippling effect far beyond financial contributions. It has become a space for sharing personal journeys, a

reminder of the importance of early detection, and perhaps and most importantly, it is a reminder that no one is alone in their battles. The family expressed their awe and gratitude for the remarkable support during the first memorial tournament, with daughter Amanda recalling, "It was a bright spot in a lot of darkness after losing him."

Family and organizers extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone: volunteers, family, businesses near

and far, those who purchased tickets or placed bids, enjoyed the dinner, lent a helping hand, or swung a golf club. And not to name names and single anyone out, but Ray Hooper's live auctioneer performance really stole the show. All joking about Hooper aside, organizers reflected on the significance of everyone involved in the tournament, with the knowledge that it would be unattainable for it to be such a success without that support and dedication

and volunteer hours. It is impossible to thank everyone individually, but the Schesnuk Family's appreciation knows no bounds. Plans are already underway for next year's Larry Schesnuk Memorial Tournament. Organizers are exploring ways to grow the event, making it something the community anticipates, a tradition that sells out every year, and most importantly, a day that keeps the memory of Larry and his passion for generosity alive.

Smoky Lake RCMP Report



By Haylee Winger

The Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment responded to a variety of calls during the week of August 24, including reports of fraud, disturbances, traffic complaints and other incidents.

RCMP are investigating a \$6,000 fraud after money was taken from a victim's account.

Members conducted a wellbeing check on two boaters who had become stranded on the lake. The individuals were able to make it back to shore and all was fine.

RCMP also received a report of a female crying while walking on

Highway 28. A member located the female, who had been involved in an argument with her spouse. No violence occurred.

In the Village of Vilna, RCMP received reports of suspects breaking into vehicles. Patrols were conducted and video surveillance was reviewed. The investigation is ongoing.

Members attended a disturbance at Mon's Lake at approximately 3 a.m. A female was advised to go to bed, while another person left the scene.

RCMP also responded to a second disturbance at a campground later that same night. Members followed up with the campsite during the day and advised those involved

that this was their final warning. They were told that if police were called again, they would be evicted.

RCMP responded to a sudden death in the Village of Vilna.

At approximately 1:45 a.m., members were called about two people walking on the highway near the Village of Vilna. A member assisted a County Peace Officer with a traffic stop. Following the investigation, a traffic ticket was issued for misuse of a plate.

RCMP also assisted with a vehicle fire after fire services requested assistance. The member attended and the fire was extinguished. The owner had noticed an electrical fire smell, and a fire started

shortly afterward in the engine compartment. Nothing suspicious was identified.

A Town of Smoky Lake resident reported an intoxicated male outside her door who had knocked on the door and attempted to grab her. A member attended and located the subject intoxicated in the middle of the street. The male was arrested for public intoxication and transported to cells to be released when sober.

RCMP received a driving complaint involving an older vehicle with no plate and a possible impaired driver. A traffic stop was conducted, and a mandatory alcohol screening demand was read, with a "0" reading. The

driver was arrested for outstanding warrants from the Edmonton Police Service. The vehicle was towed and traffic tickets were issued for no insurance.

A driver fell asleep while travelling eastbound on Highway 28 near Range Road 162 and drove into the ditch. A male subject caused a disturbance at the Smoky Lake Street Fair before leaving the area.

RCMP also responded to a domestic/family dispute in the Town of Smoky Lake. The matter is an ongoing issue and numerous options have been provided to solve the issues.

Members attended a residence in the Town of Smoky Lake after reports that two family members were not welcome at the home. Members attended to keep the peace while

the individuals collected their belongings.

A County of Smoky Lake resident contacted RCMP about obtaining personal belongings from a residence. Members advised that the matter was civil, and the parties agreed to arrange a time for the belongings to be collected.

A Peace Officer at the Smoky Lake Hospital reported non-restricted/non-prohibited rifle ammunition in the parking lot of the Smoky Lake Hospital and requested that a member retrieve it. The member attended and disposed of the ammunition.

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

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www.theredwaterreview.com

The Review

Sturgeon County developing new emergency alert system



By Shelley Winger

Sturgeon County is preparing to launch a new localized emergency notification system this fall, giving residents another way to receive information during emergencies.

The Sturgeon County Emergency Alert program was developed

following recommendations from the after-action report on the 2025 Redwater Recreation Area wildfire. One of the recommendations was to increase the County's internal capacity for public notification. In March 2026, Council directed Administration to develop a localized public notification system.

"The Sturgeon County Emergency Alert

system was created to meet that need," said Karen Mann, Deputy Chief of Community Safety with Sturgeon County. The new system will complement, rather than replace, Alberta Emergency Alert (AEA), which will remain the County's primary system for notifying residents about imminent emergency events.

Unlike the provincial system, which can interrupt television and

radio broadcasts and send alerts to mobile devices in a geographical area without requiring residents to subscribe, the Sturgeon County system will rely on residents registering to receive notifications.

Residents who sign up will be able to choose how they receive alerts, including by text message, email, phone call to a landline or mobile device, or multiple methods.

The localized system will also allow the County to provide information directly to people affected by a specific emergency. That could include information about evacuation centres or specific supports available during an emergency.

