

Revisions made to Regional Airport Agreement

Edson RCMP begin deployment of body-worn cameras...

by Shaylyn Thornton

At their January 28 meeting, Edson Regional Airport. Yellowhead County Council

agreement regarding the an agreement for the Edson capital expenditures of the operation and funding of the Regional Airport to share Airport. The preceding revenue and/or expenses for agreement was signed on The Town of Edson and operating and maintaining the January 1, 2018, and was presented with a revised Yellowhead County have held airport and/or any approved terminated on December 21,

FINELI

continued page 2

see page 3

RCMP

HEALTH

Virtual Emergency Physician pilot launches in Edson...

see page 11

COMMENT

More of the same from Liberal leader hopefuls...

see page 6



Beer league hockey is a fun activity that many players enjoy at the Edson & District Leisure Centre. Pictured are the Chiefs taking on the Rutabagers Hockey Club. photo Shaylyn Thornton

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Revisions made to Regional Airport Agreement

continued from front

2023.

General Manager of Infrastructure Services Cory Armfelt presented the updated agreement, highlighting the revised changes, which would cover the time period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028. The proposed changes were:

- Annually, before the 1st day of September, the Town shall submit to the County an estimate of the operating budget and any proposed capital purchases for the next calendar year for consideration and comment by the County. If the County deems any budgetary request excessive or unreasonable, a dispute resolution process will be undertaken to address the contention.

- The date the town is required to provide the audited financial statement of the previous year has changed from March 31st to May 30th.

- The portion of the County's share of the annual operating advance has increased from Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000). The date for this payment has changed from June 1st to July 1st.

Armfelt recommended that Council authorize the endorsement of the revised Edson Regional Airport agreement, noting that the other option would be to reject the agreement "in which case [the County] would go back for more dialogue between the two parties."

Councillor David Russell inquired about the annual operating advance increase of \$20,000 to \$50,000. Armfelt explained that the amount is just an increase in the advance that goes towards the total payment that is calculated at the end of a calendar year.

"Ultimately, it's about \$100,000 to \$120,000 per year," Armfelt said. "It assists with their cash flow and then the change in the date of that is some benefit to Yellowhead County... so it's a benefit to both parties."

Councillor Brigitte Lemieux asked about "Clause 6" of the agreement. "I understand that the equipment that is purchased with airport funds is deemed to be the property of the town and that's because it sits on

their books, so I understand that, and I also know that we could give that verbal go-ahead for that to both parties understand... the equipment that is purchased for the airport is only used for the airport," she said. "Since this is a long-term agreement, I'm equipment is used offsite, so that said we believe that wondering if we should clarify that in the agreement itself, by including a statement that says that equipment that is purchased with airport funds can only be used for airport purposes."

County CAO Luc Mercier said that while the County has "struggled in the past with some of the equipment maybe being used offsite," they received assurances from the Town of Edson Administration that the equipment will only be used on airport lands for airport purposes.

Mercier said that the verbal agreement also acknowledged that, in an emergency like a "huge snowfall or some other event that they need, if there is a requirement for that additional equipment to be used in additional places, to simply give us a call and

happen."

Otherwise, "We would not expect that thE the Administration will honour that verbal commitment, and we feel that that is sufficient for this," Mercier said. noting that there are other means to handle the situation if it becomes an issue. "But we don't anticipate that, we think that right now it is being managed appropriately, and we shouldn't have to put a separate part in the clause."

Lemieux also inquired further about the airport reserve, of which Administration will bring a report to a future Council meeting.

Council authorized the endorsement of the revised Edson Regional Airport Operating and Funding Agreement for January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028.



Tim, Laura, Azalea Proud, along with Jeff and Miko Leslie on January 25, at the Royal Canadian Legion Trivia night. The team was happy to win. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

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THE WEEKLY ANCHOR

FCSS Ladies Night out features pottery making

by Niki Luymes

Edson FCSS hosted their monthly Ladies Night Out at the Griffith's Park Centre on January 23.

This month the ladies were able to create one of a kind pottery creations under the guidance of a local potter. Each ladies night features an activity and refreshments, and acts as a great way to connect.

The event started at 6pm and went until 8pm. Lisa Wilkinson walked the ladies though the process. The group did flat work, meaning pottery without the wheel. The main creation was a pot, but each person was able to customize it however they preferred. "The ladies were very creative. We had a lot of very different, very creative designss" said Diana Inscho, FCSS Coordinator.

"The event was sold out, so 15 people, which is our maximum in that space," said Inscho. "They really enjoyed themselves." This is the second time that the ladies night has been a pottery event. FCSS has also hosted a vouth

event with the same activity.

Each time it proved to be very popular. "People really love playing with mud, even as an adult. It's just something that is creative and fun. Plus, it lets people try something they haven't done before, which is really great for personal growth," added Inscho.

The main goal of the night out is to create a way for ladies in the community to gather, connect, and simply have fun. "In the case of the pottery night," added Inscho, "also helps to promote our pottery club here in Edson. There were quite a few ladies who are now planning to take some of the pottery classes with the Edson Craft Center."

Edson FCSS does a ladies night every month. Coming up will be a murder mystery party on February 13. Each event costs \$20 to attend, and pre-registration is required. The Town also puts on weekly Wellness Wednesday events that are open to all adults. You can find information on these events at the Town of Edson website under community development programs.



FCSS Ladies Night took place on January 23 at Griffith Park Centre. The instructor was potter Lisa Wilkinson. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

Edson RCMP begins deployment of body-worn cameras

In mid February, the Edson RCMP will equip frontline officers with body-worn cameras as part of the Alberta RCMP's ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and modernization. Following comprehensive training, officers will be ready to use this cutting-edge technology while serving their communities.

This initiative is part of a 12month nationwide rollout of bodyworn cameras, which began in the fall of 2024. Between 10,000 and 15,000 cameras are being deployed to frontline officers across Canada, with Alberta RCMP detachments at the forefront of this important step forward.

