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EDSON'S INDEPENDENT, AWARD WINNING LOCAL NEWSPAPER

he Weekly

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> The Weekly Anchor VOL. 34, NO. 50

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

Maple BBQ & Bacor



SHOP LOCAL **GIFT IDEAS** see page 11

i'm lovin' it

by Niki Luymes

Chamber of Commerce Santa parking lot by the Skate Park on Carols' so every float could pick Claus Parade on December 1.

Adults and children from The parade began at 6pm Annual Edson and District parking lot and ending at the theme open as 'Christmas

6th Ave.

Edson and the surrounding area starting at the Parkland floats including various fire Chamber. gathered to watch the 37th Composite High School trucks and RCMP cars. "We left

a song and decorate to that," said This year there was over 60 Kathy Arndt, Manager at the

This flexible theme allowed

continued page 2

TOWN

Town considers extreme cold weather trailer after closure of Shelter Pods...

see page 4

COMMENT

Enjoy the holiday season safely...

see page 6



Santa rode atop a vintage fire truck during the 37th Annual Edson and District Chamber of Commerce Santa Claus Parade on December 1. photo Niki Luymes



DELIVERY







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37th Annual Santa Claus Parade

continued from front

the floats to have fun with their decorations. From 'Away in a Manger' to 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' the variety was a joy to see. Some floats were built up on massive trucks and some were wagons with people on foot. Santa himself rode atop a vintage fire truck in the final float signaling the end of the procession.

There were six different categories of awards for the floats. "Our float winners for this year really outdid themselves. It was a tough job for the judges as we had many outstanding floats this year! A big thank you our judges Bogusha Pomerenke -Chamber Treasurer and Greg Pasychny -Town Councillor," added Arndt.

The Best Youth float went to the 4-H

Clubs. The Most Original went to Country Boyz Oilfield Services Ltd. The Most Colourful to went to Surepoint. The Top Commercial float went to Brian Janish ENT. The Top Retail went to the Popped Cork. And finally the Best Non-Profit went to the Edson Food Bank.

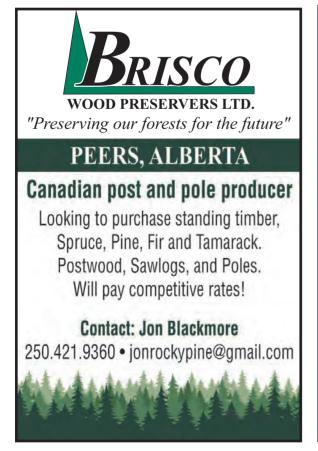
This year the weather cooperated so that crowds of people could venture out and enjoy the event. "I think the weather played a really big part in it. And then the community, after what we've got through this year with wildfire evacuations and floods. I think the community just really wanted to get together and have some fun; some good old family fun," said Ardnt.



The award for Most Original Float went to Country Boyz Oilfield Services Ltd for their Santa's Diner float. photo Niki Luymes



The Popped Cork with their massive tractor-pulled float won Top Retail Float during the Chamber's Santa Claus Parade on December 1. photo Niki Luymes



Wildfire Update

Conditions are currently right for a wildfire and the risk could be present year-round depending on weather conditions and snow levels.

A b o v e s e a s o n a l temperatures and the lack of precipitation for the past month have driven our fire danger to MODERATE in the forest area.

This means that a fire can easily ignite where there is exposed dead or dry vegetation since there's no snow cover to prevent the spread. It would also have the potential to climb into the trees.

If you see smoke or flame in the forest, report it to 310-FIRE.



The Edson Food Bank won the award for Best Non-Profit float at the Chamber's Santa Claus Parade on December 1. Photo Niki Luymes



The Yellowhead County Fire Department's colourful fire truck float led the procession at the 37th Annual Edson Chamber Santa Claus Parade. photo Niki Luymes



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5040—6 Ave., Edson, AB T7E 1T8 (P.O. Box 6358) - Fax:780.723.2021



Town considers extreme cold weather trailer after closure of Shelter Pods

by Niki Luymes

During the Town of Edson Council meeting on December 5, Council discussed the implementation of an emergency cold shelter for Edson's unhoused population. The proposed plan is called the Extreme Cold Weather Emergency Cover Protocol.

This new plan has been put forward since the closure of the Shelter Pods at the Edson and District Recycling Centre (EDRS).

The five Shelter Pods opened at the site in 2021. This was a two year pilot program that the Edson Friendship Centre Housing Plus+ Program had collaborated with the EDRS to develop. There was also significant collaboration with Reflections Edson, Alberta Health Services, the Town of Edson, and local RCMP.

EDRS stated online that they were, "saddened to hear of the recent passing of two young people who were patrons of the Shelter Pods". The EDRS added, "At this time, the development permit to operate at our facility has lapsed, without which, the Board cannot allow operation of the pods. As always, the health and safety of our employees and the public using the Recycling Depot facilities is our primary focus."

This closure has left the vulnerable population in the Edson area with no overnight extreme cold weather option. Although programs and warm spaces are provided by various social support agencies during the day, there are currently no facilities available for unhoused individuals to escape extreme temperatures at night.

The proposed protocol states that a heated trailer will act as a warming location for those in need of a place to escape the elements. There will be access to a secure bathroom located on-site with an external entry. It will provide rudimentary cover when temperatures are forecast to drop below -25°C (including wind chill) and is assigned no other purpose (lodging etc). This unit will be in place through the winter months as an emergency measure until a suitable alternative is available.

While Council has not decided yet on a location or hours of operation for the trailer, Griffith Park was proposed. Council is also deciding on what form of supervision onsite will be needed.

"I just want to add some clarity to this," said Doug Wagstaff, General Manager, Community and Protective Services. "Just what this is not. It's not an operation of the pods, or anything similar to the pods that were previously operated here in the Town of Edson. It's not a homeless shelter, it's not lodging. It is not normal operations. What we are proposing is a temporary pop-up that would be totally portable. Not a permanent solution, and one that could be easily mobilized, easily deconstructed, and it would not be open unless the protocol with -25°C, including the windchill, has triggered it. It will remain closed at

all other times."

The projected two month operating cost for the proposed emergency cold shelter is \$30,000.