When the system launches this fall, residents will be asked to provide their name, address and preferred

method or methods of contact.

They can also expect an annual maintenance message to confirm they still want to receive alerts.

Residents who want to be informed when the program launches can register through the Sturgeon County website at sturgeon-county.ca/community-safety/emergency-preparedness/sturgeonpns/.

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by PETER MARINACCI

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Aron and Chad's beautifully landscaped yard was selected as Redwater in Bloom's Yard of the Week. The property features a lush, neatly maintained lawn surrounded by colourful flower beds, planters and hanging baskets, creating a welcoming and vibrant display.
Town of Redwater photo



Employment Opportunities

The Town of Smoky Lake is currently accepting applications for two full-time positions within our Public Works Department.

PUBLIC WORKS WORKING FOREMAN
A hands-on supervisory position responsible for leading the day-to-day operations of the Public Works Department.

PUBLIC WORKS OPERATOR 2
An operational position supporting the delivery and maintenance of municipal infrastructure, including roads, water/wastewater and gas systems.

Full position descriptions, qualifications and application details are available at smokylake.ca.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Apply: hr@smokylake.ca



2026 General Municipal By-Election

Notice of By-Election and Requirement for Voter Identification

Local Authorities Election Act
(Sections 12, 35, 46, 53)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: TOWN OF SMOKY LAKE, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given that, a by-election will be held for the filling of the following offices:

Offices	Numbers of Vacancies
COUNCILLOR	1

INSTITUTIONAL VOTING (residents only)
will take place on the 21st day of September 2026
The voting stations will be located at:

- SMOKY LAKE SENIORS LODGE, BAR V NOOK MANOR**, 4524 52 AVE SMOKY LAKE, AB, T0A 3C0 between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
- SMOKY LAKE HEALTH CARE CENTER, AUXILIARY UNIT**, 4212 55 AVE SMOKY LAKE, AB, T0A 3C0 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

In order to vote you must produce for inspection one or more of the acceptable forms of identification required by section 53 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*:

- One piece of identification issued by a Canadian Government, whether federal, provincial or local, or an agency of that government, that contains a photograph of the person, for example your Alberta's Drivers License,
- One piece of identification authorized under the *Election Act* (s. 100(2)(b)) that establishes your name and current address of residence, for example a Utility Bill, a Bank Statement, a Property Tax Assessment, showing you full name and full physical address.

DATED at the TOWN of SMOKY LAKE, in the Province of Alberta, this 25th day of AUGUST, 2026.

Rod Hawken, Returning Officer

Donald "Don" William Zinnick

August 3, 1950 – August 25, 2026



Don William Zinnick, age 76 years, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at the Westlock Hospital on Tuesday, August 25, 2026. He was born in Edmonton, Alberta, to Frank and Anne Zinnick (née Bilaway). Don spent 42 years working at the Redwater Fertilizer Plant before his retirement in 2011. Outside of work, he was an avid outdoorsman who loved to fish, hunt and camp alongside his sons, family, and close friends. Always generous with his time and skills, Don was the first to offer his expertise, an extra set of hands or step in to help with any construction project or household task. His greatest joy, however, was spending time with his family, and he was lovingly known as Gedo to his grandchildren. Don is lovingly remembered by his wife of 54 years, Linda Zinnick (née Schneider); his children, Lee (Christine) Zinnick, Jamie (Hollie) Zinnick, and Ted (Allison) Zinnick; his sister, Donna and brother, Dale. He is also deeply missed

by his seven cherished grandchildren, Dorian, Ariel, Jasmine, Matthew, Calvin, Kianna, and Drew. His memory will also be cherished by his siblings- in-law, nieces, nephews, a large circle of close friends, extended family, and his former co-workers. He was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Anne. Don and his family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to everyone who reached out to contact or reconnect with him over his final weeks. He loved having those conversations with those he loved and cared about and it meant more to him than you can know. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Don's honour to the Bon AccordRescue K9 Society (BARKS Animal Rescue) online at helpbarks.ca or by mail to PO Box 162, Bon Accord, Alberta, T0A 0K0. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 1:00 pm, at the Bon Accord Community Hall, 4909 50 Avenue, Bon Accord, Alberta.

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

Celebration Of Life

In Loving Memory of Sandra L. Sauer

Please join us as we gather to celebrate Sandra's vibrant life and the memories she shared with family and friends.

September 19 • 3:00 PM
Redwater Pioneer Club 4916 – 50 Street, Redwater, Alberta.

Lunch and refreshments to follow. Your presence would be warmly welcomed as we come together to share stories and memories in Sandra's honour.





Village of Waskatenau, Alberta
Employment Opportunity
Full Time
Public Works Foreman

The Village of Waskatenau, Alberta is located approximately 100 km Northeast of Edmonton where Highways #28 and #831 intersect.

The municipality of the Village of Waskatenau is seeking a skilled, dedicated and self-motivated individual to fill a permanent full-time position in the Public Works Department. The successful candidate must be able to deal with both the staff and public in an effective and courteous manner while being judicious in the use of the Village's resources.

This challenging position will provide an opportunity for general experience in all areas of Municipal Public Works operations. The successful applicant must be willing to work towards becoming a **certified Small Systems Water and Wastewater** Operator. The Village may assist the right individual in training and education.