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• Efficient complaint resolution: Objective records expedite investigations, saving time and resources





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Edson Food Bank adapts as food cost and usage climbs

by Deanna Mitchener

The Edson Food Bank has worked very hard over the holidays and into the new year.

Amy Pillage, Program Coordinator with the Food Bank, summarized the season as "Staggering! We were closed for an entire week (December 22-29) and you'd never know based on our numbers."

"In December 2024, we helped 605 people in 287 households. Compare this to our December 2023 numbers of 538 people and 235 households (with no closure), or December 2022 numbers of 352 people in 174 households (with no closure)," Pillage said.

January is already off to a very busy start as the Food Bank already helped over 400 people by mid-month.

"We do not expect to see a slow down in our numbers anytime soon. Unfortunately, we've also heard to expect an increase in food costs. This is going to hit us hard! We did have a very generous giving season here at the Food Bank, but our shelves are already growing bare and we are back to spending \$20,000+/month on groceries," said Pillage.

"We have had an incredibly successful response from our community requesting to volunteer with us. We have numerous corporate volunteers committed to coming in monthly, plus we've continued with our after school work bee for students on Tuesdays," Pillage said. "We have the Edson Youth Town Councillors coming in monthly beginning in February to help out as well."

"We also have McMan Support & Family Services in monthly to help and a variety of

Edson Firefighters train for Fitness Evaluations

by Deanna Mitchener

The Edson Fire Fighters must all complete a yearly fitness evaluation to ensure firefighters they are fit to be on the frontline. Firefighters each play a valuable role in not just responding to emergencies, but also preventing fires and other dangerous events from occurring.

Fire Fighters conduct fire code inspections, educate the community on fire safety during events such as Fire Prevention Week, train and take courses to improve their skills, attend community events where kids can learn about becoming a firefighter and see all the equipment, and more.

The Edson Fire Department just completed several weeks of Fitness Evaluations to ensure each firefighter completed their evaluation.

school and sports groups reaching out to help as well. We are thrilled to have the extra helpers! There is always something to be done here and we appreciate all the help we get," Pillage added.

"As our client numbers continue to climb, we are making necessary changes to ensure our customer service remains consistent. As of February 1, we will be limiting the number of walk-in clients to 12 during operating hours. The goal is to have our clients book appointments in advance, if they're able," Pillage explained.

"Appointments allow us to prepare ahead of time and ensure we have enough for all. Our walk-in system is designed for those clients unable to make appointments due to a variety of circumstances. We want those able to make appointments, to do so. Appointments alleviate the strain on our operations with the goal of

allowing an exemplary experience for everyone," said Pillage.

12 walk-in clients will be accepted per operating time: Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and Thursdays from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. "Some weeks we have seen upwards of 20 and that just isn't sustainable."

"To help with the expected influx of appointments, we have also extended our operating hours for appointments on Tuesdays. We will, as of February 1, now be operating 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. Our appointment line remains the same (780)725-3185. Our appointment line is open 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Monday-Thursday but clients can call or text at their leisure to book their appointments and all messages are returned. We will also be accepting appointments by email soon too," Pillage concluded.



THE YELLOWHEAD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IS HONOURED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE BEEN AWARDED FUNDING UNDER THE CANADIAN RED CROSS WILDFIRE 2023 COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND **RESILIENCY GRANT. THIS GRANT IS TO ASSESS THE IMPACTS TO OUR** COMMUNITY DURING THE 2023 WILDFIRE AND TO BUILD A PROGRAM THAT WILL LESSEN AND EASE THE IMPACT TO OUR RESIDENTS IN **FUTURE EMERGENCIES.**

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Steve Bethge, with the Edson Fire Department, says, "The [evaluation] course is set up to simulate work done on a fire ground. This includes a hose carry, force machine (hammer), dummy drag/carry, cool down lap, hose drag with rope, stairs x3, hose hoist on the pully x3, hose advance with nozzle, stairs x2. hose hoist x2, and a container carry at the end. Firefighters are required to complete the course in full gear and with a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) on in under 12 minutes."

Firefighters are the first line of defence when an emergency strikes. Whether it's a raging fire, a hazardous material spill, or a challenging rescue operation, firefighters rush to the scene, risking their lives to save others. These brave men and women put their lives on the line to protect others and save lives in the most dangerous situations.