Administration exhausted several possibilities and recognized that there is not a perfect solution at this time. Until a suitable alternative has been provided by external agencies, the Town will likely require an emergency response be implemented in the event of extreme cold weather.

Councillor Greg Pasychny began the discussion by asking about a previous cold shelter trailer at the Edson Airport that was used before the Shelter Pods were implemented. "What was the usage at that time? How many people do we understand used it? Do we have numbers on that?"

Wagstaff replied, "I've been told it was low use". He stated that there had been no hard data collected, only anecdotal information.

Councillor Krystal Baier agreed with that assessment, stating, "It was low. It was really out of the way from where they would normally have their services, putting them in a vulnerable situation as well."

Councillor Peter Taylor said, "The primary goal when I look at this is no one gets hurt, no one dies. That must be the primary goal when looking at this. I don't care who you are in our community, you're valued. I hear some pretty vicious stuff, maybe from some residents online, that vulnerable individuals that are unhoused, have a different value. And that's incorrect. I'm sorry, but I don't share that value. The secondary goal of this is safety. Whether you are housed, or unhoused, whether that safety is real or perceived. So we need to create this so that both those goals are met."

Taylor and several other council members indicated that the proposed location of Griffith Park was an issue for them, with it being so close to a school. The consideration of Griffiths Park as a location has been removed and Administration will seek alternative locations for Council to decide.

During the discussions, there were also concerns raised about staffing the shelter. Town of Edson staff are not trained or equipped to handle situations that may arise at an emergency cold shelter, and professional services may be needed.

Councillor Ed Moore asked about the size of the proposed emergency shelter. "What would be the capacity of this trailer? Do we know how many people it can hold at any one time?"

"We would still need to received a fire code piece on it, but we're estimating about 20 individuals. Because it's not a lodging facility, it's not a sleeping facility. It is, for lack of any other description, a large bus shelter. It is a trailer that will be kept at a temperature that will sustain life so that they won't freeze in the cold," answered Wagstaff.

Councillor Baier stated that there is another group looking to step up to operate the shelter, but they are currently unable to due to funding

issues. However, a grant from the province may be available.

Councillors Taylor and Greg Pasychny both suggested Administration could look at utilizing the Shelter Pods only as an Emergency Cold Shelter when temperatures fell below -25, as the infrastructure was already in place. "The reason why the Shelter Pods closed is because the Recycling Society did not renew that agreement. So, for us to probably open in that location, we would need

an agreement with them. It wasn't the town that closed them, it was the Recycle Society's agreement that ended that," said Taylor.

At the end of the discussion it was decided to postpone further decisions for a Special Meeting that will be held on December 12, 2023 at 8pm. This will give Administration a chance to gather more information.

(with files from Dana McArthur)

Reflections Chair offers clarifications regarding Shelter Pods

by Dana McArthur

The Weekly Anchor asked for clarification from Reflections regarding the Shelter Pods. Debbie Bezaire, Chairperson for Reflections, responded, "The EDRS has a long-term lease agreement with the Town of Edson for the area where the pods were to be built. As a result, the EDRS needed to apply for a development permit (change of use) and building permit. This was a long process since a project such as the planned Pod facility had never been developed in Alberta."

"A two-year development permit and building permit were issued. Construction started in January 2021. The pods officially opened in June 2021. The pods were open 7 days per week, 365 days per year from day one —this has never changed. The Pods were designed as a permanent shelter not a cold weather shelter," Bezaire added.

"In December 2021 the question came up as to who was covering the liability insurance for the project. It was discovered that the EDRS had building coverage for the project, the Friendship Center had coverage for the volunteers, but no one had liability coverage. The EDRS decided to close the pods until someone stepped forward to cover the liability insurance. The EDRS approached the friendship center. They replied with an emphatic "no". Reflections knew how crucial this project was for their clients and agreed to take over the operations of the pods and acquired liability insurance. A usage agreement between the Town and EDRS plus an agreement between the EDRS and Reflections was developed and signed," Bezaire said.

"From this point on paid staff made sure clients left the pods by 9am every morning, cleaned/sanitized the Pods, hired security staff 40 hours per week and allocated the pods every day. The only change Reflections made was to how pods were allocated. Previously, Pods were allocated via a intercom system at 8pm every night, first come first served. Upon input from the EDRS this was changed. Pod users started to line up at the Depot as early as 3pm, this was disruptive to the residents using the depot. Therefore, Reflections allocated the Pods at 5:30pm every day at their office and

allowed Pod users to go to the Pods at 6:00pm. This was a very good adjustment for all involved," said Bezaire.

"The summer of 2023 was a very difficult summer for the homeless population. There were several overdoses and near incidents in the Town and County as a whole. In fact, there were two such deaths that occurred at the Pods. These deaths could have happened anywhere in the community. A number did occur in other areas of the Town," Bezaire said

"The EDRS, Reflections, and the Town of Edson Administration had a meeting in early September. The Town informed the group that in fact the development (change of use) permit was for only a two-year period ending in December 2022. This was a shock to the both the EDRS and Reflections. The Pods could not be legally open without that permit," Bezaire stated.

"The EDRS could have applied, but there was little chance it would be successful. As a result, the EDRS board decided to cancel the current operating agreement they had with Reflections for the Pods," said Bezaire.

"Public and safety concerns were an ongoing concern for Reflections. The operation of the pods was constantly being monitored and improving. Additional cameras, monitoring, and security systems had been added. Some simple operational protocols were also being considered," Bezaire said.

"The Pod program was never designed to be the perfect, end-all solution for homelessness in Edson and Yellowhead County. It was created to be only one small piece of the puzzle. Reflections recognized that the Pods were only an emergency, short term solution. There were even some clients that couldn't meet the low standard for staving at the Pods. There needed to be a MAT [Medication-Assisted Treatment] program with a higher level of supervision, a transitional housing option, and more of a permanent housing. Currently there is no rental or transitional options for the homeless in our community. It [Pod Shelter] was designed to provide a warm, dry, secure option for those that need a place to stay," Bezaire concluded.



TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2023

Town of Edson
Office Hours:
Monday to Friday
8am to 4pm
(Closed Stat Holidays)

9-8-8 number for mental health and suicide prevention

A new three-digit number, 9-8-8, has been implemented across Canada, for mental health and suicide prevention services. You will be able to call or text 9-8-8 from anywhere in Canada for free and will be directed to the appropriate mental health crisis or suicide prevention service in your area.



