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The Weekly Anchor

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025

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VOL. 36, NO. 07

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At participating McDonald's restaurants in Canada. © 2024 McDonald's

EDSON

Town's Spring Cleanup plans underway...

see page 3

COUNTY

County supports attraction of rural healthcare professionals...

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COMMENT

YCE Multiplex Facility update...

see page 12

Town feedback from pet ownership survey

by Niki Luymes

2025 Responsible Pet Ownership survey. Edson Town Council was briefed on February 11, regarding the results from the

2025 Responsible Pet Ownership survey. From December 15, 2024 to January 15, 2025 the Town of Edson conducted a survey to

receive feedback from residents. The questions were created to help council and administration with creating a new animal control bylaw,

dubbed the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. The current Animal Control Bylaw (no. 2140) was enacted July 15, 2014. In the decade

continued page 2



These students from Mrs. Johnston's Grade 1 class at Mary Bergeron School laced up their skates and enjoyed a skating session at the Edson and District Leisure Centre on February 11. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

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Town reviews feedback from pet ownership survey

continued from front

since, multiple issues have come to light. The bylaw as it exists does not adequately address the needs of responsible pet ownership. Especially when considering the changing community expectations and evolving animal welfare standards. On December 10, 2024 Administration began the process of creating an updated bylaw by receiving feedback from council.

The public survey that followed, resulted in 267 respondents. It gathered opinions on key animal control issues. These included licensing, pet limits, cat registration, non-domesticated animals, and cat traps. "In summary, the feedback generally supported improving pet ownership and addressing community issues through a focus on education, stricter enforcement, and individual responsibility," said Eric Christensen, Enforcement Services Manager.

"The main concern that we heard about from the residents was regarding cats. There were significant issues raised about problems with roaming, cats defecating on properties, destroying gardens, and being a nuisance due to excessive noise. Several suggestions include mandatory micro-chipping, leash requirements, and fines for owners," said Christensen. 67% supported the idea of expanding pet registration to include cats. Council then discussed whether of not to add the requirements to the proposed bylaw.

"I want cats to be handled like dogs, meaning that they are contained and they can't run free. Just putting a license on a cat is no good, there is nobody to enforce it," said Councillor Gean Chouinard. "Too many people say they own a cat, but they let it outside and only see it twice a year. If you are going to own a cat, then own it."

"I think with the heavy response that we've

gotten, and this is something that comes up quite regularly, I think it is worth it to try to go this route and treat cats the same way we do dogs," said Councillor Krystal Cacka.

"This is a big problem," said Mayor Kevin Zahara. "Licensing may be one aspect of it, but I really think we need to do a spay and neuter program. The status quo is not acceptable. You see cats roaming around at night more than you see people."

Councillor Peter Taylor suggested that if Administration adds cat registration to the bylaw, that they also create a grace period to allow people to make the change.

While most respondents indicated a desire to set different limits for cat and dogs, there was no definitive consensus on the number of animals permitted. The survey did indicate that 69% of residents did not want livestock animals (sheep, meat pigs, turkeys, etc.) to be allowed within town limits. However, the feedback on allowing chickens was split almost 50/50.

"Chickens, fowl, I've come to the conclusion that those belong outside of town," said Mayor Zahara. "Unless, you live in a more rural part of town in which you have the kind of property that can support those kinds of animals, such as on the western edges of our community. But in the more urban areas, I don't think they should be allowed."

Councillor Chouinard added that he liked the idea of allowing people to apply to council for chicken approval. "I don't want to chase those who want chickens away, but they do need to ask special permission to own them."

"Beyond items potentially included in a bylaw, respondents expressed a desire for stronger enforcement of existing animal control laws and supportive of responsible pet ownership, including spay/neuter programs, better shelter resources, and more effective communication with animal

control," added Christensen.

Mayor Zahara asked, "Is there a way in which we can design the program to reward those that are getting their animals spayed and neutered? Maybe like there is no fee to get them registered?"

"A spay and neuter program sounds good, but the cost doesn't," agreed Taylor.

The plan is to bring the bylaw back to Council as a draft bylaw, then for first and subsequent readings. If the bylaw is approved, then Administration will begin an education program.

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Town of Edson Spring Clean-Up plans underway

by Niki Luymes

During the Town of Edson Committee of the Whole meeting on February 11, council discussed what to do for this year's Spring Clean-Up program.

Over the past several years the town has been trying different operating options. With the benefit of hindsight, Administration is requesting a direction for this year's program. There were three options that council needed to evaluate and choose from.

The 2022-2023 Spring Clean-Up was operated by Town staff. This option had the benefit of being very efficient. Staff were able to clear all items left on curbsides during the week of May 23 to 30th. The Town also was able to have complete control of the project and didn't need to delegate or hand-off issues and questions. The downside of this option was that it took a lot of staff hours to complete. There were high operational costs, plus staff was unavailable for other town needs. A downside was that some residents missed the deadline and their items were left along the street.

The 2024 Spring Clean-Up was tasked to GFL Waste Management. They successfully cleared all items left on curb sides during the weeks of May 24 to June 7. The process was completed in alignment with their normal garbage collection on separate weeks. The positive for this option was a reduction in cost and staff use. The negatives were mostly cosmetic. The longer staggered time frame meant that for those weeks Edson's streets were lined with discarded items. Items that missed the deadline then needed to be picked up later.

Looking forward, Administration had discussions with other municipalities of similar sizes which identified a range of different programs utilized for their spring clean-up. Whitecourt and Drayton Valley do not do pickups, but simply offer free access to their landfills.

Administration then presented the three options to council. "Option 1: Town staff does it again and the estimated cost for this is around \$57,000. Option 2: GFL to provide spring clean up. This is in our agreement and it's about \$3.50 per home, so that's about \$8,500. Option 3 is we open our landfill for free drop off and set up a help line for anyone with mobility or vehicle issues. Estimated cost for that would be \$35,000 to \$40,000 depending on how many calls we get," explained Ryan O'Sullivan, Transportation & Parks Manager.

Administration recommended Option 2. This would be coupled with clear communications for deadlines on when to place items out for pickup.

"I really liked when GFL did it," said Mayor Kevin Zahara. "I know that the goods were out on the front yards for a longer period of time, but that also allowed people the opportunity to recycle or reuse some of those items, which I thought was a benefit. I do like the idea of having the landfill open for a period of time as well. Maybe following that for any of those stragglers who may have missed the pickup of have additional items."

"Initially I was interested Option 3, but looking now, I would certainly like to try Option 2 again, with lots of communication on our end. I think communication is the key to get that message out there," said Councillor Peter Taylor.

"We've already set up a program with our communications on the spring cleanups. We're getting ready to blast it out earlier than usual and then reminding residents periodically until the cleanup," added O'Sullivan.

Administration will utilize the comments from council, create a plan, and bring back an official motion for a vote.

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From your efforts and contributions, we have been able to continue our support of the Pinegrove Middle School breakfast program that is truly needed to help nourish growing minds.

County supports attraction of rural healthcare professionals

by Shaylyn Thornton

At their February 11 meeting, Yellowhead County Council discussed the Edson Attraction and Retention Committee (ARC). Mayor Wade Williams spoke to the item.

ARC aims to “attract, retain and integrate qualified healthcare professionals to the Edson region to support a sustainable healthcare system.”

“I’ve been to a few meetings now and things are starting to progress,” said Mayor Wade Williams. “[ARC] is doing some really good work, there’s quite a group of people working together on trying to attract medical professionals to this area.”

Williams explained that when the group finds doctors that are potentially interested in moving to the area, ARC tours them around the community, showing them “a whole list of items” such as schools, churches, recreational facilities, and more.

“It’s been very beneficial to have someone tour these medical professionals when they come to the area because they don’t know anything about where we’re at,” Williams said.

