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The Weekly

ANCHOR

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The Weekly Anchor

VOL. 36, NO. 02

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

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

SPORTS

Edson Eagles continue to soar...

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COUNTY

County seeks ways to support regional healthcare recruitment...

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COMMENT

Justin Trudeau resigns...

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FCSS welcomes young families to Tuesday Drop-Ins

by Niki Luymes families with young kids to come and enjoy their free Family Drop-In program. This is a stay and play program that provides a safe and fun way for young families to connect. There are two different time slots, 9am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Family Drop In is hosted at the Edson Griffiths Park Center on 6th Ave. Each drop in features a variety of activities for the kids to play.

continued page 2



Every Tuesday Edson FCSS hosts their Family Drop-In program. There are two sessions to choose: 9am to 11:30am or 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Kids can come and play while parents get a chance to connect. The program is hosted at the Griffiths' Park Centre. photos submitted

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FCSS welcomes young families to Tuesday Drop-Ins

continued from front

"This can be crafts, building, puzzles, sensory play in our multi use room, and also fun gross motor activities and a climbing wall in the gym," said Sarah McDonald Community Development Supervisor. The program is geared towards families with kids under the age of 6. However, the program also provides for the parents as well. The group occasionally brings in a guest speaker to interact and answer questions.

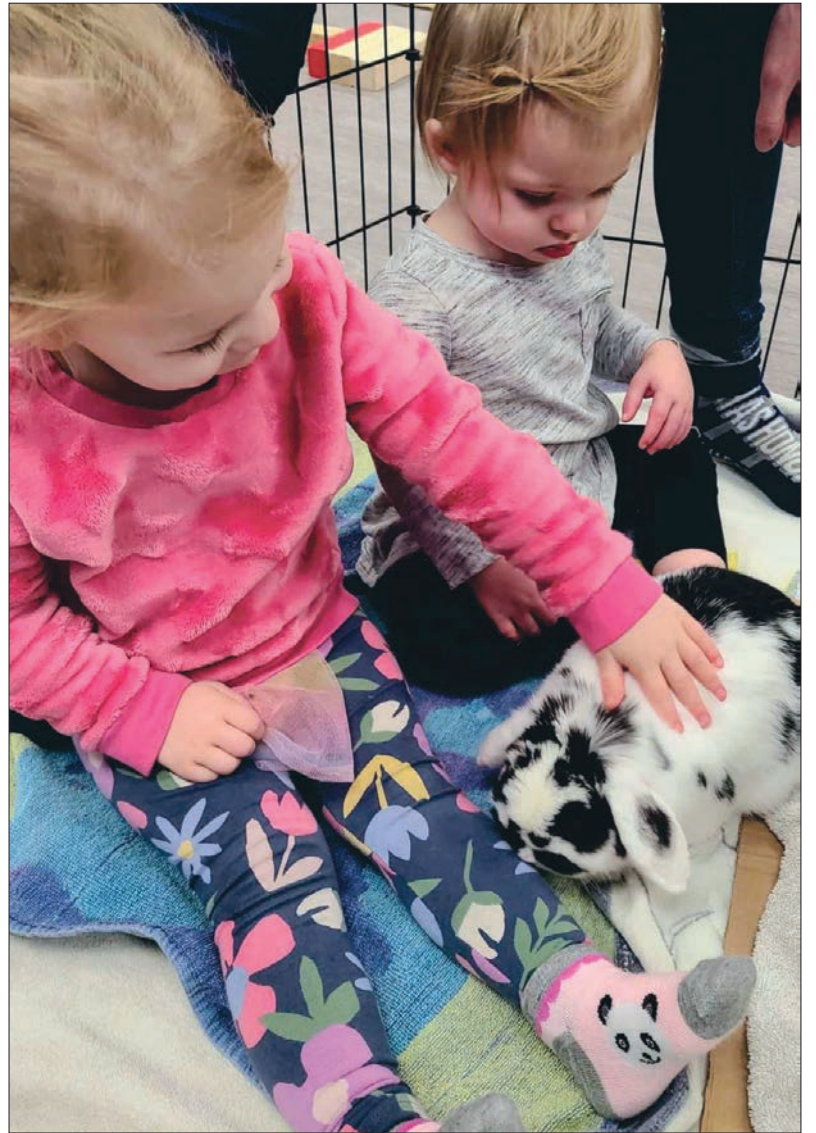
"The purpose of Family Drop-In is to connect families. We help connect them with their children, connect them to other families, and connect them to resources in our community. And of course to play. Having indoor play opportunities all year for young families is very important due to cold weather conditions in the winter and hot or smoky weather in the summer," explained McDonald.

While Edson FCSS has always run programs for families, the official Family Drop-In Program didn't start until 2024. This was in direct correlation with the renovations of the Griffiths Park Centre, which now provides a space for the program. During the renovations, FCSS

contracted the Edson LEAP Society to run drop in programming. Even after the building's completion, LEAP continued to help run the program to facilitate a smooth transition.

When the Family Drop in Program began, it ran two days a week, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. But after receiving feedback from the community the group shifted hours. Generally, the program has 10 to 20 families in attendance each week. "We have had great feedback. We're always open to bringing more fun, but we hear that families love the space and the opportunity to get out and connect with others, for themselves and their children," said McDonald.

"Sometimes this is a family's only social opportunity, so having free play space in our community is very important. It's also a place to create friendships or get to know our community if someone is a new resident to Edson," added McDonald, "We hope to continue to be there for families as much as possible." The Family Drop-In is free to attend and does not require pre-registration. You can find more information though Edson FCSS.