In the face of increased demand for crisis services, 9-8-8 will provide:

- · A number that's easy to remember in a crisis situation.
- Support in English and in French, by phone and text.
- · Quick access to support from trained responders, available 24/7/365.
- \cdot High quality, evidence-based, equitable suicide prevention and crisis support for everyone in Canada.

Who is behind 9-8-8?

In 2021, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) began a public consultation to determine if Canada should have a three-digit service for suicide prevention. In 2022, they issued their decision, adopting 9-8-8 as the number. This is the same number already in use in the United States.

The number went into service on November 30th, 2023.



REQUEST FOR TENDER

TR-2024-001 Petroleum Products

Interested parties should view the bid documents at www.edson.ca/tenders and/or www.purchasingconnection.ca.

Closing Date/Time – Thursday December 14,2023 at 2:00pm (Alberta Time) Email Submissions attention to: Ryan O'Sullivan

Email: ryano@edson.ca

TR-2024-002 Material Supplier

Interested parties should view the bid documents at www.edson.ca/tenders and/or www.purchasingconnection.ca

Closing Date/Time – Thursday December 14, 2023 at 2:00pm (Alberta Time) Email Submissions attention to: Ryan O'Sullivan

Email: ryano@edson.ca



Holiday Pool Schedule



Closed December 24th, 25th, 26th & January 1st

Saturday December 23	Wednesday December 27	Thursday December 28	Friday December 29	Sat. & Sun. December 30 & 31
9:30 – 11:15am		9:30 – 11:15am		
Private Rental 11:30 – 12:30pm		Private Rental 11:30 – 12:30pm		
Public Swim		Public Swim		
12:30 – 2:30pm		12:30 – 2:30pm		
3:15 – 5:15pm		3:15 - 5:15pm		
Lane & Lagoon Swim Membership Required 5:30 – 6:30pm		Lane & Lagoon Swim Membership Required 5:30 – 6:30pm		

Tuesday January 2	Wednesday January 3	Thursday January 4	Friday January 5	Sat. & Sun January 6 & 7 Lane & Lagoon Swim 9:30 – 11:15am Swim Club 1 lane	
	Lane Swim Membership Required 6 – 8:30am		Lane Swim Membership Required 6 – 8:30am		
	Public Swim 9 – 10:30am		Public Swim 9 – 10:30am	9:45 - 11:15am	
	Private Rental 11:30 – 12:30pm				
	Public Swim 12:30 – 2:30pm				
Public Swim 4:45 – 6:30pm				3:15 – 5:15pm	
Lane & Lagoon Swim 6:45 – 7:45pm	Aqua Fit 6:45 – 7:45pm	Lane & Lagoon Swim 6:45 – 7:45pm	Aqua Fit 6:45 – 7:45pm	Lane & Lagoon Swim Membership Required 5:30 – 6:30pm	

The sauna is open during Lane & Public Swim times

Sponsored swims: December 30th, 31st and January 5th. Check our website or Facebook page for details.

Pool Schedule is subject to change. For the most up to date information check our Facebook page "Edson & District Leisure Centre", website www.edson/lc.ca or call 780-723-7665



Holiday Pool Schedule



We accept cash & Debit only	Single Admission	10 Admission Membership	20 Admission Membership	3 month Membership	6 month Membership	1 year Membership
Infants (Under 2)	Free					
Preschool (2 - 7)	\$1.50	\$13.50	\$27.00	\$22.50	\$42.00	\$67.50
Child (8-10)	\$2.75	\$24.75	\$49.75	\$37.00	\$74.00	\$133.00
Student (11-17)	\$4.25	\$38.25	\$72.25	\$63.75	\$119.00	\$191.25
Adult (18-59)	\$6.00	\$54.00	\$108.00	\$99.00	\$198.00	\$357.00
Senior (60+)	\$4.25	\$38.25	\$72.25	\$63.75	\$119.00	\$191.25
Family (immediate)	\$12.00			\$191.25	\$357.00	\$573.75



Private Pool Rentals

Saturdays & Sundays 11:30 - 12:30pm 1 hr. Pool Time \$85 1-hour Party Room \$21

Water Walkway \$25 All of the above \$131

Are you having over 35 people? \$25

We also rent the Party Room during Public Swim times.

Call Guest Services to book today! 780-723-7665 Ext. 1

All children under 8 must be accompanied by a responsible person 13 yrs. + at a ratio of <u>1 Adult: 5 children</u>



Private Swimming Lessons

Registration opens the last

Wednesday of each month @ 6PM

Pool Schedule is subject to change. For the most up to date information check our Facebook page

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Recent Development Permits approved by the Development Authority, under the Town of Edson Land Use Bylaw 2070 as amended, can be found at www.edson.ca/departments/planning/development-permit-applications. Additional information can be requested from the Planning Department at 780-723-4402 or engineeringandplanning@edson.ca.

Any person who is deemed to be affected by the issuance of any one of these permits may appeal to the Subdivision and Development Authority by 4:00 p.m., on the 21st day after the date of issue as published on the Town's website. On Permitted Uses, grounds for appeal must relate only to interpretation, variance, or relaxation of Land Use Bylaw 2070. On Discretionary Uses, all aspects of the proposed development may be challenged upon appeal. Written notice of appeal, accompanied by the appeal fee as established by Town Council, must be filed through the Office of the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board at Box 6300, Edson, AB T7E 1T7. Direct Control District Approvals cannot be appealed.



www.edson.ca



Comment

ADVERTISE



Enjoy the holiday season safely

The Alberta RCMP asks motorists to remember the following:



Driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs is never okay. Impaired driving is both criminal and dangerous.

Mandatory Alcohol Screening is used by Alberta RCMP to deter and detect impaired drivers. If you are pulled over or at a check stop, you can expect to provide a breath sample.

Individuals with a Graduated Driver's Licence must abide by the zero-tolerance law (Government of Alberta, 2023).

Impaired driving is always preventable and can always be avoided. Call a taxi or rideshare service, use a designated driver, or stay the night.

If you are attending a party and have consumed drugs or alcohol,

do not drive. Find a safe ride home, or a safe place to spend the night.