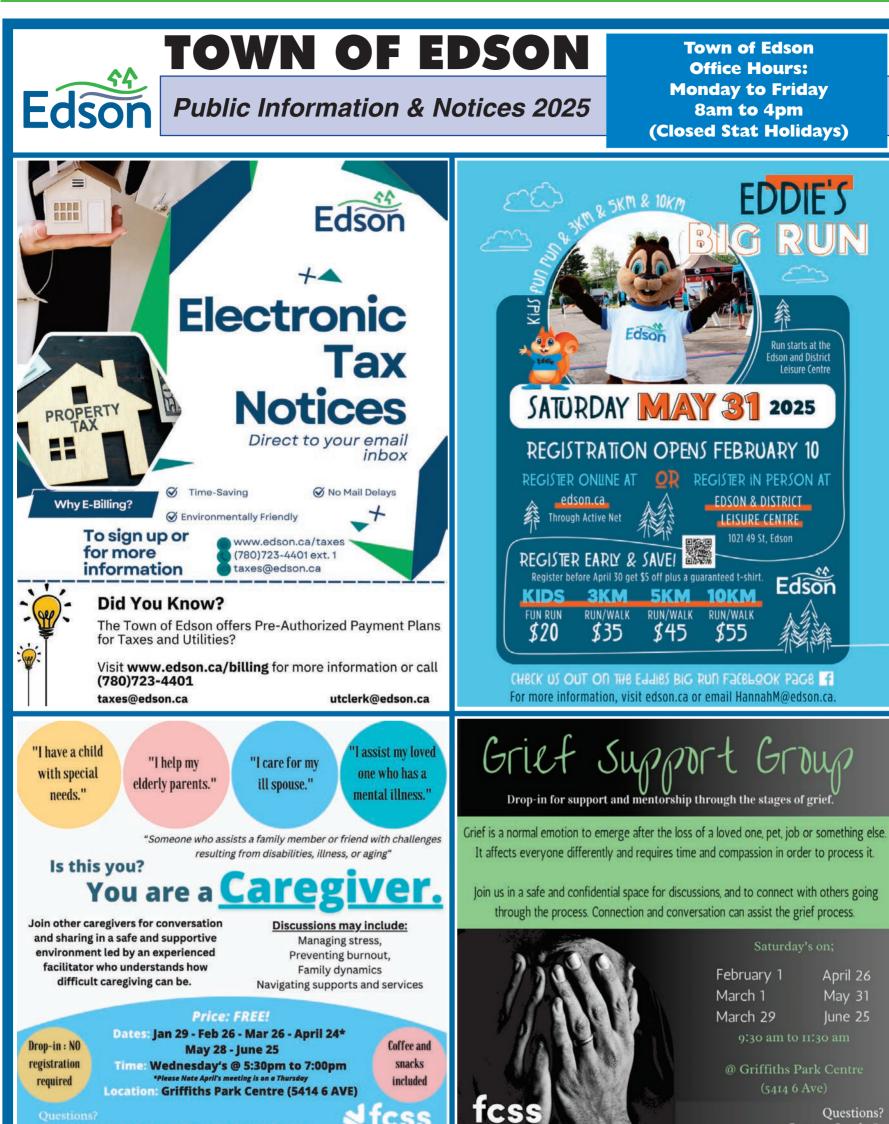
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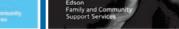
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Recent Development Permits approved by the Development Authority, under the Town of Edson Land Use Bylaw 2296 as amended, can be found at https://www.edson.ca/business/planning/development-permit-applications. Additional information can be requested 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.





THE WEEKLY ANCHOR

he Weekly **ANCHOR**

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hostile regulatory environment,

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grew by 51 percent from 2009 to 2017, compared with a mere one

"While global investment in oil

and gas projects has grown by over

quarter," said Krystle Wittevrongel,

director of research at the MEI and

"Policies that are hostile to large

projects, such as [Canada's] Impact

Assessment Act, are the reason why

we're missing out on tens of billions

of dollars of potential investment in

our economy," stated Wittevrongel.

The Federal Liberal's radical

Environment Minister, Steven

a quarter since the 2015 glut, in

co-author of the publication.

Canada it has shrunk by nearly a

Oil and gas investment in the U.S.

released recently (MEI is an



Guilbeault. has confirmed he is endorsing Mark Carney for the party's leadership

role. Carney has a long record of advocating for carbon pricing. according to a new MEI publication

> The Conservatives issued a release (printed below) stating that Guilbeault's support for Carney is "proof" that the former banker will be aligned with the Liberal's policy on carbon pricing.

This endorsement makes it very clear that the Liberals intend to continue in Justin Trudeau's footsteps with the same disastrous policies that have divided the provinces and put Canadian-made energy at a crippling disadvantage in the global market.

Shutting down Canadian oil and gas does not change global demand. So these stupid, not-inmy-backyard politics just takes away Canadian jobs and gives them to other countries (many with very few human rights or environmental regulations).

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Trudeau's Wacko Environment Minister Endorses Carbon Tax Carney's Radical Plan

by Conservative Party of Canada:

Trudeau's wacko Environment Minister, Steven Guilbeault, confirmed once again that Carbon Tax Carney is just like Justin after he admitted to speaking to Carney about his carbon tax plans, and gave Carney his seal of approval.

Speaking to CBC News last night, Guilbeault was asked "...do you know what [Carney is] going to do? Have you been briefed on the specifics of his plan?" Guilbeault responded by saying:

"The short answer to your question is yes. I have spoken with him. And I'm confident that by working together with other members of the Liberal Caucus and membership, we can come up with a plan that will ensure that Canada achieves its climate goals."

has not only endorsed Carbon Tax Carney, but also spoke to him about his carbon tax plans, makes it clear that Carney is even more radical than Justin Trudeau. Guilbeault is a self-described "proud socialist" who led the charge to quadruple the carbon tax to 61 cents per litre by 2030. On top of this, Guilbeault even threatened to quit Trudeau's cabinet if the Liberals gave any more carbon tax carve-outs. He will never let the carbon tax die on his watch.

And to make matters worse, just a few months ago, Guilbeault pledged "of course we're going to continue with the carbon tax," even though it has sent the cost of groceries and gas soaring. If Carbon Tax Carney was telling the truth about the carbon tax, he would reject Guilbeault's endorsement. Instead, Carbon Tax Carney is currently hiding from the media, and getting Guilbeault to front his Liberal leadership campaign in his stead.

Edson RCMP Occurrences

For the week of January 20 – January 26, 2025

Assistance Calls 13; Suspicious Persons 13; and Traffic Violations 11 topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 1; Alarms/False Alarms 4; Animal Calls 1; Assault 3; Cause Disturbance 0; Child Welfare 1; Extortion 1; Fail to Comply with Conditions 1; Fail to Stop or Remain at Collision 0; False/Abandoned 911 Call 3; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Fire Prevention Act 1; Fraud 3; Harassment/Criminal Harassment 0; Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 0; Information File 5; Lost or Found property 2; Mental Health Act 1; Mischief or Damage 6; 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; Theft Complaints 3; Traffic Collisions 7; Traffic Complaints 11; Trespassing 2; Uninsured/Unregistered Vehicle 1; Unlawfully in Dwelling 1; Uttering Threats Against Person 2; AND Wellbeing Checks 4.



And earlier that same day, Guilbeault said "in terms of the cap on oil and gas emissions, I continue to believe that it is a good piece of policy for a number of reasons." He went on to say that Carbon Tax Carney "shares his belief" on capping Canadian energy projects, which would result in thousands of our energy workers losing their paycheques.

The fact that Steven Guilbeault

The last thing Canadians need is another Justin Trudeau. Only Common Sense Conservatives will axe the tax and put Canada first.