The Edson FCSS Family Drop In Program provides lots of activities for young kids. This includes chances to pet cute critters. The program runs Tuesdays, 9am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the Griffiths' Park Centre.

Year end review with Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara



Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara

by Dana McArthur

As we enter a new year, 2024 offered many challenges for the Town of Edson, residents, and businesses including inflationary costs that impacted just about every facet of life. Despite the challenges, the Town of Edson worked hard to deliver on Council's Strategic Plan.

"2024 was a busy year for the Town with major investments being made into the Edson Public Library and welcoming Pivitol Energy Partners to the community. 2025 won't be much quieter with a very aggressive capital plan and construction starting on the Multiplex," said Mayor Kevin Zahara.

Q: What were the most significant accomplishments that Council achieved over the past year?

Zahara: "After a couple years of

work, Council adopted a completely new land-use bylaw and approved Edson's first Economic Development Strategy. These will work hand-in-hand to increase development in the community and make Edson more business friendly. Working with Yellowhead County we approved the Multiplex Project with construction to begin in 2025. This is very exciting for the community and I look forward to having shovels in the ground."

Q: What were the biggest challenges to overcome in 2024?

Zahara: "Municipalities have been faced ever increasing costs of delivering services and aging infrastructure. Balancing that with low tax increases and maintaining service levels is a challenge for our council and municipalities throughout the province. This is why we are focused on growing our community to increase our existing tax base."

Q: What can residents expect from Council in 2025?

Zahara: "The big focus over the last year and into 2025 will be getting construction started on the multiplex. In addition, we have been very focused on improving infrastructure throughout the community and reducing flood risk. Major capital projects were completed last year and more are scheduled in 2025."

Q: What challenges do you expect in 2025?

Zahara: "Uncertainty with the current federal government and a possible trade war with the U.S. will be a big challenge, as we don't

know how that will impact local industry and jobs. Hopefully we will see a change in the federal government and more support for

natural resource sectors which will be good for local jobs and the local economy."



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Edson Eagles continue to soar

by Shaylyn Thornton

With 2025 well underway, the Edson Eagles Junior A Hockey team is looking to continue their dominating gameplay in the National Junior Hockey League (NJHL).

The Eagles have won all but three of their games since the start of the 2024/25 season and are firmly leading the North Division with 49 points, with the second place High Prairie Red Wings having 31 points on the season thus far.

Over the last ten games, the team is 8-1-1 with the following final tallies:

- 6-3 WIN over the High Prairie Red Wings on November 23
- 10-1 WIN over the Lac La Biche Lakers on November 30
- 5-4 OT LOSS to the Lac La Biche Lakers on December 6
- 4-2 LOSS to the Gibbons Pioneers on December 8
- 11-2 WIN over the Vulcan Rampage on December 13
- 20-1 WIN over the Claresholm Thunder on December 14
- 6-1 WIN over the Crowsnest Crush on December 15
- 8-2 WIN over the High Prairie Red Wings on December 21
- 11-3 WIN over the Gibbons Pioneers on January 3
- 8-3 WIN over the High Prairie Red Wings on January 4

The entire team consistently contributes and makes an impact on the ice, with some star players leading the team in stats:

#87 Andras Kehl from Budapest, Hungary leads the team with an incredible 86 points in 26 games played, having scored 45 goals and assisting on another 41.

#96 Austin Berezowski is from Muenster, Saskatchewan, and he boasts 69 points in 23 games so far this season, with 47 goals and 22 assists.

#67 Mason Buzzell from Enderby, British Columbia has 62 points on the season in 27 games played, contributing 30 goals and 32 assists to the team's tally.

#8 Landy Johnson from Athabasca, Alberta has 59 points in 26 games, with 25 goals and 34

assists.

The team also has a lot of talent in net, with #31 Carter Sapach, #1 Hayden Tomlinson, #33 Koy Sutherland, and #35 Addison Kreuh.

Sapach, from Osoyoos, BC, boasts a 91.4% save percentage, having stopped 307 out of 336 shots against in the 15 games he's played so far this season. Tomlinson, from Armstrong, BC, has stopped 179 of 199 shots against in 18 games this season, for a save percentage of 89.9%.

#55 Joey Biskup of San Jose, California and #11 Zane Campbell-Gunn from Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan lead the team's defensemen with 33 and 31 points, respectively.

Up next, the Eagles are very excited to be sending six team members to the NJHL's All Star Showcase in Crowsnest Pass. The game will pit two All Star teams (white vs blue) against each other on January 11 in the Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex.

Congratulations goes out to Berezowski, Kehl, Buzzell, Biskup, Sapach, and Johnson on being named NJHL All Stars! Kehl, Buzzell, and Sapach will be representing Team White, with Berezowski, Johnson, and Biskup representing Team Blue.

In addition to playing some great hockey, the Eagles team has had many fun events for fans at their home games at the Edson & District Leisure Centre, including a costume contest at Halloween, Santa pictures, a Christmas sweater contest, and even a "turkey toss" in which one lucky fan got to take home a turkey for Christmas dinner.

The Eagles next home game is at the Edson & District Leisure Centre on Friday, January 17 at 7:45pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door and are a great deal at \$15 for an adult, \$10 for a senior, \$8 for a youth, or \$5 for a child.

Doors for home games will open at 7pm, with warm up starting at 7:15pm, and the puck dropping at 7:45pm. The games are a great opportunity to get out, have fun, and root for your local Junior A hockey team!