Party hosts aren't

off the hook. If your guest have been drinking or using drugs, make sure they have a safe place to stay, or a sober ride home.

Call 911 immediately if you witness or suspect impaired driving.

This December, and always, remember to enjoy the holidays responsibly. If you are attending a party, make sure you have a sober ride home, or a safe place to spend the night.

Last year, RCMP in Alberta responded to 233 fatal collisions, of which approximately 25% involved alcohol or drugs. Alberta RCMP also removed 7,573 impaired drivers from Alberta roadways, that's the equivalent of more than 20 impaired drivers per day.



Parkland Lodge Christmas Tea, Silent Auction and 50/50 had a good turnout. With three door prizes, silent auction articles, and the visitors for the tea it kept the Auxiliary busy. The door prizes were donated by The Town of Edson, MLA office Martin Long, and MP office Gerald Soroka. The 50/50 draw had a total of \$475 with the pot split between the winner and the Auxiliary. Total funds raised were \$783.50. Thanks went to all the participants and lodge staff for making it a success. submitted

The Weekly Anchor

Your Local

All claims of errors in adventisements must be received in willing by the publisher within 5 days after the first publication. The Anchor is responsible to supply one ad proof upon customer request. Ack approved by the advertiser or agent absolves the Anchor of any liability for errors. Any other errors or failure to print is limited to the cost of the space where the error coursel within the ad-

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Published by: 422247 Alberta Ltd.
5010 3rd Ave., Edson Alberta - Box 6870, T7E 1V2

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE Bethel Pentecostal Church is hosting a

Church is hosting a service for those to whom Christmas is difficult this year for whatever reason.

December 17 at 10:30am 6350 13 Ave, Edson

Please come out and join us in this special service.

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Support the local businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.

Local Journalism ADVERTISE

Edson RCMP Occurrences

Nov 20-26, 2023: Theft calls topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences at 10. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 0; Alarms/False Alarms 2; Animal Calls 2; Assault 3; Cause Disturbance 6; Fail to Comply with Conditions 1; False/Abandoned 911 Call 2; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Fraud 4, Harassment/Criminal Harassment 3; Lost or found property; 3, Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 0; Information File 2; Mental Health Act 4; Mischief or Damage 6; Municipal Bylaws 1; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 4; Recovered Stolen Property 0; Sudden Death 0; Suspicious persons 12; Traffic violations 5; Traffic Complaints 10; Trespassing 1; Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; Wellbeing Check 1.

<u>Nov 27-Dec 3, 2023:</u> Theft calls topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences at 14. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 3; Alarms/False Alarms 2; Animal Calls 2; Assault 2; Cause Disturbance 4; Fail to Comply with Conditions 0; False/Abandoned 911 Call 4; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Fraud 1, Harassment/Criminal Harassment 2; Lost or found property; 4, Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 1; Information File 1; Mental Health Act 1; Mischief or Damage 6; Municipal Bylaws 1; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 0; Recovered Stolen Property 0; Sudden Death 0; Suspicious persons 2; Traffic violations 9; Traffic Complaints 5; Trespassing 3; Unlawfully in Dwelling 1; Wellbeing Check 2.

KID'S CORNER



Meet Jelani a student at Westhaven Elementary School.

What is the silliest animal in the world? A monkey What is your favourite thing about school? Math



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 provides excellent
 fuel efficiency

'Selling price includes MSRP, Freight and P.D.I., and other applicable fees. Excludes taxes. 'Based on Traqline Canada Independent Market Share analysis of portable generator units sold in Canada from 2016-2022.



EU7000iSCT1

HONDA



EU3000
SELLING PRICE

\$3,099



- (+) Electric start
- Ideal for overnight power when you need it
- ⊕ Eco-Throttle™ provides excellent fuel efficiency

"Selling price includes MSRP, Freight and P.D.I., and other applicable fees. Excludes taxes. 'Based on Traqline Canada Independent Market Share analysis of portable generator units sold in Canada from 2016-2022.



EU3000iSC

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Edson Honda Honda

227 57 Street, Edson AB www.edsonhonda.com

*Selling price includes MSRP, Freight and P.D.I., and other applicable fees. Excludes taxes. Based on Tragline Canada Independent Market Share analysis of portable generator

units sold in Canada from 2016-2022.

POWER EQUIPMENT

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Fax: 780.723.3932

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Vellowhead County

Phone: 780-723-4800 Toll Free 1-800-665-6030 Fax: 780-723-5066 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

FAMILY WINTER FUN DAYS! Two Days and Locations! Skating Party in Evansburg at the Pembina Rec-Plex! Thursday, January 4 from 1-3 PM

There will be skating (helmets required), crafts, hot chocolate and





HELMETS AND WAIVERS ARE MANDATORY FOR EVERYONE PARTICIPATING IN SKATING (THIS INCLUDES ADULTS!)

FREE EVENTS but please register your family in advance! Please register online at www.yhcounty.ca/registration.



YELLOWHEAD COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION GRANTS



Community Hall/Outdoor Amenity Capital Assistance Grant

Registered non-profit groups will be eligible to apply for funding assistance with capital projects which could include renovations, repairs, furniture & equipment purchases, new facility, new outdoor amenity, etc.



Recreation Program & Event Grant Registered non-profit groups will be eligible to apply for funding up to \$2000 for programs and events that provide cultural, fitness, sport and/or other recreational opportunities to the community



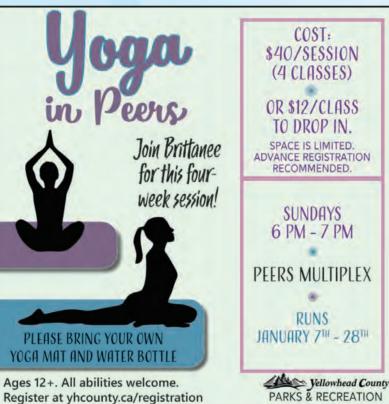
Recreation & Culture Initiatives Fund

Registered non-profit groups will be eligible to apply for funding for new initiatives in recreation and culture facilities, programs and services that will have ongoing benefits to the community

Grant Deadlines: December 31, March 31, June 15, September 30 Grant Applications are reviewed quarterly.