Go to www.JustLikeJustin.ca for more information on Carbon Tax Carney.



Community Catholic School. Q: What is your favorite holiday? A: Christmas. Q: What is your favorite subject? A: Science.

Meet Lylah in Grade 6 at Vanier

Q: What pets do you have: A: 2 dogs, 2 cats, 2 bearded dragons, snake, and a tortoise.



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Edson Masonic Lodge celebrates Robbie Burns Night

by Deanna Mitchener

The Edson Masonic Lodge hosted Robbie Burns night on January 25, at the Galloway Station Museum with a traditional Scottish meal of haggis along with other hearty dishes.

Each year the life and legacy of Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns is celebrated in Scotland and around the world.

The haggis is traditionally piped in, with Edson Pipes and Drums playing traditional Scottish music. Don Patterson, with the Edson Masonic Lodge, roasted and toasted the haggis.

The haggis is toasted because it is considered a central part of the traditional Scottish meal to celebrate the life of renowned poet Robert Burns. This practice highlights the importance of haggis in Scottish culture and is a key part of the Burns supper tradition.

The evening offered a great night out with food catered by Shekinah Coffee, performances by the Edson Pipes and Drums band and the Edson Dance Academy Highland Dancers, along with Live and Silent Auctions. The Lodge thanked everyone for the wonderful auction items and donations they received from the generous community. All proceeds from the Live and Silent Auctions go to support École Pine Grove Middle School's breakfast program.

"The Masonic Lodge raised \$7,000 between the live and silent auctions. Usually the Masonic Foundation will double up to \$2,000, so probably around \$10,000 will go to the breakfast program this year," said Janet Wilkinson.

Pine Grove's staff and parent volunteers served the meal and did the clean up as the school's way of giving back.

The pipes and drums and Highland dancers are always a treat, but during Robbie Burns night it seems to bring past and present together to create a celebration that resonates with the spirit of Scotland.

The event was well attended with guests arriving from as far away as Whitecourt and Stony Plain. Everyone immersed themselves in the tradition and enjoyed the night of entertainment and celebration.



Edson Dance Academy Highland Dancers gave a performance in celebration of Robbie Burns night. photos submitted by Deanna Mitchener



The head table during the annual Edson Masonic Lodge Robbie Burns Night on January



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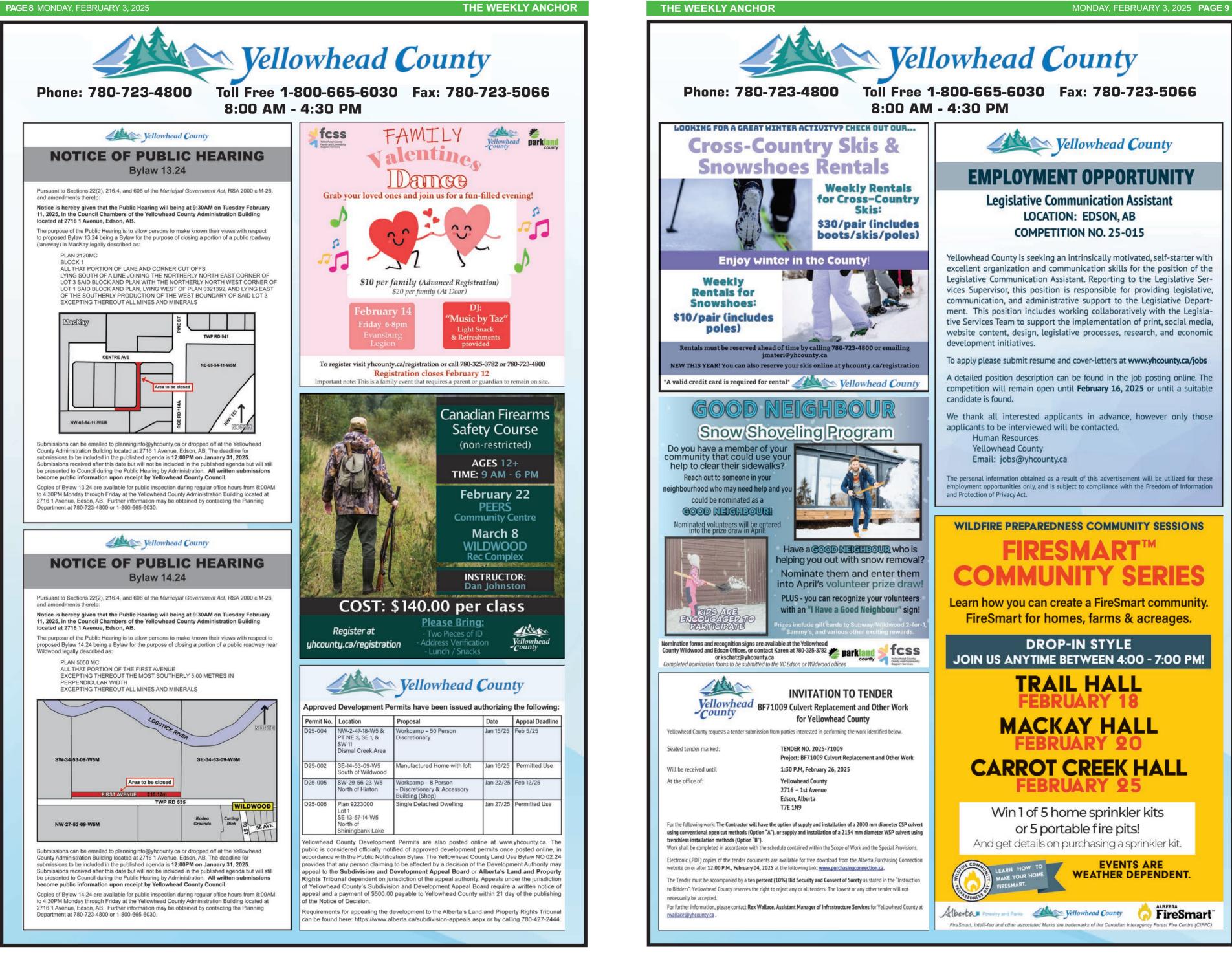
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*Subscription price for Edson and Yellowhead County addresses. Please contact us for pricing outside the area.