Williams noted that there were some aspects of ARC’s business plan that he “cannot support” but that a “restricted-funding model” could allow Council to provide financial assistance for startup costs related to marketing and advertising.

“With the help of the

Community Care Foundation (CCF), the Town of Edson, Yellowhead County, and members-at-large, we are doing what we can to change that narrative and hopefully get some folks brought in,” Williams said.

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada is holding a conference in Winnipeg in April, and the committee plans to set up a booth to interact with both newer physicians and physicians who are looking to move on to other locations.

“I feel it would be beneficial to send a Council member to this conference to help committee representatives in setting up a booth and in showcasing this area as a place to raise their families and to come and do business,” Mayor Williams said.

First, Council discussed the potential awarding of “\$10,000 to the Edson ARC for marketing and advertising endeavors pertaining to the attraction and retention of health care professionals to the region.”

Councillor Patrick Soroka, Division 1 – Evansburg and Area, said that he had “no problem” supporting the motion, but that the East end of the County is struggling with the same issue. Mayor Williams explained that he was also on the attraction and retention committee in Hinton, which is looking at all of Yellowhead County.

Councillor David Russell spoke about his difficulties with the

issue. “We’ve talked extensively about staying in our own lane and I think the lanes have evaporated,” he said. Russell also pointed out the potential for conflicts between the Edson and Hinton committees if they are competing for the same doctor.

Russell referenced a National Post news article, saying, “[The article] says Huntsville, Ontario is offering physicians an \$80,000 signing bonus for those who come to practice medicine in their community,” Russell said. “Where does it stop? We start at \$10,000. Where does it stop?”

“I’m very conflicted over this, I really think we do need to offer our community some help,” Russell added.

Williams noted that a signing bonus for physicians was in the Edson ARC business plan, which was the aspect that he “could not support.” He also explained that the funds being discussed at the meeting were not for signing bonuses or hiring, but for advertising and attraction.

“AHS already gives the doctors \$125,000 signing bonus when they sign a 5-year contract,” Williams said. “Places start throwing money, all they’re doing is competing with each other and that’s not the right message.”

“We have made it a point to never go out of our lane and it really disheartens me that the

province has put us in this position,” Councillor Penny Lowe said. “As far as the \$10,000 to promote the area and try to attract them, I don’t have a problem with that.”

Deputy Mayor Brigitte Lemieux added her input on Council’s lane. “If we can’t advocate for this region, I’m not sure what we’re doing here,” she said. “We talk about lanes and that but what we’re really talking about, you know, is what this region can offer medical professionals... I think that that is our role.”

“It’s just a work-in-progress. In a few months from now, the proof will be in the pudding. Either we will have doctors, or we won’t,” Williams said. “We have to try and do something, and I think this is a good way to start.”


The motion to award \$10,000 to Edson ARC passed unanimously. Council then discussed the Society of Rural Physicians Conference.

Councillor Dawn Mitchell gave her support for sending someone to the conference, saying, “We really want to be part of the solution, not the problem. I feel like it’s [important] to have a representative... go to these conferences and be the face of our County, be the face of our region.”

Council voted unanimously to send a representative to join ARC at the Society of Rural Physicians Conference in April.

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TOWN OF EDSON
Edson Public Information & Notices 2025

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

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TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2025

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



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Snow Clearing Town of Edson Parking Lots
(RFP 2025-32-003)**

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

RFP ISSUE DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2025
RFP CLOSING DATE: Thursday, March 6, 2025
RFP CLOSING TIME: 14:00:59 (2:00 P.M) MST



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Ice Resurfer Advertising Opportunity
(RFP No.: 2025-EDLC-001)**

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

RFP ISSUE DATE: Friday, February 7, 2025
RFP CLOSING DATE: Monday, March 31, 2025
RFP CLOSING TIME: 14:00:59 (2:00 P.M) MST

**Submissions attention to:
Vicky Bird, Recreation Manager
Email: vickyb@edson.ca**



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Snow Clearing & Sanding & Salting
of Sidewalks
Along 2nd & 4th Avenue
(RFP 2025-72-001)**

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

RFP ISSUE DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2025
RFP CLOSING DATE: Thursday, March 6, 2025
RFP CLOSING TIME: 14:00:59 (2:00 P.M) MST



Public Notice to Electors

**Town of Edson, Province of Alberta
Section 251 - Municipal Government Act**

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Edson, in the Province of Alberta, has given first reading to borrowing Bylaw No.2321 which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of the Town of Edson to borrow monies from the Province of Alberta by way of debenture issue, to pay for the cost of the following municipal purpose(s), namely an Aerial Fire Truck within the limits of the Town of Edson;

The total estimated cost of the aforesaid project amounts to \$2,750,000.

The net amount to be borrowed on the credit and security of the municipality at large by the issue of debentures is \$2,750,000. The debentures are to be repayable to the Province of Alberta in forty (40) equal consecutive semi annual installments of combined principal and interest, the semi annual interest not to exceed six per centum (6%), or the interest rate as fixed from time to time by the province of Alberta.

NOW THEREFORE NOTICE is hereby given by the Council of the Town of Edson that, unless a petition of the electors for a vote on Bylaw No. 2321 is demanded, as provided for by the terms of Section 231 of the Municipal Government Act, the said Council may pass the said borrowing bylaw. All persons interested are hereby notified and they are required to govern themselves accordingly.

DATED at the Town of Edson, in the Province of Alberta, this 4th day of February.

Denise MacDonald, Acting CFO

Information for Electors

Pursuant to Section 1 (i) of the Municipal Government Act an "elector" means:
1. A person who is eligible to vote in the election for a Councillor under the Local Authorities Election Act.
Pursuant to Section 47(1) of the Local Authorities Election Act a person is eligible to vote in an election if he:

- a) is at least 18 years old,
- b) is a Canadian citizen, and
- c) has resided in Alberta for the 6 consecutive months immediately preceding election day and is resident in the area on election day.

A poll may be demanded in the Town of Edson by electors equal in number to at least

- a) in the case of a municipality other than a summer village, by electors of the municipality equal in number to at least 10% of the population and
- b) in the case of a summer village, by 10% of the electors of the summer village

in accordance with the provisions of Section 223 of the *Municipal Government Act* and in accordance with the provisions of Section 251 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

The petition for a vote must be received by the Chief Administrative Officer within 15 days of the last publication of this notice and shall contain on each page "an accurate and identical statement of the purpose of the petition". (Further requirements of the petition are provided in Section 224 of the Municipal Government Act.)

DATE of the last publication of this notice is the 17th day of February 2025.

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Recent Development Permits approved by the Development Authority, under the Town of Edson Land Use Bylaw 2296 as amended, can be found at <https://www.edson.ca/business/planning/development-permit-applications>. Additional information can be requested from the Planning Department at 780-723-4402 or planning@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 2296. 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 Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (ISDAB) at Box 6300, Edson, AB T7E 1T7. **Direct Control District Approvals cannot be appealed.**



Guest Editorial/Column

Carbon tax is crushing Canadians

by Kris Sims

Thanks to the carbon tax, Canadians are opening their home heating bills with a sense of dread this month.

Every politician in the warm halls of power should read the painful experiences of Canadians who are struggling to afford the basics. They should ask themselves why any Canadian should be forced to pay the carbon tax for one more minute on an essential like home heating.

When the Canadian Taxpayers Federation asked people to post pictures of their heating bills to show the real cost of the carbon tax, more than 1,000 replies came in.

Some of the messages are tough to read.

"I haven't been able to afford to fill my propane tank this year, just hoping that no heat doesn't make my house go mouldy," Jay told us. He works as a chef just outside Victoria, B.C.

Others are astonishing.