Applications can be found at www.yhcounty.ca or picked up at the County offices in Edson or Wildwood. For more information contact Derek Starnes at 780-723-4800.







Vellowhead County

Toll Free 1-800-665-6030 Fax: 780-723-5066 Phone: 780-723-4800 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



Yellowhead County's Agricultural Services Department has received numerous calls regarding black growths on residents' fruit trees.

These tar-like black swellings are a sign of Black Knot and will distort and stunt any tree species within the Prunus genus.

Black Knot reduces the aesthetic value of affected trees and, if left long enough, may result in eventual death of the tree.

The disease spreads in the spring, attacking new growth on branches. The spores released by the fungi can be carried by wind and splashing rain.

The only reliable method of controlling Black Knot is pruning. Go to www.yhcounty.ca for pruning tips.

Questions? Call 1-800-814-3935 or 780-325-3782.

TAX PENALTY REMINDER

Yellowhead County would like to remind landowners that any taxes outstanding after December 31, 2023 will be subject to a 6%

Payment Options:

- Secure drop box is available 24 hours at the Edson office only.
- · Chartered Bank or Credit Union
- Telephone Banking
- Internet banking (Your Tax Roll Number is your Account number)
- Courier or Canada Post (postmarked on/or before December 31,

For more information please call 780-723-4800 Monday to Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm with the exception of December 25, 26, and 27, as the office will be closed.



Corporate Services

LANDFILL - HOLIDAY SEASON -**CLOSURES**

DECEMBER 25, DECEMBER 26 & JANUARY 1

The West Yellowhead Regional (WYR) Landfill in Hinton will be CLOSED for Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Years Day.



Permit No. Location D23-129 NPlan 8920202 Recreation Intensive- Rodeo Nov 24/23 | Dec 14/23 Grounds (Discretionary) 3lk 2, Lot 1 SW-1-54-17-W5

Edson Area Accessory Building (Office Trailer) 6-33-46-14-W5 D23-149 Nov 28/23 | Permitted Use SE-7-46-14-W5 Work Camp- Discretionary D23-151 Plan 1322520 Single Detached Dwelling Blk 1, Lot 1 SE-13-53-8-W5 with Covered Veranda and Attached Garage Plan 1722021 Existing Recreation Intensive-Blk 1, Lot 1 SE-32-53-10-W5 Discretionary & Accessor

Approved Development Permits have been issued authorizing the following:

✓ Vellowhead County

llowhead County Development Permits are also posted online at www.yhcounty.ca. The public is consider officially notified of approved development permits once posted online, in accordance with the Public Notification Bylaw. The Yellowhead County Land Use Bylaw NO 09.21 provides that any person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority may appeal to the **Subdivision and Development Appeal Board or** Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal dependent on jurisdiction of the appeal authority. Appeals under the jurisdiction of Yellowhead County's Subdivision and Development Appeal Board require a written notice of appeal and a payment of \$300.00 payable to Yellowhead County within 21 day of the publishing of the Notice of Decision. ements for appealing the development to the Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal can be found her /www.alberta.ca/subdivision-appeals.aspx or by calling 780-427-2444.

WILDFIRE SURVEY FOR RESIDENTS OF YELLOWHEAD COUNTY

Public Feedback

We need your input on the response to the Spring 2023 Wildfires.

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts experiences this brief anonymous survey and express the challenges and opportunities from this past fire season.

Thank you for taking the time to do our survey.

We are **9Zero**, an independent company conducting this anonymous survey for Yellowhead County residents.

We created the survey and will compile the information collected. We will analyze and compile the data and then share the overall results with the municipality of Yellowhead County to get the feedback from Yellowhead County residents.

Take the survey.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/YellowheadPublic



Edson and Yellowhead County flood recovery included in Provincial Disaster Recovery Program

Up to \$68 million is available in disaster recovery funding to help Edson, Whitecourt, Yellowhead County and Woodlands County recover from June flooding.

From June 16 to June 23, the communities of Edson, Whitecourt, Yellowhead County and Woodlands County experienced severe flooding due to heavy rainfall and spring runoff. Through the province's Disaster Recovery Program, funding is available to help residents, businesses and communities rebuild.

Municipalities have already applied for and been approved for funding. Now, residents and business owners can submit applications for disaster financial assistance for help with uninsurable costs incurred from flood-related damage to homes and property.

"This past hazard season was among the worst in Alberta's history, as a provincewide state of emergency was declared for the first time in Alberta's history. We know the damage from the

flooding this spring has been destructive for these communities. Alberta's government is here to provide support with disaster financial assistance that will provide some relief and make a positive difference for affected Albertans and their families." - Mike Ellis, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

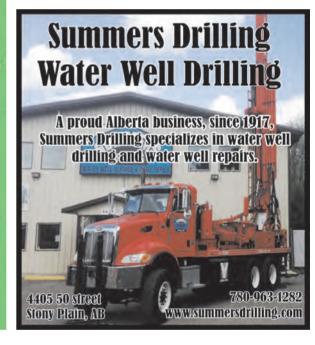
Alberta's Disaster Recovery Program helps communities recover from undue hardship due to an extraordinary disaster. To be considered extraordinary, the disaster must meet certain criteria, such as exceeding a one-in-25-year precipitation level in an urban area or a one-in-100-year stream flow for watercourses. Costs are split 90-10 between the Government of Alberta and community and individual applicants.

"After a tumultuous spring that affected many communities across West Yellowhead, I am grateful that our government has provided this funding to help communities and residents begin to repair, rebuild and recover what was damaged or lost." -Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead

Eligible expenses that may be covered could include uninsurable damages to infrastructure and public property, costs incurred during emergency operations like reception centre accommodation, food and transportation, and cleanup costs including repairs and damage to people's homes. This financial assistance will also help communities recoup costs associated with the response, cleanup and rebuilding efforts. Only uninsurable costs are eligible for funding under this disaster recovery program.

Homeowners, small business owners, tenants, landlords, not-for-profit institutions or agricultural operations within the Town of Edson, Town of Whitecourt, Yellowhead County and Woodlands County have until Feb. 26, 2024, to submit their Disaster Recovery Program applications.