CBC's \$7M Google funding should go to community newspapers

Why is the CBC using Online News Act funding to expand into markets that are already getting coverage from long-existing local media? [this includes the Edson region]

Editorial/Comment: by Lisa Sygutek, owner and publisher of the Crowsnest Pass Herald

Last week, Brodie Fenlon, general manager and editor-in-chief of CBC News, announced that his organization plans to hire up to 30 local journalists in "underserved communities" with the \$7 million in new funding it will receive from Google due to the Online News Act.

With newsrooms stretched and strained and others shuttered forever, we should celebrate when new journalism jobs are created. But Fenlon's announcement raises three problems.

First, the math simply doesn't make sense. Anyone who knows how to use a basic calculator can see how: if you take the \$7 million the CBC is entitled to, and you deduct two per cent to account for administrative fees that can be taken by the Canadian Journalism Collective, that leaves \$6,860,000. If you divide that number by 30 journalists, you get *228,666 per new journalist. When I saw that, I said to myself, "Shut the front door, Mr. Fenlon."

The median salary for a journalist in Canada is about \$62,000 per year, according to Talent.com. So, why is CBC offering three-and-a-half times the market rate? Either those journalists are way overpaid, or that money is going somewhere else. Sounds like "fuzzy math," as George W. Bush once said of Al Gore's economic figures.

Second, Fenlon's list of "underserved communities" includes markets that are already getting coverage from long-existing local media. They are not all news deserts.

Plenty of examples can be found in Alberta.

Banff and Canmore, where the CBC now plans to open a bureau, have been served for years with award-winning journalism by the Rocky Mountain Outlook. Jasper, where the CBC wants to make its temporary bureau permanent, has two local news outlets including Jasper Fitzhugh. There are dailies in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, and despite this, the CBC hopes to branch out there, too. The Red Deer Advocate has circulated in that city for more than 100 years, and the Lloydminster Source is published by a second-generation publisher; the CBC hopes to enter both of these markets. I could go on.

Why is the public broadcaster suddenly in expansion mode when the private sector has been serving these markets for generations? Local media is already struggling to compete with Google and Meta for advertising dollars — I literally walk up and down the streets of Blairmore, Alta., and knock on doors selling ads — and now we have to compete with the CBC?

Third, the CBC's \$6,860,000 from Google would be better invested by the private sector. I pulled out my trusty Texas Instruments calculator that my mom bought for me when I was in high school to figure this one out: for local community newspapers, that amount of money would allow us to hire more than 150 journalists. This shows how the private sector is much more efficient than the CBC.

For context, the CBC paid bonuses to 1,194 employees in the 2023-34 fiscal year, including over \$3.3 million to 45 executives — averaging more than \$73,000 per executive. Those bonuses alone are more than what many of my hardworking readers would earn after an entire year of work. Yes, we need more journalists in Canada, and we need to plug news deserts, but it needs to be done efficiently.

My message to Pierre Poilievre and whoever wins the Liberal leadership is this: the Online News Act is desperately needed. It will make a big difference to community newspaper publishers like me, who have been devastated by Google and Meta. Like omnivores, these companies have been gorging on every Canadian advertising dollar they can find, leaving us with little.

But the Online News Act can be made even better by removing the \$7 million earmark to the CBC and redirecting those funds to private-sector news publishers and broadcasters, which would create even more jobs.

Federal leaders need to tell the CBC that it's up Schitt's Creek now.

**CBC* responded that the average cost per journalist would be \$114,333.

Weekly Anchor editorial note: It has not been revealed to any local newspaper if they will receive a portion of the New Act Google funds. Yet the already government funded CBC, plans to use its prenegotiated Google funding to make their Hinton/Jasper temporary bureau permanent to cover the national park and the northern Rockies, as well as nearby communities, including Grande Cache and Edson. This will take local advertising dollars out of the communities and harm local newspapers and media already serving these areas. It's shameful that government funding meant to help maintain local Canadian journalism, is being used as a corporate weapon to push it out.

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Virtual Emergency Physician pilot launches in Edson Pilot project uses remote physicians to support emergency department patients

by Dana McArthur - with files from AHS

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is expanding a pilot project that aims to improve support for emergency department (ED) patients in northern rural communities to include Edson.

Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara said, "The Virtual Emergency Physician will help people access the ER when local physicians are not available. This is not ideal, but it is better than a complete closure."

Edson's Emergency Department had two temporary closures recently due to a clinical personnel shortage and an inability to secure temporary coverage.

"The focus must remain on getting more quality permanent physicians to our community and the Attraction & Recruitment Committee is working on supporting AHS efforts in this regard. While not a municipal responsibility as Healthcare is 100% provincial, Town Council has contributed \$10,000 to these efforts and has 2 members of council appointed to the committee," added Zahara.

The new Virtual Emergency Physician program uses an experienced rural/northern ED physician to

remotely support facilities temporarily without available on-site ED physician support. In these instances, site clinical staff can connect with an AHS physician by telephone or videoconference for ED patients with non-life-threatening issues. This off-site virtual physician can collaborate with local staff, speak with patients, order tests and medications, and transfer or discharge patients.

"This new pilot program will help support timely, efficient care for patients visiting rural emergency departments, such as the Edson Healthcare Centre, in addition to ensuring the on-site clinical staff are supported," said West Yellowhead MLA Martin Long.

Similar models are currently being used in B.C., Saskatchewan and Ontario, where this approach has proven to be safe, reliable and effective in ensuring low-acuity patients receive the support they need when they need it. EMS remains available to transfer high-acuity patients to a facility with in-person ED physician support.

"Generally, many of our emergency department service disruptions occur overnight when the number of patients is lower, and the injuries or illnesses are not

as acute and can be easily handled with on-site nursing care and a virtual physician," said Dr. Jane Ojedokun, Medical Director for AHS North Zone.