"Our bookkeeper nearly choked; thanks for bringing light to the madness," Chris wrote while sharing the carbon tax bill for the pub he runs in Peterborough, Ont.

His natural gas bill from last month included a carbon tax charge of \$1,044.

Do the Liberal Party leadership candidates grasp what an extra \$1,000 bill tacked on to a business does to prices at a pub, let alone to the small-business owner trying to keep people employed?

Most of the residential bills sent in from cities and suburbs across Canada show a carbon tax charge of more than \$50 extra per month, with the tax often exceeding the cost of the home heating fuel itself.

Ron, a tech specialist in east Brampton, Ont., said he's "sick of the virtue signalling" over the carbon tax from the Trudeau government while his natural gas bill shows a monthly charge of more than \$80.

"I don't think there is one Canadian I know that can afford any more taxes," writes Michel, who lives near Barrie, Ont. "This is \$32 alone on gas for the home. Now put that on every single item you buy. It's disgusting. [Politicians] think we are stupid."

Michel tries to make ends meet living in a small mobile home with a new furnace, but December's heat bill still carried a carbon tax charge of \$32 for the month. The gas itself only cost \$20.

In northern Ontario, where overnight temperatures typically drop to -20C, a young mother, Kelly, posted her household's December natural gas bill showing a \$134 carbon tax charge.

The list goes on.

In Manitoba, where winter resembles the ice planet Hoth from Star Wars, the carbon tax on home heating is severe.

Lilly, who lives outside Winnipeg, shared a December bill showing a carbon tax charge of \$140 for the month, while Cory, from the southern part of the province, had a monthly charge of \$70 for his home heating.

Saskatchewan residents are getting a

reprieve this winter thanks to Premier Scott Moe's refusal to collect Ottawa's carbon tax on home heating. Some people still showed their cancelled carbon tax bill and praised Moe for the savings, which ranged from \$50 to \$80 per month.

In Alberta, the carbon tax causes quite a ruckus. Alberta's electric power plants are fuelled by natural gas, which is subject to the carbon tax. Home heating is also almost exclusively natural gas, often resulting in high carbon tax bills.

Shawn, a working father of twins living in Edmonton, sent in his natural gas bill, which showed a carbon tax charge of \$136.

"You should see what I spend a week on carbon tax for gas," Shawn said. "It's 200 litres every week, 17 cents a litre carbon tax, 34 bucks a week, \$1,768 per year. Just in carbon tax on gas for my truck. It's ridiculous."

And back in B.C., Jay still can't afford propane.

That province's carbon tax is seriously damaging the finances of people trying to afford to live in one of the most expensive places on the planet.

Ken, the owner of two Springer Spaniel dogs in the central Okanagan, paid over \$65 in carbon tax last month. In December, Bret had to pay over \$50 in carbon tax to heat his small rancher near Vancouver. And in Dawson Creek, where the temperature is often below -20 C overnight, Josh's family home just received a carbon tax bill of more than \$200 for two months.

Josh told us he "sees right through" the Liberal government's assurance that Canadians "get more back than they pay out" in the carbon tax.

So does the Parliamentary Budget Officer. In three separate reports, the PBO has shown that the carbon tax costs average families hundreds of dollars more every year than the rebates they receive.

Jay, Cynthia, Ron, Josh and millions of other Canadians should not have to pay the carbon tax charge on their home heating bill for one more day.

The carbon tax is an expensive failure.

Scrap it now before people open one more bill.

Kris Sims is the Alberta director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: After small businesses waited over five years for their federal carbon tax rebate, Revenue Canada will now be taxing the tax rebate. This is being done despite the former Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland's assurance, "The Canada Carbon Rebate for Small Businesses is a tax-free payment." This could leave many businesses paying a significant portion back. Only new federal legislation could override this, but of course, Trudeau and his Liberal Party prorogued Parliament to suit their own agenda - no surprise.

Note: The views, opinions, and positions expressed in the column are the author's alone. They do not inherently or expressly reflect the views, opinions and/or positions of The Weekly Anchor, its staff, or Troy Media.



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Edson RCMP Occurrences

For the week of February 3 – February 09, 2025

Traffic Collisions 9; Wellbeing Check 9, and Fail to Comply with Conditions 8 topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 3; Alarms/False Alarms 4; Animal Calls 1; Assault 4; Assistance Calls 6; Cause Disturbance 1; Child Welfare 0; Drugs 1; Extortion 0; Fail to Stop or Remain at Collision 1; False/Abandoned 911 Call 2; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Family relations 1; Fire Prevention Act 2; Fraud 3; Harassment/Criminal Harassment 4; Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 0; Information File 3; Liquor act 1; Lost or Found property 2; Mental Health Act 0; Mischief or Damage 3; Missing Person/Request to Locate 0; Municipal Bylaws 0; Noise Complaints 0; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 0; Recovered Stolen Property 0; Sudden Death 1; Suspicious Persons 7; Theft Complaints 2; Traffic Complaints 6; Traffic Violations 8; Trespassing 2; Uninsured/Unregistered Vehicle 2; Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; Unwanted Person 0; Uttering Threats Against Person 1.

KID'S CORNER

Meet Ruth age 9 in grade 4 at Mary Bergeron Elementary School.

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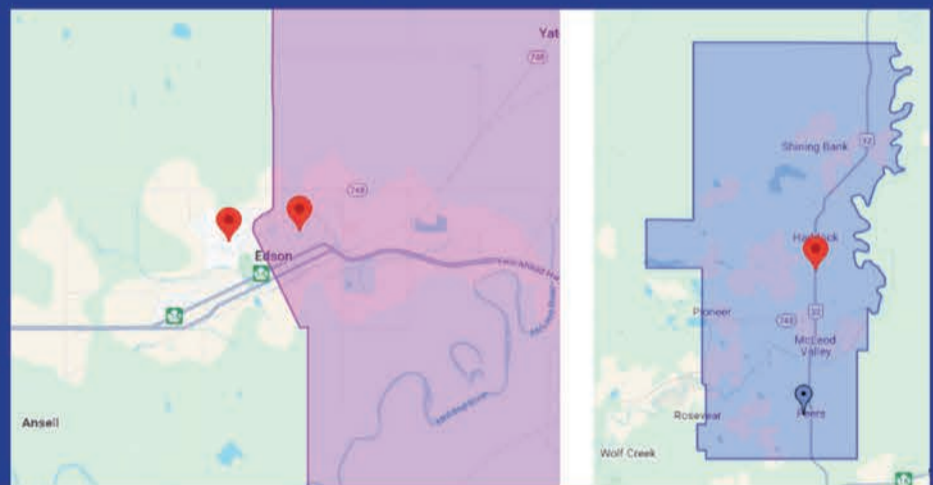
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Yellowhead County

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Systems Analyst (on-site)
Edson, AB
COMPETITION NO. 25-016

Reporting to the Manager of Information Technology, the Systems Analyst maintains the County computer, communication/dispatch, network, and telephone systems. The position is also responsible for but not limited to providing technical support for computers, tablets, radios and mobile phones and various applications.

The salary range is currently \$73,838 to \$91,560 per year.

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A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online. The competition will remain open until filled.

We thank all interested applicants in advance, however only those applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

Human Resources
Yellowhead County
Email: jobs@yhcounty.ca

The personal information obtained as a result of this advertisement will be utilized for these employment opportunities only, and is subject to compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

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Yellowhead County Volunteer Income Tax Program!

Eligibility Requirements:

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- Must be a resident of Yellowhead or Parkland County
- Program is for Low Income Individuals:
 - » 1 person income is \$35,000 or less
 - » 2 person income is \$45,000 or less
 - » 3 person income is \$47,500 or less
 - » 4 person income is \$50,000 or less
 - » 5 person income is \$52,500 or less

Reminder: A current tax return is required for federal benefits to continue without disruption, ex: child tax credit, government pensions.