"With this financial support, the Town of Edson will have the ability to further address critical storm and sanitary sewer repairs that are needed. I'd like to thank Alberta Emergency Management Agency staff, MLA Martin Long, Minister Ellis and Minister McIver for their unwavering support throughout and following the flooding emergency." -Kevin Zahara, mayor, Town of Edson



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Congratulations to Rosemary Moore, winner of our door prize from Staal Gardensl Thank you to the Galloway Museum for providing us with such a lovely facility! Special thanks to everyone who supported our event and to our many volunteers.

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Seniors and Community Appreciation Christmas!

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 Time: IO AM - I PM **Place: Edson & District Recycling Depot**

Christmas Dinner will be served as well as goodies and coffee!

*Limited seating inside and takeout available.

Come sit on Santa's knee and have your picture taken.

We'll have a Ho-Ho-Whole lot of fun!

Call the Recycling Depot at 780.723.4002 for more information

* * - 5327 1st Ave, Edson

7 Monthly und

Monthly update on the Oil & Gas and Energy Industry

ENERGY EDUCATION IN ACTION

Alberta hits methane reduction target three years early

Alberta has now reduced methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 45 per cent since 2014.

Alberta was the first province in Canada to set a methane emissions target for the oil and gas sector, committing to reducing these emissions by 45 per cent from 2014 levels by 2025. The province's methane reduction approach has won international awards and recognition.

According to the latest methane report from the Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta officially achieved its target as of 2022 – three years ahead of schedule. This milestone was accomplished through collaboration with industry and a provinceled approach that has proven more effective and cheaper than earlier proposed federal methane regulations that would have otherwise been applied in Alberta.

"In Alberta, we are transitioning away from emissions and not away from oil and gas. We have proven we have the technology, the innovation, and the determination to achieve significant emissions reduction and we will not stop here. Alberta has a strong story to tell on environmental challenges and we will continue to share it." - Danielle Smith, Premier

Under Alberta's equivalency agreement with the Government of Canada on methane emissions, the province is in charge of regulating methane emissions. Without the agreement, both provincial and federal regulations would apply, increasing red tape and imposing additional costs onto Alberta's energy sector.

Alberta hit its methane reduction target early by working closely with industry, including early action programs like carbon offsets, implementation of strong provincial regulatory requirements in place for all facilities, and improved leak detection and repair. This approach was estimated to have saved industry approximately \$600 million compared to the

federal approach, while still accelerating emissions reduction.

"We have hit our methane emissions reduction target three years early thanks to a common-sense, made-in-Alberta approach. Managing emissions from our oil and gas industry is our job, not Ottawa's – and we are getting the job done." - Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

Since 2020, Alberta has invested \$57 million from the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction fund for methane emissions programs that help the oil and gas industry improve monitoring and management, including:

- \$25 million for the Methane Technology Implementation Program that offered a rebate to companies for purchasing emissions reduction equipment.
- \$17 million for the Alberta Methane Emissions Program to support investigating and testing alternative approaches to detect and quantify fugitive and vented emissions.
- \$15 million for the Baseline and Reduction Opportunity Assessment Program to support small and medium oil and gas operators conduct detailed assessments of methane reduction opportunities and fugitive emissions.

This momentum will continue through Alberta's Emissions Reduction and Energy Development Plan. Moving forward, Alberta will advance new approaches to enhanced regulations, market-based incentives and programs to further reduce methane emissions to help reach carbon neutral by 2050 and protect Alberta's oil and gas sector from intrusive federal methane regulations.

"The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers is pleased with today's announcement that the province's methane reduction target from oil and natural gas operations has been met ahead of schedule. Alberta's approach with effective regulations, offset programs, and research support contributed to accelerating methane emissions reductions. Over the past decade, our industry has reduced methane emissions while growing production and is also on track to surpass the current federal target of a 40 to 45 percent reduction by 2025. We are investing significant resources into research and will continue to work with the provincial government on additional emissions reduction opportunities." - Lisa Baiton, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

The Alberta Energy Regulator ensures the safe, efficient, orderly, and environmentally responsible development of oil, oil sands, natural gas, coal resources, geothermal, and brine-hosted mineral resources in Alberta. This includes allocating and conserving water resources, managing public lands, and protecting the environment while providing economic benefits for all Albertans. Alberta's government and the regulator continue to ensure methane emissions monitoring meets regulatory requirements and are both committed to transparent reporting of results.

There are a number of international efforts to support improvements to methane emissions measurement, monitoring and reporting. As Alberta participates in the upcoming 28th United Nations Conference of the Parties in Dubai, connections will be made with other leading jurisdictions and international groups to share knowledge and expertise that will support continuous improvement in methane emissions data quality in Alberta, and around the world.

Quick facts

Alberta was the first oil and gas producing jurisdiction to put requirements on emissions from flaring, starting in the early 1990s.

Alberta's approach to reducing methane emissions from flaring, venting and fugitives is an international best practice used by other jurisdictions, and has won national and international awards.



A

Monthly Update on the Coal Industry

ENERGY EDUCATION IN ACTION

Countries choose coal for diverse reasons

Coal's enduring presence acknowledges countries' autonomy in selecting energy sources that meet their specific needs, complementing renewables during intermittent periods and serving as a crucial factor for coal-dependent nations to ensure energy security, affordability, and reliability.

Countries now face the reality that no silver bullet exists to solve their energy challenges. The global energy crisis of 2021-23 underscored the resilience of coal as a power generation source, mitigating severe consequences that could have escalated without coal as a backup.

The closure of European industrial operations and the risk of populations suffering through unaffordable energy costs or no energy at all exemplifies the crucial role of coal.

In many non-OECD Asian nations, coal is the

most cost-effective and reliable electricity source, enabling economic growth. Moreover, coal's contribution to energy security, affordability, and reliability (the energy trilemma) benefits the energy economy, providing essential backup to renewables and supporting high-value manufacturing jobs, research and development, and job security within the coal value chain, particularly in mining operations.

Coal, a fossil fuel, originates from plant remains that date back millions of years. Over these vast periods, layers of plant debris were subjected to intense heat and pressure, triggering a transformation process. This process involved the consolidation and compression of plant matter between other rock layers, known as strata.