Edson Eagles players took shots on the net during a practice on January 6 at the Edson & District Leisure Centre. photo Shaylyn Thornton



PUBLIC NOTICE

Peyto Exploration & Development Corp. Notification of Conversion of Sour Pipelines to Sweet Service Pipelines.

Following the recent conversion of the Edson Gas Plant (EGP) from a Sour Gas Processing Plant to a Sweet Gas Processing Plant, several sour gas pipelines associated with EGP will be relicensed as sweet service.

As a result, notification letters regarding the changes will be delivered to residents and occupants living within the previously determined Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs) for all Peyto pipelines being relicensed. These notifications are a requirement of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) whenever there is a change in operating license of a sour service pipeline. Some residents and occupants will no longer fall within the previously defined EPZs and will no longer be contacted to update contact information. Any residents or occupants that remain within defined EPZs will continue to be contacted to update contact information as required by the AER.

Peyto believes in maintaining good relations with the community and if there are any questions regarding this project or if further information is required, please contact:

Jesse Kirillo,
Senior Surface Landman – Edson
Peyto Exploration & Development Corp.
780-712-0452
jkirillo@peyto.com

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JANUARY 19, 2025

Chautauqua, Edson Arts Council offers five new performances

by Niki Luymes

A new year means a new season of music in Edson brought to the community by the Chautauqua, Edson Arts Council. Every year the group brings five different musical performances, and acts from across the country. This year's season presents an entirely new set of talent for Edson and area residents to enjoy.

The concerts are spread out through the winter and spring months. This is intentional as it gives snowed in residences something to look forward to. "Our goal is to bring quality performances to our community," said Robyne Wilock, Chautauqua's President. "In doing so, we are also supporting the arts in Alberta. We don't tend to bring back repeat acts because of just how many are available."

Chautauqua Edson Arts Council was incorporated as a society in 1982 to provide professional entertainment to Edson and district. A majority of the musicians this season are sourced from the Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta. Some of Chautauqua Edson's volunteers go to the Alliance's showcase in October. There they see a variety of touring acts and some of the acts are then asked to come to Edson.

An exception to this, is this year's

season's opener 'The Hello Darlins' on Saturday, January 18. "It is an act that two of our audience members really liked. They've been Chautauqua season ticket holders for a while. So we decided as a group that we would try to book that act to honor them, and because they are a great act. I think it's going to be a really great show," said Wilock. 'The Hello Darlins' are a five piece band that plays classic country, gospel and blues music.

The other acts this season include: Audrey Ochoa; Confessions of a Redheaded Coffeeshop Girl; Tommy Charles and Mia Kelly; and Rum Ragged.

Chautauqua Edson Arts Council is happy to announce that the season will once again be presented at the 141 seat Hatlen Theatre, at the Red Brick Arts Centre and Museum. Despite flooding at the Red Brick in 2024, renovations have been completed and the space made available for the shows.

"We appreciate the support of the community and with people coming out and being a part of the audience. We enjoy working together to bring music to our community," added Wilock. There are still tickets available for this season, however they are going fast. You can find more information at www.edsonarts.com.



On January 6, the Edson U11-2 CNRL Sabres and the Edson U11-2 Gas Process Solutions (all girls team) practiced together at the Edson & District Leisure Centre, participating in drills from Dangler Hockey Development and working on their hockey skills. photo Shaylyn Thornton



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PUBLIC NOTICE

IQ ENERGY INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, IQ Energy Inc. has applied to Environment and Protected Areas for an approval for the Yellowhead County Biochar Manufacturing Plant (Carbon Manufacturing Plant and Waste Management Facility) with a capacity of 125kg/hr of biochar. The operation is located at 13 of Section 10 Township 054 Range 08 West of the 5th Meridian (54131 Highway 22).

A directly affected person may provide input into certain regulatory decisions, as allowed by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (section 73). Specifically, any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

**Environment and Protected Areas
 Regulatory Assurance Section
 Approvals Unit
 5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza
 9915 - 108 ST
 EDMONTON, AB T5K 2G8
 Fax: (780) 422-0154
 E-mail: epa.epeapplications@gov.ab.ca**

The written statement of concern should include the following:

- The application number 001-505848.
- Describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.
- Explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activities proposed in the application.
- Provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable.
- State the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application.
- Contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer.

Please provide a telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Protected Areas will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and notify each filer by letter of the decision to accept or reject their written submission as a valid statement of concern. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at <https://avw.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx>.

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board. Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

IQ Energy Inc.
 Attention: Darrell Ford
 4B RAYBORN CRES
 ST ALBERT, AB T8N 4B1
 Telephone: 780-910-9587
 Email: dford@iqenergy.ca





TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2025

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



INVITATION TO TENDER


ITT – 2025 – 001 Petroleum Products
The Town of Edson is requesting tenders for the purchase of Petroleum Products for the 2025 year. Potential providers are encouraged to complete the tender package that can be found on APC or Town of Edson Website, detailing the terms and conditions which would govern a prospective purchase agreement, including pricing, rack pricing, and service standards. Submission packages must be completed in their entirety and clearly marked of content. Packages must be returned to Tender Contact by 2:00 pm (Alberta time) on Thursday January 30, 2025. Submissions may be made by email.

Attention: Gil Belcourt - Fleet Supervisor
Email submissions: Gilb@edson.ca

Tender will run from January 13, 2025 @ 8:00 a.m., to January 30, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.