Where: Yellowhead County Offices (Wildwood and Edson)

This program will start March 1, 2025 to ensure that everyone receives all of their tax slips.

For more information, please call Yellowhead County at 780.325.3782.

Yellowhead County

Approved Development Permits have been issued authorizing the following:

Permit No.	Location	Proposal	Date	Appeal Deadline
D25-001	Plan 8822541 Lot 1 SE-25-53-17-W5 Edson Area	Home Business Medium - (Helicopter Aerial Work & Taxi Service from April 1 - October 31) & Existing Accessory Building (Shop/Hangar) & Concrete Pad	Jan 29/25	Feb 19/25
D24-130	NW-4-54-15-W5 North of Pinedale Estates	Single Detached Dwelling	Feb 4/25	Permitted Use
D25-007	SE-14-53-9-W5 South of Wildwood	Accessory Building (Dry Storage/Hay Shed)	Feb 4/25	Permitted Use

Yellowhead County Development Permits are also posted online at www.yhcounty.ca. The public is considered officially notified of approved development permits once posted online, in accordance with the Public Notification Bylaw. The Yellowhead County Land Use Bylaw NO 02 24 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 \$500.00 payable to Yellowhead County within 21 days of the publishing of the Notice of Decision. Requirements for appealing the development to the Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/subdivision-appeals.aspx> or by calling 780-427-2444.

Yellowhead County

INVITATION TO TENDER

2025 Road Improvement Projects
Township Road 544
for Yellowhead County

Yellowhead County requests a tender submission from parties interested in performing the work identified below.

Sealed tender marked: **TENDER NO. 2024-832-1**
Project: 2025 Road Improvement Projects

Will be received until: **1:30 P.M., February 27, 2025**

At the office of: **Yellowhead County**
2716 - 1st Avenue
Edson, Alberta
T7E 1N9

For the following work:
Township Road 544 Road Improvements - From Hwy 32 to 3.6 km East of Hwy 32

Work shall be completed in accordance with the schedule contained within the Scope of Work and the Special Provisions.

Electronic (PDF) copies of the tender documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website on or after **12:00 P.M., February 6, 2025** at the following link: www.purchasingconnection.ca.

The Tender must be accompanied by a **ten percent (10%) Bid Security and Consent of Surety** as stated in the "Instruction to Bidders". Yellowhead County reserves the right to reject any or all tenders. The lowest or any other tender will not necessarily be accepted.

For further information, please contact **Myles McMillan, Manager of Transportation Services** for Yellowhead County at mmcmillan@yhcounty.ca.

Yellowhead County

INVITATION TO TENDER

2025 Road Improvement Projects
Range Road 144A
for Yellowhead County

Yellowhead County requests a tender submission from parties interested in performing the work identified below.

Sealed tender marked: **TENDER NO. 2024-832-2**
Project: 2025 Road Improvement Projects

Will be received until: **1:30 P.M., February 27, 2025**

At the office of: **Yellowhead County**
2716 - 1st Avenue
Edson, Alberta
T7E 1N9

For the following work:
Range Road 144A Road Improvements - From Twp Rd 541 to 560 m South of Twp Rd 541

Work shall be completed in accordance with the schedule contained within the Scope of Work and the Special Provisions.

Electronic (PDF) copies of the tender documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website on or after **12:00 P.M., February 6, 2025** at the following link: www.purchasingconnection.ca.

The Tender must be accompanied by a **ten percent (10%) Bid Security and Consent of Surety** as stated in the "Instruction to Bidders". Yellowhead County reserves the right to reject any or all tenders. The lowest or any other tender will not necessarily be accepted.

For further information, please contact **Myles McMillan, Manager of Transportation Services** for Yellowhead County at mmcmillan@yhcounty.ca.



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

Yellowhead County

INVITATION TO TENDER

2025 Road Paving Project
Township Road 542
for Yellowhead County

Yellowhead County requests a tender submission from parties interested in performing the work identified below.

Sealed tender marked: **TENDER NO. 2024-848**
Project: 2025 Road Paving Project

Will be received until: **1:30 P.M., March 6, 2025**

At the office of: **Yellowhead County**
2716 - 1st Avenue
Edson, Alberta
T7E 1N9

For the following work:
Pine Grove Hall Road - Base & Pave (TWP RD 542) - From Highway 748 to Range Road 165

Work shall be completed in accordance with the schedule contained within the Scope of Work and the Special Provisions.

Electronic (PDF) copies of the tender documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website on or after **12:00 P.M., February 13, 2025** at the following link: www.purchasingconnection.ca.

The Tender must be accompanied by a **ten percent (10%) Bid Security and Consent of Surety** as stated in the "Instruction to Bidders". Yellowhead County reserves the right to reject any or all tenders. The lowest or any other tender will not necessarily be accepted.

For further information, please contact **Myles McMillan, Manager of Transportation Services** for Yellowhead County at mmcmillan@yhcounty.ca.

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Yellowhead County

INVITATION TO TENDER

2025 Central Vegetation Mowing
for Yellowhead County

Yellowhead County requests a tender submission from parties interested in performing the work identified below.

Sealed tender marked: **TENDER NO. 2025-876**
Project: 2025 Central Vegetation Mowing

Will be received until: **2:00 P.M., March 6, 2025**

At the office of: **Yellowhead County**
2716 - 1st Avenue
Edson, Alberta
T7E 1N9

For the following work: **Approximately 555 kilometers of Vegetation mowing of local roads throughout Yellowhead County as well as 1 Storm Pond and 3 Lagoons.**

Work shall be completed in accordance with the schedule contained within the Scope of Work and the Special Provisions.

Electronic (PDF) copies of the tender documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website on or after **12:00 P.M., February 12, 2025** at the following link: www.purchasingconnection.ca.

The Tender must be accompanied by a **ten percent (10%) Bid Security** as stated in the "Instruction to Bidders". Yellowhead County reserves the right to reject any or all tenders. The lowest or any other tender will not necessarily be accepted.

For further information, please contact **Rex Wallace, Assistant Manager of Infrastructure Services** for Yellowhead County at rwallace@yhcounty.ca.

Yellowhead County

INVITATION TO TENDER

BF 07552 Bridge Replacement

Yellowhead County requests a tender submission from parties interested in performing the work identified below.

Sealed tender marked: **TENDER NO. 2025-879**
Project: BF 07552 Bridge Replacement and Other Work

Will be received until: **2:30 P.M., February 26, 2025**

At the office of: **Yellowhead County**
2716 - 1st Avenue
Edson, Alberta
T7E 1N9

For the following work: **Removal of the existing 24.4 m steel pony truss bridge, and construction of a new three-span (10-14-10) SL-510 precast girder standard bridge with a modified substructure.**

Work shall be completed in accordance with the schedule contained within the Scope of Work and the Special Provisions.

Electronic (PDF) copies of the tender documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website on or after **12:00 P.M., February 5, 2025** at the following link: www.purchasingconnection.ca.

The Tender must be accompanied by a **ten percent (10%) Bid Security and Consent of Surety** as stated in the "Instruction to Bidders". Yellowhead County reserves the right to reject any or all tenders. The lowest or any other tender will not necessarily be accepted.

For further information, please contact **Rex Wallace, Assistant Manager, Infrastructure Services** for Yellowhead County at rwallace@yhcounty.ca.

Yellowhead County

INVITATION TO TENDER

2025 West Vegetation Mowing
for Yellowhead County

Yellowhead County requests a tender submission from parties interested in performing the work identified below.