These conditions, over time, metamorphosed the plant matter into a dense, carbon-rich substance we now identify as coal. The creation of coal seams, essentially layers or bands of coal embedded within other rock strata, is a result of this prolonged geological process. This process is referred to as 'coalification', and the rank and quality of coal are determined based on the degree of metamorphosis it undergoes.

The energy we extract from coal today is stored solar energy from millions of years ago. During their lifespan, plants absorb sunlight through photosynthesis, converting it into chemical energy. This energy was then stored in the plant matter, eventually transforming into coal. Hence, when we

burn coal, we harness and utilise this ancient solar energy.

Coal abatement technologies capture up to 99%

The existing coal abatement technologies are a range of efficient technologies that support power and heat utilities, while end-of-pipe or inboiler emission control systems can capture up to 99% of emissions. These include highefficiency and low emissions (HELE) plants such as Ultra-supercritical (USC), Combined Heat and Power (CHP), electricity production from coal gasification (Integrated Gasification in Combined Cycle (IGCC)), and co-firing coal with biomass. To achieve these high rates of emission control, sulphur dioxides (SOx), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and particulate matter (PM) can all be captured, and the waste byproducts reused in industry and construction. Even other emissions, such as heavy metals, can be captured.

-futurecoal.org





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Edson & District Public Library Grateful For Donation Of Temporary Space

Thanks to the generosity of Cenovus Energy, the Edson & District Public Library has a temporary home while renovations are being completed on the library.

"With this generous in-kind donation by Cenovus, we are able to continue to serve the people in our community," said Robin Corser, Library Board Chair. "Our library is the second most-used facility in town, but without Cenovus' generosity, the renovation would have prevented us from offering accessible services to our patrons."

The temporary library space is located at 5016-4th Avenue. It is open Monday-Friday from 10am-6pm, and Saturday from 12noon-5pm.

The library moved a carefully curated collection to the donated office space in September. The new location provides space for public-access computers, a limited on-site collection, and library

"If the book or video game you're looking for

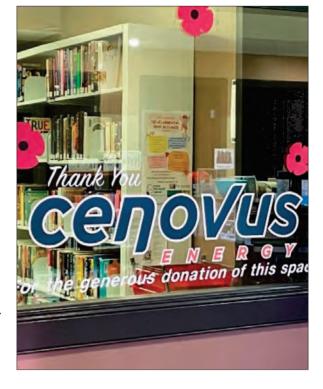
isn't on location, library members can still order materials for pick up," said Robin. "Our library staff can show people how to use TRAC (material ordering software) to access the full range of resources we offer."

Library renovations are well underway. A new fundraising campaign has been launched to appropriately furnish the new spaces including an enlarged children's area, dedicated teen zone and quiet room.

"The capital budget did not include furnishings, such as chairs and tables," said Robin. "We are appealing to companies and individuals to help us outfit the new library spaces."

The Library Board is seeking a total of \$250,000 to buy chairs, couches, tables, shelving, and other furniture needed for their new and renovated spaces. Donors are asked to contact the library if they wish to contribute to the library's campaign.

The renovated library is set to open in June 2024.



Chautauqua begins its 41st Season

Chautauqua Edson Arts season packages are 13. Council brings quality, unique acts to the Hatlen Theatre at the Red Brick Arts Centre and Museum. Five-show

currently available through ticketpro.ca; a few seats for individual performances will open up on Wednesday, Dec.

The season opens on Saturday, Jan. 13 with a singer/songwriter double-bill featuring Amy Bishop and

Boys with their unique blend of retro-bluegrass and rockabilly. Canadian folk heroine Cara Luft and friends come to town on Saturday, Feb. 24.

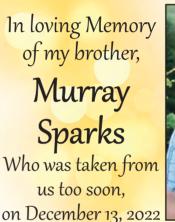
ZENON. Monday, Jan.

29 is Jake Vaadeland &

The Sturgeon River

The Mbira Renaissance Band bring their mbirainspired, Afro-fusion music on Saturday, Mar.

And the season closes on Saturday, April. 13 with Gord's Gold: a tribute to Gordon Lightfoot by an all-star band of Edmonton musicians. Please check edsonarts.com for more information.





Always in my thoughts, forever in my heart...

~ Donna ~

Santa stops in at Galloway Station



Families gathered for pictures with Santa at the Galloway Staion on December 2.

Niki Luymes

The Galloway Station Museum, Gift Shop, and Archives welcomed the people of Edson and area to a Christmas tradition with the annual 'Santa at the Galloway' event.

From 1pm to 4pm on December 2, Santa visited the museum to take photos and take Christmas season requests. There were also treats and prizes offered alongside the jolly old elf, making the day into the perfect way to kick off December.

People could drop in anytime during the event. After lining up they would make their way towards Santa. Galloway staff have some activities set up that people could enjoy while waiting their turn. This included cookies, a photo booth, and a spin-towin game. Afterwards, there were gifts bags and a mystery craft for kids to take home and enjoy.

Each family was given a bit of time to converse with St. Nick, then have their

photo taken by professional photographer Michelle Buckwald. This year there was around 14,000 photos taken throughout the event. "We had, we figure, around 230 kids including babies," said Shari McDowell Manager at the Galloway. This year there were moments when the lineup went out the door. Every person in attendance did get their chance with Santa, and enjoyed the treats along the

This is the 11th year that the event has taken place. It is always on the first Saturday of December and always completely free of charge.

This year staff added an extra hour so that more families could enjoy the event. "The Historical Society likes to give something back at the end of the year," said McDowell. "It's always a fun day. Very Christmassy. And we do it this early so that people can, if they want to, use the photos in their cards during the holidays."

~ Obituary ~ **Erma Kuzyk**

The family sadly announces the passing of Erma Kuzyk on November 26, 2023

Erma was born in Bashaw, Alberta, to Frank and Lydia Mulzet on March 11, 1941. When she was 17, she moved to Edson, Alberta, to live with her sister, Angie. This was where she met her future husband, Alex. They were married on November 19, 1960, and built their home and family over the following years.

Erma never missed an opportunity to share her kindness and thoughtfulness with her family. She created a welcoming home for all. Extending her kindness to the community, she generously lent her culinary expertise to church events and volunteered at the thrift store.

Her interests also extended to sports such as curling and horseshoes, but her favorite was time with family.