The position will be responsible for duties related to the efficient operation and maintenance of all Village facilities, roads, water, sewer, waste disposal, parks, vehicles and equipment. Duties will also include ensuring all aspects of the Village's operating licenses are met.

This competition will remain open until a suitable candidate has been selected.

Salary based on credentials and experience.

Resumes may be submitted to:

Bernice Macyk, Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Waskatenau
5008 – 51 Street, Box 99, Waskatenau, Alberta T0A 3P0
Ph/Fax: (780) 358-2208, e-mail: waskvillage@mcsnet.ca

We appreciate the interest of all applicants, but advise that only those selected for interview will be contacted.



2026 General Municipal By-Election

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Voter Identification
Local Authorities Election Act
(Sections 12, 35, 46, 53)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: TOWN OF SMOKY LAKE, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given that, a by-election will be held for the filling of the following offices:

Offices	Numbers of Vacancies
COUNCILLOR	1

Voting will take place on the 21st day of September, 2026, between
the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

The voting station will be located at Ortona Drop-in Centre (formally the Senior's Drop-in), 124 White Earth Street, Smoky Lake, Alberta, T0A 3C0

In order to vote you must produce for inspection one or more of the acceptable forms of identification required by section 53 of the Local Authorities Election Act:

- One piece of identification issued by a Canadian Government, whether federal, provincial or local, or an agency of that government, that contains a photograph of the person, for example your Alberta's Drivers License,
- One piece of identification authorized under the Election Act (s. 100(2)(b)) that establishes your name and current address of residence, for example a Utility Bill, a Bank Statement, a Property Tax Assessment, showing you full name and full physical address.

DATED at the TOWN of SMOKY LAKE, in the Province of Alberta, this 25th day of AUGUST 2026.

Rod Hawken, Returning Officer

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76.9 ACRES WITH 2 HOMES, BARN, TRIPLE GARAGE
Perfect horse set up or hobby farm for two families. Or rent out second house. The main house has a huge kitchen with built in appliances, pantry, and large island with granite counter top. Dining room has space for large table and sitting area, large primary bdrm with walk in closet and 4 pce ensuite, bedroom, 3 pce bath and den (could easily be 3rd bdrm by adding one wall), living room and closed in porch. Garden doors to covered deck and the house sits on a concrete grade beam. 2nd home has 2 bdrms, large open kitchen/living room, upgraded 3 pce bath, laundry, att'd single garage and storage room. Newer windows, drywall, vinyl plank flooring, metal roof, furnaces, and bathrooms in both houses. 40x30 garage is heated with wood stove and has new shingles. 40x24 Barn, corrals, round pen, 2 auto waterers, fenced pasture land, garden area, storage sheds, chicken coop, fruit trees. SW of Thorhild with less then 2 miles of gravel. **\$674,900. 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.**

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.**

NEW ACREAGE NEAR LONG LAKE
Perfect affordable home or use as a weekend getaway. Located north of Newbrook, on Highway 63, right across the road from the access to Long Lake Provincial Park. Natural forest surrounds a 3 bedroom manufactured home with an attached covered deck and carport. There is also a 32'x28' metal clad shop with back door opening onto a tarp shed for great storage of your boat or RV. There is also a couple of other tarp sheds and another metal clad shop. House features a large master bedroom with 2 pce ensuite at one end and 2 bedrooms and 4 pce bath at the other end for privacy. In the middle is a large kitchen and living room. Relax on the covered deck or sit around the firepit. Or visit the Golf course, beach, boating, ski hill, paint ball course which are all within 5 minutes of home. Owner is in the process of cleaning out the extra items on the property and should be cleared out in the next week or two. Great retirement home or weekend getaway with lots of recreational opportunities close by **\$250,000. Call Heather to view.**

THORHILD COMMERCIAL LOT
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.**

REDUCED TO \$149,900
YOUR DREAM BUILD AWAITS!
1.52 Acres of sloped land in the Hillsborough subdivision! Great opportunity to build a beautiful walk out home, with mature trees at the back of the property offering privacy from the neighbors. ON PAVEMENT all the way to Hwy 28, 10 mins from Gibbons and 30 mins from Edmonton. **\$149,900. Call Glenn for more info.**

REDUCED TO \$499,900
8.95 ACRES WITH UPDATED BUNGALOW, BARN AND GARAGE
Beautifully updated 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom bungalow on 8.95 acres in Thorhild County, less than one hour from Edmonton with only 1/2 mile of gravel road. Great hobby farm or horse set up with lovely hip roof barn with metal roof, chicken coop, 24'x20' metal clad shop, dug out, and plenty of room for future pasture land. This property has been almost completely remodelled in the past 6 months including all flooring, paint, bathrooms, kitchen cabinets, vinyl siding with styrofoam, complete basement development and new septic tank and discharge. Features open concept kitchen/living room, 5 pce bath and 2 bedrooms on main. Basement has two large bedrooms, family room, laundry room and 4 pce bathroom. Large back deck, patio doors to future front deck, beautiful white cabinets with black hardware, stainless steel appliances, vinyl plank flooring make this home show like new. **\$499,900. Call Heather to view.**

RADWAY COMMERCIAL LOTS
2 commercial lots on main street. **\$9,900** on the smaller lot and **\$13,900.** on the other lot. One large lot in west end of Radway. This one has water & sewer at the corner of the property. **\$29,900. Call Heather for more information.**

NEW GRAZING LEASE
This grazing lease is up by Long Lake Prov Park. This is crown land and we are selling the lease to graze approximately 5 cow/calf pairs for about 4 months. **\$15,000. Call Heather for more info.**

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IRP Approved Agent

Smoky Lake RCMP release

As harvest season approaches, the Smoky Lake RCMP is reminding farmers, farm families and motorists to use extra caution around agricultural machinery both on rural properties and on the road.