Sealed tender marked: **TENDER NO. 2025-875**
Project: 2025 West Vegetation Mowing

Will be received until: **2:00 P.M., March 6, 2025**

At the office of: **Yellowhead County**
2716 - 1st Avenue
Edson, Alberta
T7E 1N9

For the following work: **Approximately 577 kilometers of Vegetation Mowing of local roads throughout Yellowhead County as well as 1 Storm Pond, 1 Lagoon, 1 Freshwater Pond and the Hinton / Jasper Airport.**

Work shall be completed in accordance with the schedule contained within the Scope of Work and the Special Provisions.

Electronic (PDF) copies of the tender documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website on or after **12:00 P.M., February 12, 2025**, at the following link: www.purchasingconnection.ca.

The Tender must be accompanied by a **ten percent (10%) Bid Security** as stated in the "Instruction to Bidders". Yellowhead County reserves the right to reject any or all tenders. The lowest or any other tender will not necessarily be accepted.

For further information, please contact **Rex Wallace, Assistant Manager of Infrastructure Services** for Yellowhead County at rwallace@yhcounty.ca.

Yellowhead County

INVITATION TO TENDER

2025 East Vegetation Mowing
for Yellowhead County

Yellowhead County requests a tender submission from parties interested in performing the work identified below.

Sealed tender marked: **TENDER NO. 2025-877**
Project: 2024 East Vegetation Mowing

Will be received until: **2:00 P.M., March 6, 2025**

At the office of: **Yellowhead County**
2716 - 1st Avenue
Edson, Alberta
T7E 1N9

For the following work: **Approximately 513 kilometers of Vegetation Mowing of local roads throughout Yellowhead County as well as 2 Lagoons.**

Work shall be completed in accordance with the schedule contained within the Scope of Work and the Special Provisions.

Electronic (PDF) copies of the tender documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website on or after **12:00 P.M., February 12, 2025** at the following link: www.purchasingconnection.ca.

The Tender must be accompanied by a **ten percent (10%) Bid Security** as stated in the "Instruction to Bidders". Yellowhead County reserves the right to reject any or all tenders. The lowest or any other tender will not necessarily be accepted.

For further information, please contact **Rex Wallace, Assistant Manager of Infrastructure Services** for Yellowhead County at rwallace@yhcounty.ca.

Annual Ice Skating and Winter Fun event in Yellowhead County

by Niki Luymes

Yellowhead County hosted a time of family and fun in Niton on February 7, during the annual Ice Skating and Winter Fun event.

The event took place in Niton from 12pm to 2pm. The Robb event was held on February 6, from 12pm to 2pm. Both events took place at their respective outdoor skating rinks and were free of charge.

Each event featured a variety of activities themed around winter fun. "This was a family focused event with activities for all ages including

snow games, skating, a campfire to roast hot dogs and s'mores, and snow painting," said Jina Materi Recreation Coordinator.

Families could stay for the whole time or come and go as they desired. Even though both days had colder weather, a good number of people made it out to the events.

The Robb event was run by Yellowhead County Parks & Recreation and FCSS. The Niton event was held in partnership with two GYPSD programs: the BEST success coach and the Wellness Navigator. The Niton Library also came out and provided some take-home kits for

attendees.

The Ice Skating and Winter Fun events were created to take advantage of the school off-days in February. Every year the County works to plan at least two. The locations vary, but the purpose remains the same.

"Our goal is to have a family focused event highlighting some of the fun activities available across Yellowhead County during the winter months," said Materi. "We believe the events were well received and we look forward to offering similar programming over spring break."



While Yellowhead County's Ice Skating and Winter Fun Events on February 7th offered lots of family fun activities, some enjoyed simply playing in the snow. The County provided lots of tools and toys so that kids could make the most of the winter day. photos submitted.

The County's Ice Skating and Winter Fun Event in Niton was a great way for families and people of all ages to come out and enjoy the season at the outdoor rink.



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TRAVEL LOG:

From schools to seniors homes San Carlos Rotary lends a hand



Views & News

by Deanna Mitchener

by Deanna Mitchener

The San Carlos Rotary is a group of 36 members who are Mexican, American, and Canadian.

About half the members live year round in San Carlos with the other members returning to the US or Canada for the warmer months of the year.

David Garvie, president of the club, said, "Rotarians may only be members in one home club, but are welcome to visit clubs anywhere in the world."

"Our primary focus here in San Carlos is on local public education. We have been instrumental in building, maintaining, and improving the three public schools in San Carlos. Prior to the 1980s there were no formal schools here. It was the Rotary Club that started working with the local government to begin the process of building schools to serve the community," said Garvie.

"Children are required by law to attend school until the end of what we would consider to be their grade nine year. The first nine years are publicly funded. Public funds go towards teachers, some infrastructure, and some materials," Garvie said.

"In San Carlos, the Rotary Club has been helping each of the schools in the innumerable areas where government funding does not exist. This can be very complicated, and the experience and perseverance of the Rotarians working closely with the teachers and parents has resulted in the San Carlos schools developing into very good learning communities, in an area that is not well off financially," said Garvie.

"Grade 10 to 12 are offered in Guaymas, which is 10 miles away. High schools are private and so a tuition fee is required. For students to continue they need to find the necessary tuition plus other supporting resources to continue their education," Garvie explained.

"The San Carlos Rotary has been offering a scholarship program for excellent students who are unable to qualify or find means to support their continued education. As of today, we are funding about 45 high school students from San Carlos and also from the nearby villages of Santa Clara and San Jose," said Garvie.

"Our scholarship program is

supervised by a local teacher who tracks the funding, the academic progress, and the family supports required for each student. The graduation rate for the Rotary students is 100% because of the students' efforts and the supervision. We have also been sponsoring more university students and technical students who also complete their program," Garvie said.

"We operate several fundraising activities that support our work. Cow Plop Bingo that happens in January, Fiesta de Mardi Gras in February, and Fiesta de Carne Asada in March. We are beginning an online lottery that will run year-round and support scholarships. We also receive donations from various sources," said Garvie.

"Because we are a Rotary Club, this has resulted in our partnering with other clubs over the years to work on many projects. In 2012 San Carlos Primary School Soccer Field was built with two Arizona Clubs using artificial turf, costing \$25,000," Garvie said.

In 2024, Ancla de Amor Orphanage playground was built working with six California clubs (costing \$70,000). 2020 to 2023 El Cobijo Seniors Home in San Jose had major repairs following a hurricane (\$170,000). "The original building was built by San Carlos and Guaymas Rotary about 30 years ago. They were not able to do repairs and the facility was about to be closed putting all the residents onto the street. All of the residents are 70 years and older without family or any other support," Garvie explained.

Last year a boat sinking to form an artificial reef was carried out, another ship was sunk just outside San Carlos. This project creates ecosystems for a variety of ocean species. This was done at a cost of around \$275,000. Rotary International Chicago and Pueblo Rotary were the primary sponsors of this event with Guaymas and San Carlos hosting the event. "Hosting meant hosting about 60 dignitaries from various locations from across North, Central, and South America," said Garvie.

It was fascinating to see what the Rotarians are doing here in Mexico. Just like our Rotary Club in Edson, it's good people volunteering to help out wherever they can. If you are looking to join an organization, the Rotary Club would love to have you.

~ Obituary ~

Joseph Romaniuk



It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts we announce the passing of Joseph Romaniuk on January 30, 2025, in the Edson Hospital. Joe, beloved husband of Martha, passed away suddenly at the age of 84. Besides his loving wife Martha, Joe is survived by his children; son Joseph (Lea) Romaniuk, daughters Trish Radcliffe, Carol (Blaine) Elesko and son Michael Romaniuk, his grandchildren; Brandon (Brittany) Radcliffe, Darian MacLennan (Ryan Dean), Krysta Romaniuk (Phillip Bosch), Kyle Romaniuk, as well as great grandsons Forrest Dean, Atlas Dean and Brantley Radcliffe.