NATIONAL LEGO DAY

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VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE ON FACEBOOK JANUARY 20 - 27. WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 28.

WWW.EDSON.CA



TOWN FACILITY CLOSURES



Wednesday, JANUARY 29, 2025

10:30 am - 3:30 pm

The following Town of Edson facilities will be closed on Wednesday January 29 for professional development.

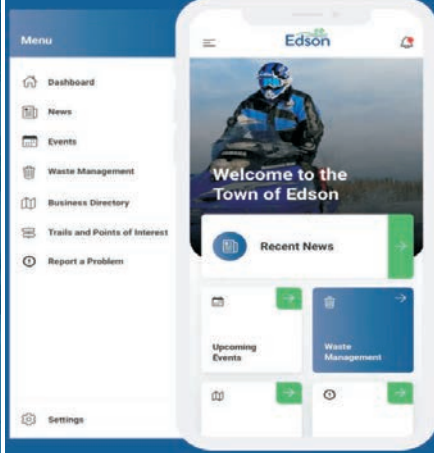
- Civic Centre
- Protective Services Building (Fire Hall). *Emergency response will not be impacted*
- Edson Landfill
- Griffiths Park Centre
- Edson and District Leisure Centre
- Public Works Building

Facilities will return to normal operating hours on Thursday, January 30th, 2025. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience while staff attend this important function.

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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.**



Trudeau resigns...

Justin Trudeau announced his resignation on January 6, 2025, outside Rideau



by Dana McArthur
publisher/Editor

Member Canadian Association of Journalists

The fact is, the Liberal party and its MPs jointly supported policies that, in Poilievre's

Cottage in Ottawa, citing internal party struggles and a desire for Canadians to have a better choice in the upcoming election.

Trudeau stated he will remain as leader until the Liberals choose a new party leader (and de facto Prime Minister).

Trudeau was granted permission by the Governor General Mary Simon to prorogue parliament until March 24. Despite Trudeau's assertions otherwise, it's apparent the delay is to allow time for the Liberal party to undergo a leadership election.

Prorogation stops the daily Question Period in the House of Commons and House and Senate committee meetings, it also allows the government to escape accountability for its decisions and actions.

Simon's decision was unfortunate, as the Liberal party's leadership is not the Governor General's concern. The fact that every other party has stated they lack confidence in the current government — is her concern and a confidence vote should have taken place at the earliest opportunity.

Opposition leader Pierre Poilievre sharply criticised the resignation framing it as a political ploy by the Liberals to salvage its chances in the upcoming election.

The Bloc Québécois leader, Yves-François Blanchet, called for a federal election at the earliest opportunity, indicating they will support a non-confidence motion.

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh said the Liberals have let Canadians down and do not deserve a second chance, regardless of a new leader. He stated they will support the first non-confidence motion.

The first confidence vote would take place within days of March 24, with the Throne Speech to be delivered by the new Liberal Prime Minister.

words, led to Canada's current economic and social turmoils.

The inflationary carbon tax, policies that have doubled home prices, rising crime rates, immigration challenges, and escalating national debt are failures in the Liberal party's policies — not just in their leadership. And let's face it, the NDP enabled the Liberals by artificially keeping them in power with their supply-and-confidence agreement.

Names floated for a new Liberal leader include many inside Trudeau's caucus, offering more of the same. Another name being floated is Liberal government advisor Mark Carney, former head of the Bank of Canada, dubbed "Carbon Tax Carney" by the Conservatives for his support of the carbon tax.

If the NDP and Bloc are to be taken at their word, there is little doubt that Canadians will be headed to the polls this spring to vote on their choice for Prime Minister. It's just a shame the Liberals and NDP delayed this so long that there will be nothing but a dysfunctional government in place to face Trump's threats of 25% tariffs.

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith said it's "irresponsible and selfish" for resigning Prime Minister Trudeau to delay calling a federal election, and that it's now up to Canada's premiers to advocate for the country in U.S. trade negotiations.

Unfortunately, the Liberal/NDP duo chose a divisive path that continually put up roadblocks that hamstrung Alberta's economy and investment, and infringed on its jurisdiction.

Aside from the numerous "F" posters and bumper stickers, we are sure many Albertans wish Trudeau well in future ventures — just no where near the Prime Minister's office.

Weekly Anchor pick-up locations:

- Edson Post office (outside boxes)
- Edson, Your Independent Grocer (inside)
- Edson Sobeys (outside box)
- Edson Tags North (inside)
- Edson and District Leisure Centre (outside box)
- Edson, Home Hardware (inside)
- Edson, Thymes Two (outside box)
- Weekly Anchor (outside box and inside)
- Edson, Parkland Lodge (inside)
- Peers Trading Post (inside)
- Niton beside postboxes next to A&W (outside box)
- Wildwood Post Office (outside box)
- Evansburg Post Office (outside box)
- Evansburg Super A Foods (inside)

Edson RCMP Occurrences

For the Week of December 23 – December 29, 2024

Traffic Complaints 10; Assistance Calls 9; and Suspicious Persons 7 topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 4; Alarms/False Alarms 4; Animal Calls 2; Assault 1; Cause Disturbance 4; Child Welfare 0; Fail to Comply with Conditions 0; False/Abandoned 911 Call 5; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Fraud 0; Harassment/Criminal Harassment 0; Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 1; Information File 2; Lost or Found property 2; Mental Health Act 0; Mischief or Damage 5; Missing Person/Request to Locate 0; Municipal Bylaws 0; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 0; Recovered Stolen Property 0; Sudden Death 0; Theft Complaints 3; Traffic Collisions 5; Traffic Violations 2; Trespassing 3 Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; and Wellbeing Checks 2.