Harvest is a busy time for Alberta's agricultural communities, with tractors, combines, grain trucks and other large equipment travelling between fields, farms and roadways. This increased activity creates additional safety considerations for everyone sharing rural roads

and working around farm machinery.

For motorists:

- Farm equipment may travel much slower than regular traffic. Give operators plenty of space and time.
- Never make a hasty passing decision because you are frustrated or in a hurry.
- Large machinery may need to make wide turns or may move toward the centre of the road before turning.
- Be prepared for equipment entering the roadway, as tractors and other machinery may be moving between fields, approaches and farmyards.

- Take extra care at intersections and hills. Your view may be obstructed by large equipment or the surrounding landscape.
- If you're unsure whether it is safe to pass, wait until you have a clear and legal opportunity.

For farmers and farm families:

- Know where people are before operating equipment. Large machinery can have significant blind spots, making it difficult to see children, pedestrians or other workers.
- Seat belts, guards, lights and other safety features should

be used and maintained according to the equipment manufacturer's recommendations.

- Check brakes, tires, lights, warning devices and other equipment before operating or taking machinery onto public roads.
- Secure machinery when it is not in use and prevent children and others from accessing equipment or keys without supervision.
- Long harvest days can affect concentration and reaction time. Take breaks and avoid operating machinery when overly tired.

Walking a tightrope: Bank of Canada remains on hold

By Mark Parsons, ATB Economics

Key points

- Policy interest rate stays at 2.25%, as we expected.
- The Bank is walking a tightrope, balancing higher inflation from the war in Iran and weaker growth prospects from re-escalating U.S.-Canada trade tensions.
- We expect the Bank to remain on the sidelines for the rest of 2026.

No surprise this morning. The Bank remains in a 'wait-and-see' posture, keeping its policy interest rate at 2.25% for the seventh consecutive meeting.

The last time the Bank made a move was almost a year ago at the end of October 2025 when it lowered the policy rate by 25 basis points.

Inflation is too hot...

Inflation is the Bank of Canada's preoccupation, and it's still running too high at 3%—above the 2% target.

The big takeaway from this morning is the Bank's reference that "inflation pressures have increased," amid the escalating war in Iran and the U.S.-Canada trade conflict. That reads a touch hawkish to me.

The good news?

Underlying inflation (as measured by the Bank's core inflation metrics) has so far been cooperating. Indeed, core inflation is holding near 2%. According to the Bank, "so far, there has been little evidence of higher energy prices spreading to other components of inflation."

But the Bank is not resting easy (hence my emphasis on 'so far'). They are concerned that higher prices at the pumps could become generalized—and if that happens, they may need to lean against those inflationary forces with higher rates.

They also have a new pressure to confront—counter-tariffs, which in our estimation will add 0.2-0.3 percentage points to headline inflation. Providing a

temporary assist, reports are circulating that the Government of Canada is expected to announce an extension of its gasoline tax pause for the rest of the year.

...and the economy is too fragile in this 'fluid' environment...

The Canadian economy can't catch a break. Just as it was starting to find its legs, the trade war between Canada and the U.S. entered a new escalating chapter. The Bank calls the situation "fluid" and says that "new tariffs make growth prospects more uncertain."

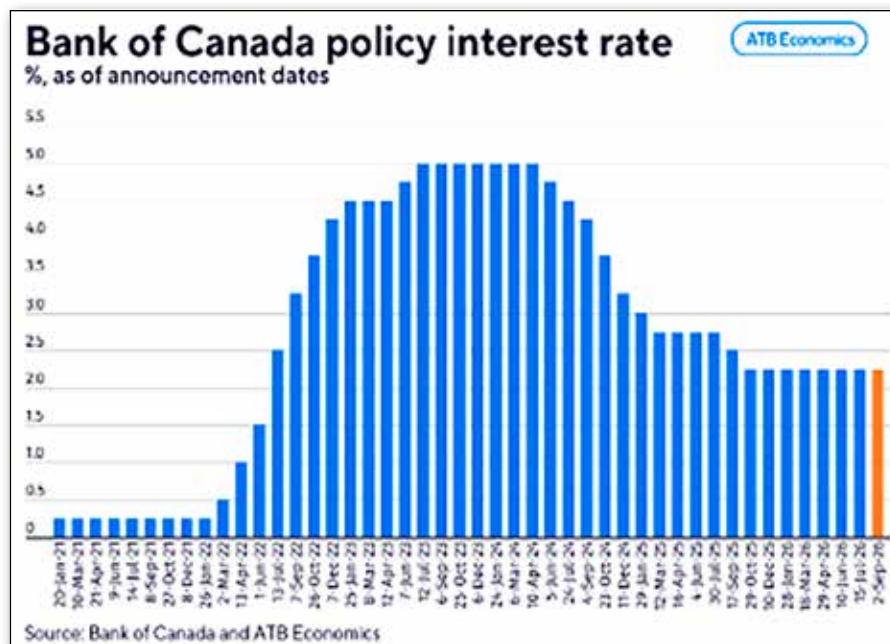
Last Friday's GDP report showed that the economy grew by 3.3% annualized in the second quarter, and upwardly revised the first

quarter result from a decline of 0.1% to an increase of 0.3%. That's better than expected.