Joe is also survived by his brother Peter (Bohdan) Romaniuk, of Edson, AB, sister-in-law Claudette Romaniuk of Edson, AB, sisters-in-law Josie (Ken) Frid of Sylvan Lake, AB, Barb (Lorne) Osborne of Drayton Valley, AB, Donna (Mark) Preece of Sylvan Lake, AB, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

He was predeceased by his father Joseph Romaniuk, mother Mary, stepfather John Bohoslawyc, brother Nick Romaniuk, sisters; Annie (Steve) Eleniak, Sophia (Lloyd) Williamson, sister-in-law Doris Romaniuk, nephew Walter Williamson and grandson Jordon Radcliffe, father-in-law Paul Borowski, mother-in-law Olga Borowski, brother-in-law Peter Borowski and sister-in-law Mary (Fred) Haubi.

Joe was born October 18, 1940, at home in Drostan area (Wolf Creek). Joe was the third child to Joseph and Mary (Groszko) Romaniuk. His siblings: Nick born in 1936, Annie in 1938, Sophia in 1946 and Bohdan in 1951. The family's home was located across from Drostan School, which is now a community hall. He attended school at Drostan School, then the Red Brick School in Edson. In 1961, Joe lost his father to cancer and this is when he had to help a lot more on the farm and help with his younger siblings. In August 1964, his mom Mary married John Bohoslawyc. On May 4, 1968, Joe married Martha (Borowski) in Edson. They started a family with Joseph, who was born in 1968, Trish in 1969, Carol in 1971 and Michael in 1975.

Joe always had the love of farming, gardening, woodworking, music and family. He liked drawing in his younger years. He loved playing the violin or mandolin with family and friends, there were always fun times when the instruments came out. He always was hoping his fruit trees would produce fruit so there could be a fresh apple pie to eat. Family was very important to Joe, he loved hearing how his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were doing. He was a very hard-working man, who was able to fix or build almost anything that was asked. Joe built many things from his wood that he sawed on his sawmill. On November 22, 2014, life changed some for him when he lost his right hand in a farm accident with the sawmill, but this did not slow him down as he continued to farm. And farming is what he did right up until he was admitted to the hospital due to a stroke on January 9, 2025.

Farmer's Life

Growin' up on the farm, you learn early. Up before dawn, chores done before school. Feedin' animals, fixin's fences, and ridin' tractors – it's just life. Hard work, family, and dirt under your nails. It's simple, but it's a good life. The farm teaches you respect for the land and the value of a job well done.

A Funeral Service was held on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 2:00 PM at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Edson, AB, with Father Don Bodnar officiating. Interment followed at the Glenwood Cemetery.

The family has asked that in lieu of floral tributes donations may be offered in memory of Joe to:

The Edson Community Care Foundation, PO Box 6300, Edson, AB, T7E 1T7 (cheques) (for e-transfer: email: communitycarefoundationedson@gmail.com) towards a CT Scanner for Edson, or The Alberta Heart and Stroke Foundation, 144-5241 Calgary Trail NW, Edmonton, AB, T6H 5G8

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RCMP requests County input on annual priorities

by Shaylyn Thornton

RCMP members from the Edson, Evansburg, and Hinton detachments attended Yellowhead County Council's February 11 meeting to discuss their annual priorities.

S/Sgt Christian Delisle represented Edson, S/Sgt Shiloh Fragomeni represented Hinton, and Sgt Jeff Sutherland represented Evansburg.

S/Sgt Delisle spoke first, providing a year-end report to Council, which included resource/staffing levels of the Edson Detachment, 2024 crime statistics, and annual performance plan priorities for 2024/25.

Delisle said the Edson Detachment has 23 regular members and 6.5 support staff but noted that the detachment was short 8 members for the majority of 2024. This was due to four parental leaves, two long-term medical leaves, and two vacant roles.

Persons crime stats from January to December of 2024 showed there was a slight increase in sexual assault numbers from 2023, with 2024 seeing six compared to 2023's four. However, other sexual offences decreased by three from 2023, with two instances reported in 2024.

Since 2020, assault statistics have seen a consistent rise, from 39 instances in 2020 to 57 in 2024. Criminal harassment and uttering threats also saw increases, with 16 and 21 calls, respectively.

Overall, 108 persons crimes were documented in 2024 compared to 93 in 2023.

Property crimes stats showed that 91 break & enters occurred in 2024 compared to 40 in 2023. "55% of those are from oil and gas lease sites. It's not an increase on private properties," said Delisle. "It was an increase that was, unfortunately, targeted on the oil industry."

Theft of motor vehicles saw a decrease from 39 in 2023 to 32 in 2024. Meanwhile, theft over \$5,000, theft under \$5,000, fraud, arson, and mischief (damage to property) each saw increases in their year-over-year statistics, contributing to 553 calls in 2024 compared to 349 in 2023. Of the mischief (damage to property) calls, "70% of those were, again, oil sites that were targeted," said Delisle.

Regarding their 2024/25 goals (from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025), the Edson Detachment addressed their priority for visibility patrols, drug investigations, and community engagement. With a goal of 1,500 visibility patrols, the detachment is at 1,272 after three quarters.

While Edson had the goal of completing 12 drug investigations, they have already done 29 after only three quarters, which also resulted in seven charges on "different prolific offenders."

The community engagement priority came with a goal of 50 times the RCMP was active at community events, and after three quarters they have attended 31 events including Canada Day, RCMP Bike Rodeo, school presentations, and more.

Delisle said that priorities for 2025/26 include decreasing property crime, continuing community engagement, and continued drug investigations.

Councillor Dawn Mitchell gave her input on their priorities, encouraging Sgt Delisle to focus on oilfield-related property crime. "I think that's really, really important because that really does affect industry, the safety and well-being of our workers and industry, and income," she said. "So if that could continue to be a priority, I would really appreciate it."

Sgt Sutherland's presentation included resource/staffing levels of the Evansburg Detachment, crime statistics, and priorities for the year.

Sutherland said Evansburg currently has six constables, one corporal, and one sergeant. The detachment is current short one constable due to a transfer. Cpl Darren Ryan, an 18-year member, fills the Cpl spot.

Property crimes statistics for Evansburg showed a decrease in almost every category, except for "mischief - other" which saw 69 instances in 2024 compared to 46 in 2023. Persons crimes was a similar situation, with everything seeing a decrease except for criminal harassment, with 18 instances in 2024 compared to 13 in 2023.

Common police activities in the Evansburg Detachment included false alarms, false/abandoned 911 calls, missing persons, spousal abuse, and suspicious person/vehicle/property. Sutherland noted that, overall, there was a 14% decrease in total criminal code offences in 2024 when compared to 2023.

Enhanced awareness and education were a priority for Evansburg in 2024/25 with visibility patrols taking place and increased checks on prolific offenders. It was noted that, for the last quarter, the detachment may have a focus on check stops in the small communities.

Community engagement for the Evansburg Detachment included drug talks, talking to the high schoolers, and attending events like Wildwood Youth Library Night and youth skate days.

Sgt Sutherland noted that one of the things he'd like to do, as a part of his detachment's 2025/26 annual priorities, would be to focus a bit on fraud as well as internet safety. The topics were flagged by members of the community during Town Hall sessions.

"Our phones are going off non-stop, nowadays, with these people calling for money and gift cards, so we're looking at putting together several courses on fraud into the old folk's homes and things like that," Sgt Sutherland said. "That's who gets targeted the most, or who gets convinced to give over money the most."

Deputy Mayor Brigitte Lemieux thanked the presenters for their time and information. Council voted unanimously to accept the presentation.

Pinedale Hall Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance

by Niki Luymes

The Pinedale Hall was lit up on February 8th for their annual Valentines Day Dinner and Dance.