For the week of December 30 – January 5, 2024

Assistance Calls 12; Suspicious Persons 12; and Theft Complaints 8 topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 4; Alarms/False Alarms 3; Animal Calls 1; Assault 3; Cause Disturbance 3; Child Welfare 1; Fail to Comply with Conditions 2; False/Abandoned 911 Call 1; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Fraud 1; Harassment/Criminal Harassment 4; Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 3; Information File 5; Lost or Found property 0; Mental Health Act 3; Mischief or Damage 2; Missing Person/Request to Locate 0; Municipal Bylaws 0; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 1; Recovered Stolen Property 2; Sudden Death 0; Traffic Collisions 7; Traffic Complaints 5; Traffic Violations 1; Trespassing 0; Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; and Wellbeing Checks 2.

KID'S CORNER



Meet Ellie in Grade 6 at Vanier Community Catholic School.

- Q:** What are your favourite sports?
A: I play hockey defense for the Sabers and volleyball on the school team. I also like soccer, and basketball.
Q: What's your favourite colour?
A: Baby blue.



Kid's Corner is sponsored by:
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*Note Sophia from last week's Kids Corner attends Vanier Community Catholic School.

The Weekly Anchor Your Local Independent Newspaper

All claims of errors in advertisements must be received in writing by the publisher within 5 days after the first publication. The Anchor is responsible to supply one ad proof upon customer request. Ads approved by the advertiser or agent absolves the Anchor of any liability for errors. Any other errors or failure to print is limited to the cost of the space where the error occurred within the ad. The opinions expressed within this publication are not necessarily those of the Anchor or the publisher. Material published may not be copied or reproduced without the expressed written permission of the publisher.

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Publisher/Editor Dana McArthur
 Published by: 422247 Alberta Ltd.

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County seeks ways to support regional healthcare recruitment and retention

by Shaylyn Thornton

At their December 10, 2024 meeting, Yellowhead County Council heard a report from GM of Community Services Crystal McNernie that provided previously requested follow-up information related to requests for support for regional healthcare services.

The information had been requested by Council during their September Governance & Priorities Committee meeting, in which Administration presented three requests for support. Before responding to the requests, Administration was directed to provide further details on recruitment and retention strategies that are employed by other municipalities and committees.

“So, to do this, we developed a questionnaire and sent it out to a variety of committees across the province,” said McNernie, adding that they received four responses.

“Findings from other municipalities and the RhPAP demonstrate the shared challenges and successes in rural healthcare recruitment and retention,” said McNernie. “These insights offer valuable context for understanding regional healthcare needs and potential strategies for addressing them.”

The three requests discussed in September came from the Attraction and Retention Committee of Hinton (ARCH), the Hinton Healthcare Foundation, and the Edson Community Care Foundation.

ARCH's request was for Council to consider appointing a member to the committee, noting that the appointment “will provide representation and active participation from Council in decisions related to healthcare provider attraction and retention efforts in Hinton.”

The Hinton Healthcare Foundation asked Council to consider contributing \$71,850 to the Foundation over the two-year term of July 2024 to July 2026. This contribution would represent 7.185% of the total funding needed and would support the operational costs of the Hinton Medical Clinic during this “critical period.”

The Edson Community Care Foundation's request was that Council appoint a member to serve on the Attraction and Retention Committee (ARC) in Edson. They also sought an initial \$10,000 in funding to support their efforts, which would include marketing campaigns aimed at promoting the region to prospective physicians.

McNernie said that ARC is a “promising initiative led by a group of dedicated individuals” but that the committee is “still in the formative stages.” It was also noted that, at a recent meeting of the committee, “attempts to elect a chair and vice-chair were unsuccessful as members expressed uncertainty about their roles and expectations.”

Since the original request was

made in September, ARC has removed recruitment from their terms of reference, recognizing it as an Alberta Health Services responsibility. Their focus now is on retention and integration.

“There is a lack of clarity regarding the specific use of the \$10,000 request, and further understanding of AHS's efforts is needed to ensure alignment,” said McNernie. “Despite these challenges, the committee has significant potential to contribute positively to regional healthcare efforts as its structure and direction become more defined.”

“Yellowhead County is presented with an opportunity to expand its role in supporting healthcare-related initiatives, thereby strengthening regional collaboration and addressing local healthcare challenges,” said McNernie, proposing three options meant to guide Council's decision-making process.

The first option would be to “strengthen representation” by appointing a member to both the Hinton and Edson committees. “This representation will enable Yellowhead County to contribute directly to discussions and efforts related to the attraction, retention, and integration of healthcare professionals,” McNernie said.

The second proposed option was a conditional budget allocation which would include the \$10,000 request from the Edson Community Care Foundation as a placeholder in the 2025 budget. The allocation would remain contingent upon ARC “establishing a clear mandate and a fully functioning board.”

The third proposed option was to decline the retroactive funding request of \$71,850 from the Town of Hinton for the Hinton Healthcare Foundation, “as Yellowhead County was not consulted or involved in the decision-making process prior to the request.”

McNernie's report to Council included several attachments to assist with their decision-making process, which shared the findings from other municipalities, samples for terms of reference, community profiles, and more.