The Bank, however, doesn't appear to be in a celebratory mood. Trade tensions are keeping Bank officials up at night. Or, in the language of the Bank: "uncertainty is high and new U.S. tariffs and threats of further action pose risks to the sustainability of the recovery."

With all the uncertainty, the Bank was most definitely pleased that the September announcement did not require them to publish a new slate of forecasts. But reading between the lines (and reading ATB's latest analysis, of course), growth is expected to slow significantly in

Continued on **page 7**



Sanitary service work affects section of 50 Street



By Haylee Winger

A section of 50 Street in Redwater was affected by construction beginning September 4 as Firma Contracting Inc. carried out a sanitary service installation at 5024 50 Street. The Town of Redwater issued a construction notice outlining a series of traffic changes during the work.

On Friday, September 4, the road was partially blocked with active traffic control in place, although through traffic was permitted.

From September 5 to September 7, the road was open to all traffic.

Beginning September 8, the road was scheduled to close to all through traffic and remain closed through September 11. Local traffic continued to have access from both the north and south sides of the construction area.

Detour signage was to be in place to direct motorists around the

affected area. Drivers were asked to follow all posted signage and directions while travelling near the construction zone.

No Parking signs were placed 24 hours in advance of the work. Residents and motorists were reminded to follow the posted parking restrictions.

The construction notice also provided information for residents regarding waste and recycling collection.

Residents whose waste or recycling is normally collected from the front of their homes were asked to clearly label their bins with their home address. Construction crews are coordinating with waste collection services and will ensure bins are returned to residents afterward.

The work is being carried out by Firma Contracting Inc. at 5024 50 Street.

Residents with questions about the construction can contact Aaron Cowey of Firma Contracting Inc. at 780-263-0675.



A construction zone on 50 Street as Firma Contracting Inc. carries out sanitary service installation work at 5024 50 Street. Traffic restrictions were scheduled in the area from September 4 through September 11, with the road closed to through traffic from September 8 to 11.

Photo courtesy of Firma Contracting Inc.

Continued from page 1

That team-first approach is part of what has Park excited about returning to Redwater. After a successful first season, he's looking forward to getting back together with the teammates and staff

who helped make the experience a positive one. "It means a lot. I can't wait to get back on the ice and put in the work," Park said. "I also can't wait to see the boys and the training staff. We have a good group of people at Redwater. I

can't wait to be back." With a Rookie of the Year season behind him and another year of experience ahead, Park will look to build on his strong start with the Rebels. For the young forward, the formula is pretty simple:

keep working, keep improving and help the Rebels chase the championship he wants. Jordan Park returns to the Redwater Rebels for the 2026-27 season after being named NJHL Rookie of the Year following an impressive first season.

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Finding the Right Balance for 2027

By Reeve Trevor
Dafoe, Thorhild
County

September marks the beginning of an important process for Thorhild County as work gets underway on the 2027 municipal budget.

When most people think about a municipal budget, they probably think about taxes and spending. Those are certainly important parts of it, but the discussion goes a lot deeper. The budget is where Council decides what services our municipality should provide, what level those services should be delivered at, what we need to invest in for the future, and ultimately how much residents and businesses can reasonably be asked to pay for.

The process starts with understanding where we are today. Administration develops a starting point

based on maintaining the services and service levels Council has already established. Even maintaining those services does not mean costs remain the same. Inflation, legislative changes, insurance and utility costs, equipment and material prices, maintenance needs, and changing demands can all affect what it costs to deliver the same services from one year to the next.

Administration's role is to identify those pressures and provide Council with the information needed to make informed decisions. Council's role is to determine where we go from there. Are the services we provide today still at the right level? Are there areas where residents expect more or where we could do less or work differently? What investments can no longer wait, and what can be deferred? Where and should we invest to support economic growth,

community safety, recreation, sustainability, or quality of life?

There are also larger capital decisions. Roads, bridges, buildings, vehicles, heavy equipment, and other major assets eventually need to be repaired or replaced. Council may also consider new investments that improve services, create efficiencies, reduce future costs, or create new opportunities for the County.

There is seldom enough money to do everything at once and each member of Council brings their own perspective to the table. Elected officials are informed by conversations with residents, community needs, and their own views about priorities. Ultimately, Council must find common ground and establish a path forward.