"If patients have life-threatening issues, we have plans in place to get them the care they need through the support of EMS and surrounding facilities."

AHS continues to actively recruit physicians to supply in-person emergency department support. This initiative will not impact those continued efforts in the pilot communities. On-site physician coverage remains AHS' priority.

This service model pilot was made available earlier this month to the Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital, Elk Point Healthcare Centre, Hinton Healthcare Centre, and the William J. Cadzow - Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre. The Edson Healthcare Centre joins the pilot program.

If there is a service disruption and there is no emergency physician on-site, it will be noted in the communications if a virtual emergency physician may be available.

AHS' Medical Affairs team is currently recruiting North Zone ED physicians to work as virtual physicians for the five pilot sites as needed.

County Infrastructure Services end-of-2024 update

by Shaylyn Thornton

Yellowhead County Council received an update on January 28, from Cory Armfelt, General Manager of Infrastructure and Planning Services, regarding the November/December 2024 highlights of his department.

Infrastructure and Planning Services encompasses several other departments, including Solid Waste, Infrastructure & Utilities, and Planning & Development.

Solid Waste highlights included the coordinating of the landfill response for Jasper waste debris, reviewing analysis and application for contaminated soil projects and renewing manifests / analysis for 2025, and the monitoring and repair of ongoing vandalism / break-in incidents.

In addition, Administrative prepared for the 2025

West Yellowhead Regional Waste Management Authority (WYRWMA) engineering plans/projects, prepared the 2024 WYRWMA audit and annual report, and reviewed contracts for GFL, A4 Consulting, and the Edson and District Recycling Society.

November and December also saw ongoing 2024 capital project completions (Peers and Marlboro power to site) and general preparation for the 2025 budget implementation.

Infrastructure & Utilities saw several draft tenders and the overseeing of engineering for a number of other tenders and bridge files. Winter operations in the County have also been ongoing "steadily" since the beginning of December.

2024 Fall Roadside Brushing wrapped up in early December, and the department also began preparation for 2025 tender packages for gravel

supply, gravel haul, and vegetation mowing.

Other highlights included the completion of all annual lagoon drains, continued training of a new employee on daily operations, and employees attended a Water and Wastewater training with Alberta Water & Wastewater Operators Association for continuing education.

Updates in the Planning & Development department included initiating a review of all staff job descriptions, reviewing the overall daily operations of the department for the purpose of creating a standard operating procedure document, and following up on outstanding and new enforcement complaints and compiling an enforcement tracking sheet.

P&D also completed the 2024 orthophoto update project (an orthophoto is a geometrically corrected aerial photograph or satellite image that has a uniform scale) and completed familiarization tours around the County, in which the department viewed County-owned properties and lands and reviewed the location of sites under enforcement orders.

Following the update, Yellowhead County Council voted unanimously to accept the November-December 2024 Infrastructure and Planning Services highlights as information.

~ Obituary ~ Mona (Bossert) Allen Feb 20, 1934 - Jan 20, 2025

With love and gratitude, we say goodbye to our Mom at the age of 90.

children, Linda (Pat) Benson, Bruce (Lorraine) Allen, Brenda (Robin) Gering, and daughter-inlaw Annette Allen.

Mona will also be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren; Duane (Karen), Michelle (Jake), Nicole (Manny), Stacy (Robbie), Matt (Amanda), Carley (Paul), Kyle (Shyne) and Brittany (Joel), 19 great grandchildren and 5 great-great grandchildren and sister Jean Smith; sisters-in-law Jean Bossert and Sheila Bossert; niece Mary Auriat and numerous other nieces and nephews.



Gospel Jamboree held at Niton

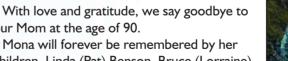
by Niki Luymes

Gospel Jamboree at Niton Hall on there's something to do on a January January 25. From 1pm to 4pm, weekend that is interesting and musicians came out to perform some classic gospel music for the audience. The event was hosted by the Niton Cowboy Church. There were five acts in total. All except for one was local to Yellowhead County. Included in the performances was the family band 'West of the Fifth' along with multiple solo performers. The final musicians of the day were 'The Waltons' who are a family band from the Edmonton area. "We were quite happy to have all our performers. We have some pretty good talent in our little Niton community," said Lee Nickerson, the event coordinator. The Niton Cowboy Church hosts the gospel jamboree a couple of times a year. This is one of the first time they've

done one in the winter. "The goal is to entertain people, especially in January There was music and fun at the when you have the winter blues. Now entertaining," said Nickerson.

Family gospel band, 'The Waltons' were one of 5 differs performers at the January 25th Gospel Jamboree in Niton. photo

Niki Luymes





"It went well. I think we had about 70 people at the peak. So that wasn't too bad," said Nickerson. In between the performances the audience was able to enjoy free coffee, tea, cookies, and other treats. The event was entirely free. People were welcome to come and go, and enjoying the event whenever they had the time.

The Niton Cowboy Church meets every Tuesday at the Niton Community Hall. Every week they have congregational singing and special music, followed by a sermon and time for fellowship and refreshment. The gathering starts at 7pm, and everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy the time of worship and community.

Mona was predeceased by her husband, Jim Allen; son, Roy Allen; parents Ed and Julia Bossert; sister, Alma Keller; brothers, Tom Bossert and Roy Bossert; mother-in-law, Germaine Allen; sister-in-law, Lenora Schrodi; brothers-in-law Roy Allen, Wayne Allen, Jim Keller, and Don Smith.

We love you mom - Rest in Peace A Celebration of Mona's Life will be held at the Edson Legion at 1:30 PM on Saturday May 10, 2025.

FOOTHILLS MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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Monthly update on the Oil & Gas and Energy Industry

ENERGY EDUCATION IN ACTION

Taking action to double Alberta's oil production

(AB) The Government of Alberta is working with partners to increase pipeline capacity in pursuit of its goal to double crude oil production and increase exports to the United States.