Councillor Brigitte Lemieux had recently attended meetings for both ARCH and ARC, and spoke about those meetings. “I can say that both committees are comprised of dedicated individuals that are sitting there... with a common goal, and the common goal is to provide greater access to healthcare services,” she said. “I think that both groups have the right people at the table.”

Lemieux noted that Hinton is “a little bit further ahead in their planning stages” but that she could “see the benefit” of a Council-appointed member sitting on both committees.

Mayor Wade Williams thanked GM McNernie for her work. “I think you've gone above and beyond. I wasn't quite expecting as much information as we got, but it

is very much appreciated,” he said. “We were able to go through and define what the other communities that have been involved in this have found and it's very interesting.”

Councillor David Russell echoed the Mayor's comments, adding that the information “made everything very clear.”

“I would also like to comment that this Council, over the last number of years since I've been on Council, has struggled with the idea of crossing out of our lane and into healthcare funding,” Russell said. “As much as it doesn't sit well with me, I think times have changed. We're no longer sitting where we were even three years ago, and I'm afraid that the time has come that we're going to have to start participating in order to keep our communities healthy and functioning well.”

Lemieux expanded on Russell's comments, noting that the County's recent social needs assessment (which surveyed County residents) identified the number one social issue as the lack of access to healthcare services. “Our residents are really concerned with the fact that many of them don't have, you know, family doctors or access to healthcare professionals,” she said. “And I think it is our role to advocate on behalf of our of our residents.”

For the first proposed option, Council voted to appoint Mayor Williams to both committees, with Councillor Lemieux serving as a backup in the event that the Mayor can't attend.

Council also voted to include the \$10,000 request for funding as a

conditional budget allocation for 2025, “to be provided once the committee has been established with a clear mandate acceptable to Council.”

The third motion was to deny the Hinton Healthcare Foundation's request for \$71,850. Councillor Lemieux added that she had two reasons to support the motion to deny funding. “I simply cannot use taxpayer's money to fund an operating deficit of a private corporation, and the clinic is a private corporation,” she said.

“The second reason that I am supporting the motion is the revenue sharing agreement has a clause... if the Town of Hinton funds a community interest group for operational expenses, it is deemed that this funding is coming from both Yellowhead County and the Town of Hinton and no further funding can be allocated,” Lemieux said. “If you look at the funding that was provided to the Health Care Foundation for the operating deficit of the clinic... that's the reason there should not be any additional funding.”

Mayor Williams added that Yellowhead County not being consulted or involved in any decision-making prior to the request for funds contributed to his reasons to deny the request. “If Yellowhead County is going to be involved, we need to be at the table when these decisions are being made,” he said. “Our voices need to be heard, not after the fact.”

Council voted unanimously to deny the Hinton Healthcare Foundation's request.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

MANAGER OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
LOCATION: EDSON, AB
COMPETITION NO. 25-014

Reporting to the General Manager of Infrastructure and Planning Services, the Manager of Engineering Services will assist the General Manager in managing the County's engineering and construction program and will be responsible for the oversight of the delivery of engineering services and assigned infrastructure projects. Engineering services and assigned infrastructure projects can include but are not limited to, County roadway infrastructure, bridge structures, water treatment and distribution systems, and wastewater collection and treatment systems.

The salary range is currently \$125,869 - \$156,078 per year and Yellowhead County offers a competitive benefit plan.

To apply, please submit resumes online at www.yhcounty.ca/jobs

A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online.

The competition will remain open until a suitable applicant is found.

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

Human Resources
Yellowhead County
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No Till Gardening Workshop

with Yellowhead County Agricultural Services and Master Gardener Kim Ross

Join this in-person class for \$10 Includes snacks & refreshments

Wildwood Community Hall
Thursday January 16th from 5:30pm-7:30pm

Love gardening but hate weeding and watering?
No Till Gardening might be right for you!

Registration opens January 1st and closes January 14th 2025
Register by calling 1-800-814-3935 or online at yhcounty.ca/registration
Visit www.yhcounty.ca for more info

Yoga in Peers

Join Brittanee for this four-week session!

SUNDAYS
7 PM - 8 PM

PEERS MULTIPLEX

RUNS
JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 9

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN YOGA MAT AND WATER BOTTLE
Register at yhcounty.ca/registration or by phoning Jina at 780-723-4800

COST: \$40/SESSION
OR \$12/CLASS TO DROP IN.



Yoga in Marlboro

Join Renae for rejuvenating yoga!

SUNDAYS
7 PM - 8 PM

MARLBORO COMMUNITY HALL

RUNS
JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 9

Register at yhcounty.ca/registration or by phoning Jina at 780-723-4800
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Registration is January 10 to 24, 2025.**

**Step Three: Pick up your kit starting January 27 at the Edson and Wildwood offices.
You can build them anytime that works with your schedule!**

Visit www.yhcounty.ca for more info including our Guide to Choosing a Nesting Box!

Brought to you by Yellowhead County's Agricultural Services



Compassionate Connections

Caregiving can be stressful and difficult – you're not alone.

Thursdays for 8 weeks from February 6 to March 27 at 1:00 pm

- These sessions will help Caregivers deal with:
- improving communication,
 - managing stress,
 - navigating the system,
 - planning for the journey ahead,
 - putting themselves first,
 - & connecting with each other in their caregiving journey.

These sessions will take place at the Wildwood Yellowhead County office.