That is when the budget becomes much more than a spreadsheet. It becomes a

conversation about priorities and balance. The proposed budget will come before Council later this fall for detailed review and debate. We will weigh the value of services and investments against their costs and their impact on taxpayers. Some proposals will move forward; others may be changed, reduced, deferred, or removed. These decisions will help shape Thorhild County in 2027, and this is why we want residents to be part of the conversation. What services matter most

to you? Where should we be doing more, or perhaps less? Where should Council focus its investments? And for the services you expect, what are you willing to sustainably pay in taxes, service fees, and user fees?

Thorhild County will soon launch a budget survey to give residents an opportunity to share their views. I encourage you to participate. Your feedback will provide valuable information to Council as we work through the decisions ahead. At the end of the day,

municipal budgeting is about finding the right balance between services and affordability, assessing the true needs of today and what we vision for tomorrow, and the things we would like to do and the things we need to do.

Finally, with students returning to school, Council wishes our students, families, teachers, bus drivers, and school staff a safe and successful year. Please take a little extra care around school buses and help keep everyone safe.

Continued from page 6

the third quarter.

Our view is that, if contained to the announced measures, the macro impact of the U.S. tariffs and Canadian counter-tariffs is 'manageable', but will disproportionately hit certain sectors and regions. Overall, we think the new tariff measures will shave 0.4-0.5% off real GDP growth, with most of the impact felt in 2027.

The real risk, however, is an escalation of the trade war from here on in.

...keeping the
Bank of Canada
in a 'wait-and-

see' pause
position

The default position for the Bank in this highly uncertain environment is to stay on the sidelines, carefully track the ever-changing geopolitical situation and be prepared to hike or cut. We think that the Bank will stay on hold for the rest of the year. Our forecast still has two hikes next year, but that is conditional on tariff pressures easing.

In such a 'fluid' environment and with an economy still waiting to hit its stride, rate hikes will need to wait.

Even without
a BoFC rate

hike, financial
conditions have
tightened

According to the Bank, "financial conditions have tightened." This means that, even without adjustments to the short-term policy rate, the bond market is doing some tightening on its behalf.

Longer-term bond yields have shifted higher in recent weeks, particularly in the U.S. amid fiscal, inflation, and hyper-scaler demand pressures. Though not to the same extent, higher longer-term rates have also been felt in Canada.



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VILLAGE OF VILNA

NOTICE OF DRAFT LAND USE BYLAW OPEN HOUSE

The Village of Vilna is undertaking a **focused review and update** to the Village's current Land Use Bylaw. Alberta's Municipal Government Act requires all municipalities to have a Land Use Bylaw. A Land Use Bylaw establishes rules and regulations for land use and development as well as processes for making decisions on subdivision and development permit applications.

The Village of Vilna's current Land Use Bylaw is over 28 years old. Since it was adopted, new development pressures and trends have emerged throughout Alberta, and provincial legislation affecting municipal planning and development has been amended several times by the Government of Alberta.

Village Administration and Council reviewed the current Land Use Bylaw and make proposed changes to address provincial requirements, current land use and development pressures, and policies in existing Village plans and bylaws.

A draft Land Use Bylaw has been prepared and is ready to share with the community so that Village residents' feedback can be carefully considered. The draft Land Use Bylaw is available on the Village's website: www.vilna.ca.

The next step in this project is to **invite community members** to attend **adrop-in open house** to learn more about the draft Land Use Bylaw.

Date and Time: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 (drop-in style, come any time between 5:30PM to 7:30 PM)

Location: Village of Vilna Office (5135 – 50 Street)

At the online information session, community members will have the opportunity to learn more about the draft Land Use Bylaw through viewing information posters and talking with the project team. As this will be an informal, drop-in open house, there will not be a scheduled presentation. All feedback provided by community members will be shared with Council. To find out more, contact:

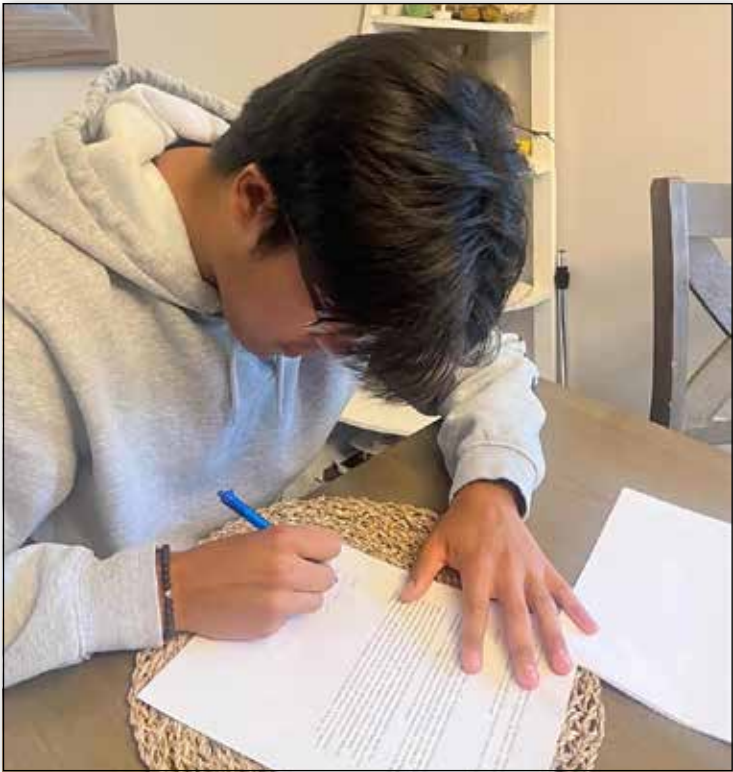
Loni Leslie, CAO Village of Vilna vilna@mcsnet.ca 780-636-3620	Brad MacDonald, Planner Municipal Planning Services b.macdonald@munplan.ab.ca 780-953-3359
---	---