Tickets for the event were \$35 per person. The doors opened at 6pm, and dinner was served at 7pm. The event is one of Pinedale Hall's major fundraisers for the year. Attendees get to enjoy good food, community fellowship, and an evening of fun.

"This year we had delicious meatballs and roasted pork loin, perogies, homemade cabbage rolls, salads, mashed potatoes, veggies, buns, and cakes with berries and whipped cream for dessert," said Katrina Krickan, Pinedale Hall Association President.

"Every Valentine's dance we hold a silent auction of items donated by generous local businesses and members. When the silent auction was done, the band started playing and everyone started dancing, and they didn't stop dancing until close to 1am," said Krickan.

The live music was provided by the Ryan Snow Band, a group from Edmonton. This is the second time that the band has performed for this event. 80

people turned out to enjoy the evening. "I think the event went very well! We had great participation in the silent auction, we received lots of compliments on the supper we served and the dance floor was packed once the band started. We were able to raise some money for the hall and we had a fun time doing it," added Kirckan.

Pinedale hall volunteers have been putting on the Valentines Day Dance for over 15 years. All the money raised goes directly back into operating the hall. "We are working hard to complete some upgrades to the hall. In October we installed a badly needed new water well and we are also hoping to have some repairs done to our roof," said Kirckan.

"Our next dance, our Fall Harvest Dance, is already planned for October 25, with Ryan Snow Band playing as well. The live dessert auction is always a popular event. We have started doing Family Bingo one Sunday a month. Winners pick prizes and we have a concession with hot dogs, chips, pop, and homemade goodies donated by members," Kirckan added.

YCE Multiplex Facility update

by Niki Luymes

The Yellowhead County and Edson (YCE) Multiplex Facility is set to begin construction in 2025. Town of Edson Administration gave an update on the project at the Town's February 11th Committee of the Whole meeting. As the project progresses some small changes had to be made, but nothing that changes the overall outcome.

In April 2024, Town Council approved a program design for the YCE Multiplex with a total budget of \$80,240,000. The approved Town of Edson 2025 Capital Budget allocated \$27,000,000 toward the project. The estimated cost of the completed project currently sits at \$83.08M.

"While the project's budget currently exceeds the target, further cost saving opportunities may arise in the construction drawings and tendering phases that we are going through currently," said Doug Wagstaff, General Manager, Community & Protective Services. The plan is to construct the new facility in a similar footprint to the existing facility. The project will be done in phases, allowing for sections of the facility to still be used during the process.

"The construction footprint for the pool and gymnasium have been relocated 3.0 meters to the east, creating extra space between the existing building and new pool. More in-depth

geotechnical and engineering work was completed, and the risk of vibration should not materialize especially with a shift of the footprint 3.0 meters to the east," said Wagstaff. Because of the change in plans, a revised development permit application was submitted on January 21, reflecting the adjusted footprint. This will not affect the planned tender and construction schedule.

Other decisions have been made as well. "The foundation will be piles which keeps the construction schedule tight and realizes a \$125,000 saving," added Wagstaff.

A contract has already been awarded for the pre-engineered arena, mechanical, and electrical subcontractors. "Design details continue to evolve. Over the next six months efforts will focus on completing all major tenders to allow for the best opportunity to align construction pricing with the project's budget and achieving best-cost certainty as design work is finalized. This proactive strategy positions the project well for successful construction progress into the winter season of 2025-2026. Preparations are underway for the start of construction this spring," said Wagstaff.

Residents who are interested in following the YCE Multiplexes' progress, can find updated information at YCEmultiplex.ca.

Edson Orcas travel to Grande Cache for Mountain Meet

by Deanna Mitchener

30 Edson Orcas swam their best over the weekend of February 1, in Grande Cache during the Mountain Meet with the Grande Cache Otters.

The Orcas swim club participated in multiple events. 400 IM, 100 Free, 25 Fly, 50 Breast, 100 IM, 200 Free, 25 Back, 200 IM, 100 Back, 200 Breast, 50 Fly, and 25 Free.

Kerry Sauve Johnston, with the club, said, "Two swimmers, Logan B and Sam W obtained a festival times [equivalent to provincial qualifiers] for their 200 Breast, which was amazing."

The swimmers ended their day with a fun mixed 4x50 medley relay. Another exciting event was the dash for cash event. The top six swimmers in 100 Free and 100 Breast had the chance to a swim-off, with the winner receiving \$50.

"For the 50 Free Emery, Fahryn, Aubrey, Tyson, Logan S, and Cole all qualified with Cole winning \$50 for the boys and Emery winning \$50 for the girls," said Johnston

For the 100 Breast, the following swimmers landed themselves in the top six: Fahryn, Korbin, Emery, Tyson, Logan S and Cole. Cole again won the \$50.

The second day of events were 100 Butterfly, 25 Butterfly, 100 Breast, 50 Free, 400 Free and



The Edson Orcas swim club travelled to Grande Cache on the February 1 weekend for the Mountain Meet with the Grande Cache Otters. submitted

50 Back.

Dash for Cash events were 50 Fly (qualifiers were Korbin and Madison, Tyson and Cole), 50 Breast (qualifiers were Emery and Fahryn, Tyson, Cole, and Sam). Cole won both and Emery won the breaststroke.

Awards were handed out at the end of the meet. 8 & Under Boys Silver medal: Isaac Whitehead. 9 & 10 Boys Bronze: Connor

Browne. 11 & 12 Girls Silver: Fahryn Domniaczuk. 13 & 14 Boys Gold: Logan Stiles. 15 & Over Girls Gold: Emery Cardinal. 15 & Over Boys Silver: Tyson Bryldt, and Gold: Cole Armstrong.

"Thank you Grande Cache Otters for another wonderful meet. The next meet for the Orcas is in Ponoka on February 22 and 23," said Johnston.

Community Care's Spring Fling Fashion Show

by Deanna Mitchener

The Community Care Foundation of Edson and District is planning their annual Spring Fling Fashion Show.

The event is set for March 6, at the Edson Royal Canadian Legion Branch #51. The doors open at 6:00 p.m. with the show starting at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available at Gelmici Jewellers, Jensen's Lifestyle Clothing, In Your Drawers, and Riderz.

The annual event is a fundraiser and awareness campaign for the foundation.

Lori Stang, Chairperson for the 2025 Spring Fling Fashion Show, says, "The Community Care Foundation of Edson and District is not a new organization; it has been around for many years. There are many residents in our area that are aware of it, but many are not."

The foundation supports local healthcare initiatives such as purchasing medical equipment, cataract surgery equipment, air mattresses, Bluetooth fetal monitor, long term care programs, assists with attraction and retention of healthcare professionals, and educational courses.

"In 2023, the idea to host a fashion show was proposed to the foundation. The idea behind this was to raise awareness of the

foundation's role in the community and raise money for diagnostic imaging. This event is made possible through the involvement and participation of the community," says Stang.

Through the involvement of volunteers, local organizations, and businesses the shows have managed to sell out.

"Spring Fling Fashion Show was the first fashion show in Edson in many years. We raised over \$34,000 and sold 320 tickets to the general public for this fun event. We hope to match these stats for the upcoming event on March 6," Stang say.

"The show has random seating (with the exception of four VIP tables). There will be a cash bar hosted by the Legion, and charcuterie will be included in the ticket price of \$40.

There will be a photo booth, refreshments, opportunities to bid on live auction and silent auction, raffle tickets, and 50/50 tickets. "The best part of the evening is being involved and interacting with the community. To end the evening there will be a raffle and door prize draws," says Stang.

Mark those calendars, tell your family, friends, and colleagues and remember to purchase tickets early before they sell out.

Edson and County Fire Departments respond to structure fire

On Wednesday, February 5, at approximately 2218hrs, Edson Fire Department was dispatched to a reported structure fire in the area of 54th Street South.