Register at the Yellowhead County Wildwood Office at 780-325-3782 or online at www.yhcounty.ca/registration



Join us on Wednesdays for some indoor fun!
Program runs from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

MARLBORO COMMUNITY HALL

JAN 22
FEB 5, 19
MAR 5

PEERS MULTIPLEX

JAN 29
FEB 12, 26
MAR 12

This is a free program for caregivers with children ages 0-5.

There will be new activities and unstructured free play each week.



Registration is required. Please register by visiting www.yhcounty.ca/registration



Caregiver & Alzheimer Support Group In-Person Group Sessions



Join us for a valuable opportunity to connect with fellow caregivers and share your caregiving journey in a safe and confidential setting. Whether you are caring for parents, spouses, elderly friends, family members, or children, these sessions are for you.

Join us at the Yellowhead County Wildwood Office every third Tuesday at 4:00 PM.

Dates: Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, June 17
Sessions are free

Take this opportunity to learn from others who are experiencing the same challenges and stresses.

Call the Wildwood Office at 780-325-3782 OR email Karen at kschatz@yhcounty.ca for more info.



Youth Interagency offers enjoyable and inclusive activities

by Deanna Mitchener

The Youth Interagency Committee is devoted to fostering empowerment and having a positive impact in the lives of youth in Edson and Yellowhead County.

Hannah Minelli, the Community Development Coordinator, says, "We believe in the potential of youth as they become confident, competent, and caring individuals. We are a committed group who aim to provide leadership opportunities, standards of excellence, and enjoyable and safe activities for youth."

"We have some activities coming up for youth to take part in. On January 15, we will be having Line Dancing from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., registration is \$5.00 per person.

On February 6, we have a self-care day. Treat yourself to the ultimate self-care where you

can enjoy fresh hairstyles, makeup, nail painting, crafts, soothing yoga, and a feel-good movie. On February 7, we have a Youth Power Play Day. Dive into epic Nerf wars, unlock the mysteries of science, master self-defence skills, and kick back with a fun movie," says Minelli.

"Then on March 7, we have a trip out to Marmot Basin. A 3D printing workshop will take place on March 27, and a Henna activity on March 28. Then on April 2, we have a trip to the West Edmonton Water Park," added Minelli.

These programs are geared towards youth from ages of 11 through 17 and provide a positive, safe, and inclusive environment. For more information on youth programs or to register, go to edson.ca/yia or register in person at the Edson & District Leisure Centre.

Exploring Culture with New Year's Pot Luck Supper

by Deanna Mitchener

On January 14, the Edson Settlement Services and Edson Learning are hosting a New Year's Pot Luck at 11:00 a.m. It will be held in room #114 at the Edson Provincial Building.

"As we step into a brand-new year, let's gather together to share a dish from your country and enjoy great food, warm conversations, and heartfelt connections," said Isabel and Jill, with the programs.

"We are part of Edson and District Community Learning Society. Our Settlement Services grant is a grant from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) aimed at providing support for permanent residents and refugees in Edson."

"This potluck is part of our

Exploring Culture Together grant. This is a grant from Edson FCSS which allows us to bring newcomers and other interested community members together to share experiences and learn about everyone's different culture."

"With this grant we have done a calendar making class to exchange information about holidays from various cultures, sushi making, various crafts, including cloth flowers and apron making, other potlucks and we are going to be running a book club using a book by a newcomer author."

"We give newcomers an opportunity to share either information or a favorite craft with other newcomers and others who are interested in learning about their culture."

Event Reminder

January 11: Community Resource Fair. 11am-2pm at The Royal Canadian Legion. Discover new programs and support in Edson.



Yellowhead County

2025 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

Dates of Employment:

Approximately April 28th, 2025 to August 29th, 2025

Pool Manager - Competition No. 25-001 - Responsible for the maintenance and operation of Green Grove Pool and the supervision of seasonal pool staff. Also responsible for duties including but not limited to providing lesson instruction, lifeguarding, pool and facility maintenance and other administrative tasks as required.

Pool Coordinator - Competition No. 25-002 - Responsible for assisting in the operation and maintenance of the Green Grove Pool, acting as the supervisor on duty, providing swimming instruction, lifeguarding, and other administrative duties. Also oversees the operations and safety aspects of the pool, assists with pool activities and dedicated events, and ensures safety requirements are met through inspection of practices and equipment.

Senior Lifeguard - Competition No. 25-003 - Acts as the supervisor on duty when scheduled with a Junior Guard, providing swimming instruction, lifeguarding, completing pool maintenance and performing other administrative duties as required.

Junior Lifeguard - Competition No. 25-004 - Responsible for providing swimming instruction and completing lifeguarding duties, pool maintenance and administrative duties as required.

Agricultural Labourer - Competition No. 25-005 - Responsible for assisting in the application of pesticides on private and public lands in accordance with legislation and County policies.

Weed Inspector - Competition No. 25-006 - Responsible for performing weed and pest inspections on private and public lands in accordance with the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act and County policies.

Senior Weed Inspector - Competition No. 25-007 - Responsible for performing weed and pest inspections on private and public lands in accordance with the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act and County policies.

Vegetation Management Technician - Competition No. 25-008 - Responsible for the application of pesticide on private and public lands in accordance with the Legislation and County policies.

Horticultural Technician - Competition No. 25-009 - Responsible for coordinating, implementing, and supporting further development of Yellowhead County's horticultural management program. Other responsibilities may include but are not limited to performing weed and pest inspections on private and public lands in accordance with the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act and County policies.

Summer Program Coordinator - Competition No. 25-010 - Responsible for assisting in the planning and delivery of Family and Community Support Services programming to children of Yellowhead County.