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Redwater Rebels forward Aidan Voyageur signs his contract to return to the team for his third season. Voyageur recorded six goals and 12 assists in 48 games over his first two seasons with the Rebels. **Redwater Rebels photo**



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LARRY SCHESNUK
MEMORIAL**

Thank You!

Dear Friends, Supporters, Volunteers, Sponsors, and Participants,

Our family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the Larry Schesnuk Memorial Fundraiser.

First and foremost, we offer our sincere gratitude to the organizing committee. Their commitment, generosity and countless hours of hard work made this event possible. We simply cannot thank them enough for their dedication and support.

To our sponsors, donors, and all those who generously contributed items for the live and silent auctions, thank you. Your support added tremendous value to the event and demonstrated the incredible generosity of our community.

We are proud and humbled to announce that, together, we raised \$60,361.14 – what an incredible accomplishment! From the proceeds, we will be donating \$30,361.14 to the Canadian Cancer Society in support of pancreatic cancer research, in memory of Larry.

Additionally, with the remaining proceeds, we are honoured to establish the Larry Schesnuk Memorial Trades Scholarship for graduating students of Redwater High School. Two qualifying students will receive this award annually over the coming years, creating a lasting legacy that reflects Larry's belief in hard work, community and helping others succeed.

To everyone who golfed, attended the dinner, bid in the auctions, volunteered, or made a donation, thank you for helping us celebrate Larry's life and memory. Your participation made the day truly special, filled with laughter, connection, community spirit, and celebration.

We would also like to recognize the amazing volunteers who gave their time and energy to help make the day a success. Your efforts behind the scenes ensured the day ran smoothly and that everyone felt welcome and well cared for. Your dedication did not go unnoticed, and we are truly grateful.

Larry was someone who brought people together, and this event was a powerful reflection of his spirit. Whether you donated, purchased items, played in the golf tournament, attended dinner, or volunteered, you helped create a lasting tribute that we will always remember.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your generosity, kindness and support. Your contributions have honoured Larry's memory while helping advance pancreatic cancer research and support the future success of local students. We hope to see you all again next year!

With Much Gratitude,
The Schesnuk Family



SEPTEMBER 2026

GRAPEVINE

Scheduled Meetings

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

County Departmental Meeting
September 10, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Regular County Council Meeting
September 17, 2026 @ 9:00 AM
November 26, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Organizational Meeting followed by
Regular County Council Meeting
October 22, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

A Public Question Period is held
during each Regular Council Meeting
from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Smoky Lake County
Main and Public Works
Offices will be
CLOSED
September 7, 2026
for Labour Day
and
September 30, 2026
for National Day of
Truth and
Reconciliation

DECLARATION OF A MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER



At a Special Council Meeting held on August 11, 2026, Smoky Lake County Council unanimously voted to declare a Municipal Agricultural Disaster in response to the ongoing excess moisture and extremely saturated conditions impacting the region.

A municipal declaration does not automatically provide financial assistance to producers or create a relief program. Rather, it is intended to formally recognize the significant challenges local agricultural producers are experiencing and are expected to continue facing in the weeks and months ahead.

The declaration also emphasizes the vital role agriculture plays in Smoky Lake County, Alberta and the broader Canadian and global food supply chain.

As part of the declaration, Smoky Lake County will send letters to the Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food outlining the current conditions and advocating for support and assistance for the local agricultural community.

Smoky Lake County recognizes that prolonged adverse conditions can place significant financial, emotional and mental strain on farmers and ranchers. You do not have to face these challenges alone. If you or someone you know is struggling, please reach out for support.

- National Farmer Crisis Line: 1-866-327-6701 (1-866-FARMS01)
- Suicide Crisis Help Line: Call or text: 9-8-8
- Do More Agriculture Foundation: www.domore.ag

Scholarship Opportunities

Looking for funding for your education?

Explore scholarship opportunities available through organizations that work with Smoky Lake County.

www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/scholarships

PROPERTY TAXES DUE

Deadline to pay property taxes without penalty is October 31, 2026.

A 12% penalty will be applied to current taxes with an unpaid balance of \$10 or more on November 1 each year.



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www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/proclamations

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Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Public Works Shop
Box 310
5004-50 Street
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Review

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Dancing in the streets...

By Brandie Majeau

Smoky Lake's downtown was filled with excitement on August 27 as the annual Smoky Lake Street Fair and Community Showcase brought together residents, local organizations, and visitors for an evening that celebrated both community and cultural diversity.

Organized through a partnership between Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and the Smoky Lake Chamber of Commerce, the event transformed downtown main street into a whirlwind of fun and friends and family and neighbours. Attendees were greeted with fresh food, sweet treats, and the melodious sounds

Smoky Lake FCSS photos

of local musicians. The evening was a great way for guests to browse local merchants and receive information to access resources within the community.