Alberta is a strong partner to the United States, currently delivering more than 4.3 million barrels per day to the U.S. The province is committed to increasing Alberta's crude oil production and preserving and adding pipeline capacity, supporting North American energy security as well as enabling increased U.S. production.

The Government of Alberta is taking immediate action to accelerate its plan to increase pipeline capacity to get more product to market and more value for its product.

A critical step towards achieving this goal includes working directly with industry. This is why Alberta's government has signed a letter of intent with Enbridge, which will form a working group with the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission (APMC). The working group will evaluate future egress, transport, storage, terminalling and market access opportunities across the more than 29,000 kilometres of the Enbridge network in support of moving more Alberta oil and gas to Canadians and American partners.

"The world needs more Alberta oil and gas, and we need to make sure Alberta is meeting those needs. Our objective of doubling oil production aligns with Enbridge's plans to enhance its existing pipeline systems and we look forward to partnering with them to enhance cross-border transport solutions. This will also allow us to play a role in supporting the United States in its energy security and affordability goals." - Danielle Smith, Premier

The working group will focus on preserving and optimizing egress, developing opportunities to expand along Enbridge's current footprint, and

developing new solutions to improve global market access and maximize the value of Alberta's commodity. Additionally, it will work with government to cut red tape and streamline regulations and permitting approvals. It will also assess opportunities for shared investment and benefit to both Albertans and Enbridge by leveraging BRIK (Bitumen-Royalty-In-Kind) barrels.

"A strong and growing Alberta oil and gas transport and storage network will allow the Government of Alberta to maximize the economic benefits for all Albertans from our bitumen and natural gas royalties. We must also pursue regulatory reform where needed so Alberta can continue to be an attractive place for companies to

invest." - Brian Jean, Minister of Energy and Minerals

"Enbridge has 75 years of experience delivering Alberta's energy, safely and cost-effectively to support the region's economy, unlock export value and help meet North American demand. We're prepared - and exceptionally wellpositioned - to work with producers and governments to deliver capacity as production ramps up, providing cost-effective, scalable, executable solutions now and through the decade that support North American energy security, reliability and affordability." - Greg Ebel, president and chief executive officer, Enbridge Inc.



Premier Danielle Smith was joined by Chief Executive Officer of Enbridge Greg Ebel recently to announce details on a formal working agreement with Enbridge Pipelines Inc. to increase pipeline capacity and double oil and gas production in Alberta to play an even greater role in North American Energy security.

Industry supporters of responsible energy





A Monthly Update on the Coal Industry

ENERGY EDUCATION IN ACTION

Alberta launches the Coal Industry Modernization Initiative

The world needs metallurgical coal to fuel economic growth and the transition to renewable energy. For many developing or expanding countries, steel will be an essential global component for infrastructure growth and development, including building solar panel installations and wind farms.

Alberta is blessed with an abundance of metallurgical coal to make steel. This coal is not thermal coal, which was mined to generate Alberta's electricity in the past. This steel will also return to Alberta in products like passenger vehicles, home appliances, farm and industrial equipment and building materials.

The Alberta government is declaring a new policy direction – the Alberta Coal Industry Modernization Initiative – which will ban new open-pit mining in the foothills (Eastern Slopes) and keep selenium out of our water through the development of a modern, long-term legislative framework that guides responsible coal mining practices.

In the first half of 2025, the province will



engage directly with the coal industry to develop a new, comprehensive coal policy which will be the culmination of work spearheaded by the Coal Policy Committee.

This coal policy will be centered around protecting water. It will prohibit mountaintop removal coal mining, prevent new open-pit coal mines in the foothills and require that any new mining must use techniques which use best water practices and prevent adding selenium to waterways.

Responsible coal development will create jobs for Albertans and bring new investment to the province. And the government's new policy will ensure that all Albertans will benefit from increased coal royalty rates.

Strong environmental protections: The protections set out in law and in the 1976 Coal Development Policy for National Parks, provincial Parks, wildland parks, wilderness areas, ecological reserves, and provincial recreation areas will continue.

No mountaintop removal: Mountaintop removal coal mining has not occurred in Alberta, but it will now be specifically prohibited.

No new open-pit coal mining in the Eastern Slopes: No new open pit mines will be approved for the eastern slopes (all 4 Categories of the 1976 Coal Development Policy, subject to any further regulations flowing from land use planning work which is underway).

Sponsored by The Weekly Anchor and industry supporters of responsible energy

No new coal mining proposals without use of best water practices: All new mining proposals must use techniques which use best water practices and prevent adding selenium into waterways, anywhere in Alberta.

New proposals will either need to be underground mines or use mining technologies (such as highwall automated underground mining) that move minimal amounts of overburden, to prevent selenium leaching and siltation.

Targeted engagement will occur in early 2025 to inform industry of Alberta's plans to achieve higher standards for coal mining, to set the new coal royalty rates, and to develop strategies that align with Alberta's commitment to balance regulatory improvement and environmental protection, with an emphasis on water protection.

From this engagement, new coal regulations and legislation will be drafted for government approval later in 2025. To learn more visit: www.alberta.ca/coal-industry-modernizationinitiative