Edson Fire Department responded with a command vehicle, two engines, a tender, a heavy rescue, and a utility apparatus. Mutual aid was requested from Yellowhead County Fire who supported them with a command vehicle, an engine/tanker, and an aerial apparatus.

Support was also provided by two private water trucks, RCMP, Associated Ambulance, Yellowhead Gas Co-Op, Fortis, and Town of Edson Utilities and Public Works.

Upon arriving at the location, crews encountered heavy fire in a commercial shop-style building. A tender nursing operation was established, cycling Edson and Yellowhead tenders to the closest available fire hydrant.

Crews on scene utilized several attack lines on interior and exterior positions to control the fire. There was significant fire extension into the attic space, which was controlled with the support of Yellowhead County's ladder truck.

The fire was contained by crews to the shop area, preserving office and dwelling spaces attached. A thorough overhaul took place to ensure complete extinguishment.

There is extensive structural damage to the building resulting from the fire. A third-party investigator will be conducting the fire investigation for this incident.

The Town of Edson would like to thank all involved in containing this incident, including EFD and Yellowhead County fire crews and industry partners.

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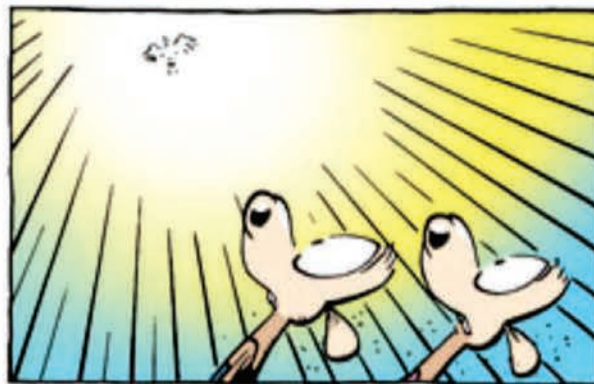
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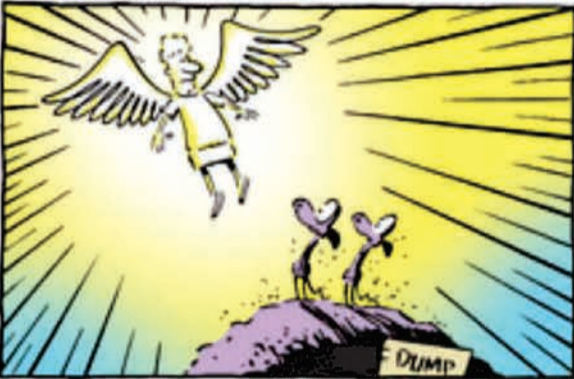
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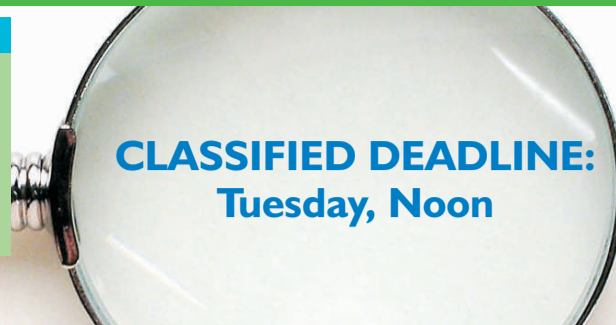
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4719 - 9th Ave., Ph: 723-3982
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6212 - 13 Ave, Edson
Office hrs: Tues 9am-1pm
Office phone: 780-723-4992
Pastor Tyson Moerike
(Call or text 403-966-4705)
Sunday worship - 9:45

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

Pastor: Ryan Hoogerbrugge
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EDSON UNITED CHURCH
Edson United Church
1214 Edson Drive Edson AB
Phone: 723-3418

FAMILY OF FAITH CHURCH
463 72 St., Edson (formerly Glenwood Hall), Telephone: 780-517-7558

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Pastors: Pastors John and Ingrid Huizing vfm@shaw.ca

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What's happening, when and where in the community

Community Events

Fire Smart Community Series- Cadomin Hall, **February 18** Trail Hall, **February 20** Mackay Hall. Drop in style any time between 4:00-7:00pm

February 19 March 5: Family Time Marlboro Community Hall. This is a free program for caregivers with children 0-5 10:30AM-12:30PM. Registration is required.

www.yhcounty.ca/registration

February 26 March 12: Family Time Peers Multiplex. This is a free program for caregivers with children 0-5 10:30AM-12:30PM. Registration is required.

www.yhcounty.ca/registration

March 12, April 2 April 20: @ 6:00pm Wellness Wednesday Winter Walks. Join for a 60 min walk through Town of Edson starting at Edson Drive Trail Head

Feb 13 to Mar 20: County Free Winter Run Club: All

runs start at noon at the following locations: Feb 13 - Robb Multiplex; Feb 20 - Marlboro Community Hall; Feb 27 - Peers Multiplex; Mar 6 - Niton Playground; Mar 13 - Wildwood Rec Complex; Mar 20 - Evansburg Arena. Pre-register at: yhcounty.ca/registration - for the runs you would like to join.

February 17: Snow Much Fun Family Day. 11AM-2PM Griffiths Park so much out door activities to list but bring a Helmet and skates for on the ice.

February 22: Bottle drive for HRH Grad Class 12-5pm

May 31: Eddies Big Run. Registration opens February 10. Register online at edson.ca or in person at Edson District Leisure Centre.

Email us with your non-profit event date at: anchorwk@telusplanet.net

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Farm & Field News and Views

Record Growth for Alberta Open Farm Days 2024

Over 50,000 Albertans visited farms and participated in culinary events during Open Farm Days in 2024.

Alberta Open Farm Days is a 2-day summer event that presents Albertans with an opportunity to experience the farm firsthand from farmers and ranchers. From its beginnings in 2013, the program has encouraged Albertans to engage with their local communities and experience agri-tourism.

In 2024, Alberta Open Farm Days saw

exponential growth. “We were very excited about Alberta Open Farm Days 2024,” says Tim Carson, CEO, Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies. “We saw a notable increase in the number of participating farms, with more than 150 farms opening their doors to Albertans. Visitor numbers also rose significantly, jumping from nearly 36,000 in 2023 to over 52,000 in 2024.”

Since its inception, Alberta Open Farm Days participating farms have generated more than \$1.7 million in sales of goods to Albertans during the event. In 2024, on-farm sales surpassed \$300,000 for the first time, highlighting that visitors are eager to support Alberta's agricultural industry.

“Since its humble beginnings, Alberta Open Farm Days has grown and many hosts have grown along with it,” says Carson. “We are confident the future will continue to provide new and fun ways to discover and experience

the Alberta agriculture story.”

Over the years, Alberta Open Farm Days has also evolved to offer professional development opportunities for hosts, helping them build **Notes: See towards page 6** programs. Training sessions were provided to equip farms with valuable insights on marketing, ticketing, food planning and booking, as well as insurance.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation is proud to work with Travel Alberta to support Alberta Open Farm Days and bring education, innovative and informative agri-tourism to rural Alberta. “Registration is now open for 2025,” says Carson. “Mark your calendars for the 13th annual Alberta Open Farm Days on August 16 and 17 and come and meet your rural neighbours.”



Inspired by Michelangelo's masterpiece in the Sistine Chapel, Mrs. Semotiuk's Grade one students at Mary Bergeron School turned their Art lesson upside down recently. Students were lying on the floor with paper taped beneath their desks and drew and colored pictures to tell a story. This creative approach not only sparked their imagination, but also provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen their fine motor skills. By reaching and stretching in unconventional ways, the students developed hand-eye coordination, improved grip strength, and refined their control over pencils and markers. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

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