This was cleverly referred to as the Community Showcase and was coordinated by the FCSS Interagency. This feature provided a unique opportunity for the region's interagency partners to come together and spotlight the numerous services and supports on offer. With 22 tables set up along the street, the fair hosted a wide range of local clubs that included Rural Crime Watch, Crime

on Patrol, Curling Club, and the Lion's Club, as well as social service organizations such as the Dragonfly Centre, Healthy Families, Healthy Futures, and the Smoky Lake Library.

Smoky Lake's Street Fair emphasizes the core value that everyone is equal and everyone brings with them a great wealth of knowledge and culture. Rather than differences dividing the community, the fair's foundation is built on the belief that diversity strengthens Smoky Lake and builds upon what residents (old and new) can put forward, often providing

fresh perspectives and unique experiences.

"We are extremely grateful to all our partners for their ongoing commitment to creating a strong and welcoming community," organizers shared. There is a thanks to everyone who took the time to check things out and celebrate what is Smoky Lake.

The Smoky Lake Street Fair and Community Showcase is becoming a much-anticipated annual event, reinforcing connections among residents and introducing newcomers to the many opportunities the town has to offer.

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Scan the QR Code or go to the BRFN website to see guidelines and to download the application or email trust@brfn.ca for info.

Deadline: 4:00pm September 18, 2026

To Apply, Submit Completed Forms By Email: trust@brfn.ca;

Or Drop Off Forms to the Big River First Nation Administration Centre;

Or Mail to Box 519 Debden, Saskatchewan, S0J0S0
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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Evacuation alerts and evacuation orders

By Dave McRae, Mayor of Redwater

When emergencies happen, there is often little time to prepare or to act. As severe weather events and hazardous material occurrences occur, we understand more and more why we need to be ready should the order come to flee. Sometimes there just isn't any forewarning or preparation time. Here are some ideas and options that will help you get ready if need be.

First, we need to know the terminology that is used to tell us what is happening. It

is straight forward but sometimes misunderstood or miscommunicated. The first is an "EVACUATIONALERT." This is the first level of notification and will give you important details of WHY, WHERE, and WHAT. WHEN is interpreted as being NOW and the HOW will include precautionary preparations IN CASE an Order is given. If you don't have an Emergency Preparedness Kit or Plan, I would suggest you visit the Sturgeon Regional Emergency Management Partnership (SREMP) website (<https://www.srem.ca/get-prepared>) or

the Alberta Emergency Management Agency website (<https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness>) to top up your knowledge and readiness.

Should the situation escalate the next step for public notification is an "EVACUATION ORDER." Basically, this is your advice that the situation is neither safe nor controllable and your personal safety is at risk. This is the time to collect that kit and implement your plan for personal safety. The order will give explicit details about HOW you should travel, WHERE to go to and the importance of registering at

a reception center. It is important to understand that there will be many hardships ahead of you and most will be small in relation to the big picture but impactful to your health and wellbeing. An example of this is the frustration you will have when the local cell service is overloaded and crashes while you are trying to pay for fuel with a debit card.

Remember The Only Accurate Information You Will Get During This Event Is From Either Alberta Emergency Management Agency Or The Jurisdiction Issuing The Order.

Alberta RCMP provides traffic safety tips for back-to-school season

The Alberta RCMP is reminding parents, guardians, students, and motorists to take extra precautions to help keep everyone safe on Alberta roads.

Parents/guardians and students:

- Brightly coloured clothing can help make students more visible when weather conditions or time of day reduce visibility.
- Teach your child to look in all directions before crossing the street, cross only at designated crosswalks, and make eye contact with drivers before stepping onto the road.
- Remind your child to never run after a school bus. Bus drivers and motorists may not see them enter the roadway.

- Show your child a safe route to walk or bike to school. Walk the route with them at least once to identify potential hazards, use crosswalks safely, and obey traffic control devices.
- If your child takes the school bus, ensure they understand the traffic hazards that may be present near the bus stop and where they can wait safely.
- If meeting your child at the bus stop after school, wait at the designated stop rather than nearby. Children may forget traffic safety rules and cross the road without checking for traffic.
- Texting, using a mobile device, or listening to music with headphones while walking can

be distracting and make it harder to notice traffic hazards.

Drivers:

- Watch carefully for children walking to and from school when entering or exiting your driveway or garage.
- Be mindful that it may be difficult to see pedestrians during dark mornings and evenings.
- Remember that it is illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing. Drivers traveling in both directions must stop and remain stopped until red lights are turned off.
- Slow down in school zones and be particularly alert for students during school hours, especially during drop-off and

pick-up times.

- Never assume pedestrians can see you. Make eye contact whenever possible before turning or proceeding through a crosswalk.

"The start of the school year brings more children onto our roads, sidewalks, and crosswalks, often during darker morning and evening hours," says Sgt. Darrin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic Services. "Whether driving through a school zone, approaching a bus stop, or backing out of your driveway, take a few extra seconds to ensure no students are in your path. Let's ensure students make it home safely." For more traffic safety information, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta.

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Review

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