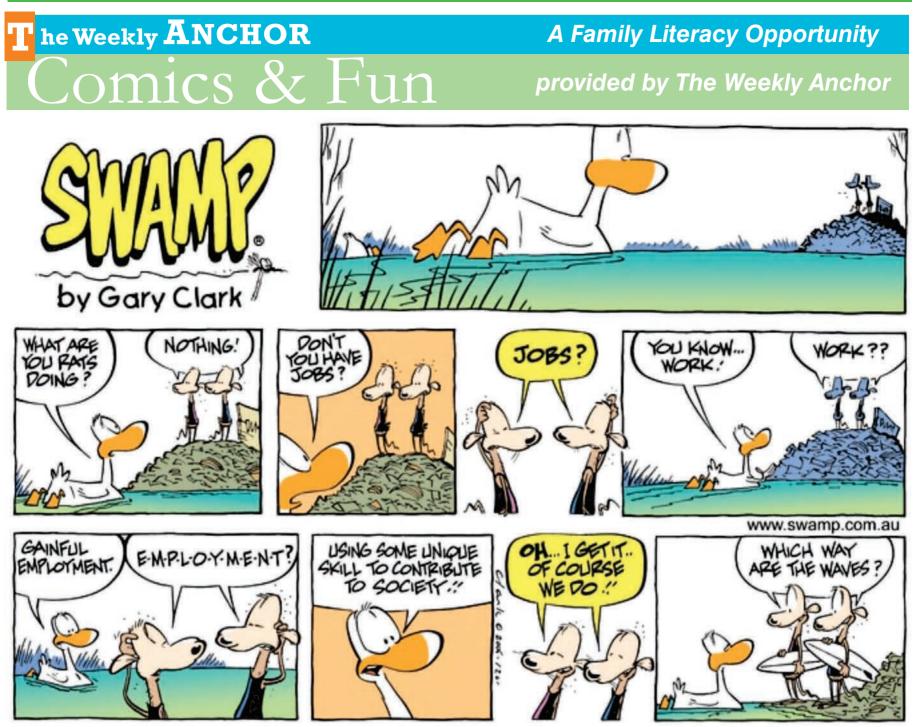


GERING GRAVEL SALES



PAGE 14 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

THE WEEKLY ANCHOR



WOMBANIA

by PETER MARINACCI



R D E T A L E R X Q T F N E H Word Search

If your instincts tell you to go into a shark inFested ocean then go. My instincts are sending me to a nice little aquarium in the suburbs. GRUH

E Z E D G G P F F D N E T L J	
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FOR SALE

Firewood for sale (Edson & Area). Split & Dry - Starting at \$70 / pickup load. Free delivery within Town of Edson. Please call or text (780) 712-1144

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Seed Oats 98 % germination, Fusarium tested, No wild oats, Can deliver, On farm scale jamesbeniuk@gmail.com Woodland Lumber, Evansburg 780-621-2229 Feed and Seed Oats for sale. Can roll or grind. Scale on farm also. 780-727-4309 mar2025

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licensing loss? Travel/business

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Think: Criminal Pardon.

US entry waiver.

Record purge.

<u>community Events</u>

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 5,19 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.

Rink and Park. Bring your skates and snow gear and come out for some family fun. Free Drop in style but please Register at yhcounty.ca/registration

February 7: Ice Skating and Winter Fun12-2pm Niton Skating Rink and Park. Bring your skates and snow gear and come out for some family fun. Free Drop in style but please Register at

CHURCH DIRECTORY

EDSON

BETHEL PENTECOSTAL

CHURCH 6350 - 13th Ave., Edson. Phone 723-3007 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 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

Phone: 723-3418 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 780-723-3157 Worship Service 10am Sundays. All Services will be held at

623-50 St., Edson. (St. Catherine's). Please phone for other information. THE NEW JOSHUA **GENERATION FELLOWSHIP**

INTERNATIONAL 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

(SAC) Mass: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday:

10:00 a.m. Call office for weekday Mass times.

HARVEST OUTREACH MINISTRY EDSON (HomeChurch) in Dunamis Centre

5202 -2nd Ave (East Entrance) Service: Sunday 10am Ph. 780-725-2222

www.yhcounty.ca/registeration

February 12,26 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/registeration

February 5:@ 5:00pm March12, April 2 April 20: @ 6:00pmWellness Wednesday Winter Walks. Join for a 60 min walk through Town of Edson starting at Edson Drive Trail Head February 6: Ice Skating and Winter Fun12-2pm Robb Skating

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

February 14: Family Valentines Dance at Evansburg Legion 6-8pm to register yhcounty.ca/registration or call 780-325-4800.

February 22: Bottle drive for HRH Grad Class12-5pm May 31: Eddies Big Run. Registration opens February 10. Register online at edson.ca or in person at Edson District Leisure Centre.



CARROT CREEK NITON JUNCTION & PEERS CARROT CREEK CHRISTIAN **FELLOWSHIP** Pastor George Stone Ph: 795-2132 Church in Peers, Ab Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Nondenominational - Everybody Welcome!

COMMUNITY COWBOY CHURCH Niton Junction Hall Tuesdays, 7 p.m. 780-712-3502

🚹 he Weekly ANCHOR Farm & Field **News and Views**

Monitoring stored grain for pest infestations

is to monitor bin-stored grain every 2 weeks to detect early signs of deterioration or infestation.

Trapping insects

Trapping to determine the presence of insect pests in stored grains is a simple and cost-effective way to monitor for infestations and identify insect pests so that you can make decisions about insect control.

Probe sampling and sieves

If it is not possible to install and monitor traps, for example, when grain is stored in welded steel hopper bins with limited access, sampling, examining and sieving are also effective ways to monitor grain.

Berlese funnel

If you suspect that bin-stored grain is infested and you want verification, send a sample of the grain to one of the Canadian Grain Commission's entomology labs for analysis. The entomology labs use a procedure called Berlese funnel extraction to examine the sample for presence of insects.

Dockage tester

Grain run through a Carter dockage tester, the

One of the best ways to prevent insect infestations insects will be collected in the aspirator pan near the top of the machine or the pan containing the smallest sortings.

If insects are discovered

Upon insect discovery, but before taking remedial action, it is important to determine which species of insect pests are present in grain. Many insects appear similar but have different behavior and status as pests. Their presence may indicate different conditions. The insects in the examples below look similar to each other.

Secondary insect (Fungal feeder)

The presence of insects like foreign grain beetles may indicate that fungus is developing. Simple treatment methods such as aeration may be applied to prevent further damage.

Primary insect (grain feeder)

The presence of insects like rusty grain beetles indicates direct damage to grain kernels. In this case, insecticides or other treatments may be required to control the infestation and prevent further damage.

For more information visit www.grainscanada.gc.ca





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A few Parkland Lodge Residents enjoyed lunch out at Original Joe's recently. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener





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