Her last years were a struggle with her failing health, but it also showed what a strong and determined person she was. She often put on a brave face when it must have been the most difficult. She will be dearly missed as a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and

Erma will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Alex, daughter Joanne (Scott) of Calgary, Alberta, son Bruce (Dionne) of Kiln, Mississippi, and son Dale (Chinh) of Calgary, Alberta, as well as her five grandchildren Braxton, Cohen, Makenna, Quynn and Ell. She was predeceased by her grandson, Jake.

A Funeral Service was held at Sacred Heart Church in Edson, Alberta, on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 11:00 am, with lunch to follow.

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HELP WANTED

Wildwood RCL Branch 149 is looking for a cook to cater supper's on the 2nd Friday of every month. Please drop Resume off at the Legion Thursday -Saturday from 1:30 - 5:00 pm or email:

rcl149@gmail.com phone: Coleen Young 780-515-1954 Tammy Pelkey 780-325-2411

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for 2 Cleaning Supervisor with NOC62024. Wages \$24.10 hourly. Resumes: eyaeyo.cs@yahoo.com dec31 Wildwood Legion Bottle Depot is hiring bottle sorters. Forklift experience would be an asset. Please drop resume off at the bottle depot on Tuesday -Saturday from 11:00 - 5:00pm or email to rclbr149@gmail.com

Wildwood Legion is looking for a bar Steward to work in the Tavern. Please drop a resume off at the legion Thursday - Saturday from 1:30pm -5:00pm or email: rclbr149@gmail.com Front Desk Clerk/Housekeeper Parttime casual position - Edson Alberta. Seeking a qualified Front Desk I Housekeeper for a motel in Edson,

Alberta. Duties include managing guest reservations, conducting guest check-in and check-out procedures, processing payments, and performing laundry/housekeeping services. Compensation: \$18 - \$20 based on experience. Full posting can be found at: https://tinyurl.com/edsonmotel If interested, please submit cover letter and resume to:

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

EDSON

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Pastors John & Roberta Greiner: Heather & Daniel Greiner Sunday service: 10:30 am Morning worship

EDSON ALLIANCE CHURCH 5525-2nd Ave., Edson Ph: 723-5776 Pastor Bryan Walter 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer

Meeting.
EDSON BAPTIST CHURCH 4719 - 9th Ave., Ph: 723-3982 Pastor Mesh Hit

Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. **EDSON MENNONITE CHURCH** 6212 - 13 Ave, Edson Office hrs: Tues 9am-1pm Office phone: 780-723-4992 Pastor Tyson Moerike (Call or text 403-966-4705)

Sunday worship - 9:45 EDSON-PEERS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH 4633-7th Ave., Edson Ph: 723-5242

Pastor: Ryan Hoogerbrugge Worship: 10:30 a.m. Edson Nursery provided Sunday School EDSON SEVENTH-DAY

ADVENTIST CHURCH 1133-55 St. Edson - Ph: 723-5490. Saturday Morning Service at 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School at 10:00 a.m. **EDSON UNITED CHURCH Edson United Church**

1214 Edson Drive Edson AB FAMILY OF FAITH CHURCH

463 72 St., Edson (formerly Glenwood Hall), Telephone: 780-517-7558 Sunday: 10:00 am - Coffee and

Donuts; 10:30 am - Morning Service Pastors: Pastors John and Ingrid

Huizing vfm@shaw.ca HOLY TRINITY (An Anglican/Lutheran Faith Community) Rev. Johnny Pooten 780-723-4366 WORSHIP SCHEDULE (All

services at 10 am Sunday mornings): 1st & 2nd Sunday at St. Catherine's Building 623 50th St.; 3rd and 4th Sundays at Grace

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4911 B 3rd Avenue, Edson, AB Sunday Worship at 2:00 p.m.; Fellowship after service. Rev. Noemi Sogocio, Senior Pastor, 780-600-0050:

noemi_sogocio2006@yahoo.ca SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

4803 - 6th Avenue, Edson Telephone: 723-3661. Pastor Father Thomas Basani Mass: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 10:00 a.m

Call office for weekday Mass times.

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CARROT CREEK CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Niton Junction - Ph: 795-2568 **Sunday Services**

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ENTWISTLE COMMUNITY

CHURCH

Pastor - Micah Brookhart Office: 780-727-2829 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

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Wanted

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

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you must file your claim by:

with: Patrick Dolphin, Barrister and Solicitor, at 833, 4445 Calgary Trail NW, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5R7

If you do not file by the date set out above, the estate can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

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W hat's happening, when and where in the community Community Events

Family Time: Join us on Wednesdays for some indoor fun. Programs run from 10:30AM -12:30PM. Locations and cookies. Free event but please register your family are Marlboro Community Hall December 6. Peers Multiplex

December 10: Join us for an evening of Christmas music at 7:00pm at Holy Trinity Church 4407-7ave Refreshments to follow. Silver collections at the door. For more info contact Sheryl at 780-723-4026

December 13: Program is for ages 0-5 must register www.yhcounty.ca/registration

December 13: Seniors and Community Appreciation Christmas Dinner. 10am-1pm Limited seating inside Take out available at the Recycling Depot call 780-723-4002 for more information.

December 14: Nite Owl Sale in Edson

January 4: Family Winter Fun Days. Skating Party in Evansburg at the Pembina Rec-Plex 1-3PM There will be skating (helmets and skates required) crafts hot chocolate and cookies. Free event but please register your family in advance at

www.yhcounty.ca/registeration Helmets and waivers are MANDATORY for everyone including adults. January 5: Family Winter Fun Days. Curling Party at the Peers Mulitiplex Curling crafts and hot chocolate in advance at www.yhcounty.ca/registeration

Jan 12, Feb 9, March 8, April 12: Join Trail Hall for potluck suppers for more information call 780-728-5641 **Every Thursday:** Seniors Chair Yoga Free. 10-11am Leisure Centre Hospitality Room.

First Wednesday of Every Month: Senior's Recycling Day. Between 10 am and 1 pm, senior citizens are welcome to visit the depot for snacks and refreshments while their staff unloads your sorted recyclables free of charge.





WHILE QUANTITY LAST, WE RESERVE ALL RIGHTS TO LIMIT QUANTITY. ALL PRICES ARE EXCLUDING GST & DEPOSIT