Summer Youth Worker - Competition No. 24-011 - Responsible for assisting in the planning and delivery of Family and Community Support Services programming to children of Yellowhead County.

Gravel Checker - Competition No. 25-012 - Responsible for assisting in the administration and co-ordination of Yellowhead County's annual summer gravel programs on County maintained roads in accordance with County contracts.

Parks Labourer - Competition No. 25-013 - Responsible for assisting in the maintenance of Yellowhead County owned and operated parks spaces, properties, and campgrounds.

To apply, submit cover letter and resume: www.yhcounty.ca/employment

These competitions will remain open until **4:30 PM on Friday, January 31, 2025**. We thank all interested applicants in advance, however only those applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

Human Resources
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HRH student joins Minister of Education's Youth Council

(HRH) Holy Redeemer has always prided itself on the work done by their students, not only in school, but in their community as a whole. More than that, HRH is extremely proud that one of their students, Maya Dalueg, is now being recognized provincially for being accepted into the Minister of Education's Youth Council.

Dalueg, who is currently in grade 11, was one of 40 students from across the province to be selected to the prestigious Council. "I was inspired to apply for the Minister's Youth Council for a few reasons," she says. "My first reason was my curiosity and hopes in learning more about our education system since it actively impacts my everyday life. Since this does largely impact my life, I wanted to provide my personal experiences within our education system and in doing so, from a rural perspective."

The application process was lengthy, consisting of various questions which included her involvement in the community, unique perspectives she could provide, the various leadership roles she has had, and what she is passionate about with regards to the education system. "A few months later I was selected out of the approximately 200 that applied for a zoom interview. Another 2 months go by and I received my acceptance letter."

The Council's first meeting was held in October in Edmonton where they covered topics such as the education system and the students. "We had presentations regarding leadership to advise us throughout the weekend as well as a presentation on indigenous teachings," Dalueg says. "We received a tour of the legislature and were accompanied by MLA Sinclair. We spent some time discussing and learning about the stakeholders in our education system and brainstormed common issues we see within our school and what stakeholders could play a role in assisting with this issue." Beyond this, Dalueg's group discussed mental health and connected it to all levels of our education system and community support.

"The most interesting workshop we participated in was by Alberta Health Services on tobacco, vaping, synthetic nicotine and cannabis use in and around schools. We reported on what we find is most commonly used, what location in terms of a school where it is most commonly found and the effects we are seeing it has on our peers. I believe all of our discussions were insightful and it was interesting to compare my educational experiences to others around the province."

Dalueg is no stranger to being involved in school and community activities as she has been on the Edson Youth Council for the past several years, is an avid-volunteer of the March 4 A Cure Program at HRH, can be seen performing on stage in HRH's plays, and works as a lifeguard at the Leisure Centre, on top of maintaining high achievement levels in her classes. "Maya has all the attributes for being an excellent leader in our school and community," says HRH Teacher Peter Taylor. "She is highly respected by her peers, and we can always count on her to bring her well thought out ideas to the table in such a mature manner. Our community should be very proud to have Maya as our representative on this Council."

When asked what Dalueg hopes to bring to the table, she says she plans to bring up the discrepancies between rural and urban areas. "Coming from a rural area of the province and from a smaller school, I believe I am knowledgeable in this area. Through talking to other students at the last meeting I learned that almost all urban schools offer AP classes which in turn help once you get to university. At my



Holy Redeemer grade 11 student Maya Dalueg was one of 40 students from across Alberta selected to the Minister of Education's Youth Council. The Council will advise the Minister on issues pertaining to them and how the Government of Alberta can create appropriate policies that meet the needs of today's students. Here, Dalueg accepts an award acknowledging her work on the Council from Holy Redeemer Principal Sandy Whitten, Social Studies Teacher Peter Taylor, and Living Waters Trustees Gemma Christie and Eva Kuefler.

school and many other rural schools, offering these courses is unheard of. We recognize this could be due to lack of staffing and hope to create incentives for rural work opportunities. Throughout the duration of the term I want to continue working towards opportunities for rural students. At the end of our last meeting, myself and other rural students had the privilege to express these concerns in a briefing

note addressed to the Minister of Education."

Dalueg will continue her work with the Council as the school year progresses, with her next meeting scheduled for the end of January via Zoom.

If you would like more information on this article please feel free to contact the school at 780-723-7437 or holyredeemerhigh.ca, and follow HRH on social media.



The Holy Redeemer Drama Department was excited to hear that Cenovus Energy donated \$2000 to become the Production Sponsor for their main stage play, *Sleeping Beauty*. "Thanks to the generous support of Cenovus, the students were able to put together this production and it was a complete success," says Drama Teacher Peter Taylor. Here, representatives of Cenovus present the cheque to members of the cast and crew. submitted

Visit our free e-edition, identical to our print edition at : weeklyanchor.com

January Fire Safety tips from the Edson Fire Department

Awards banquet recognizes service to the community

by Deanna Mitchener

We should have fire safety in mind at all times and not just certain times of the year.

Steve Bethge with the Edson Fire Department says, "Colder temperatures can lead to significant fire risks. Around half of all home heating fires occur in December through February and the Edson Fire Department would like to provide a few tips to help reduce the risk this winter."

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from any heat source like fireplaces, wood burning stoves, radiators, or space heaters.

- Keep portable generators outside and away from windows, as far away from the home as possible.

- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.

- Only plug in one heat-producing appliance (like space heaters) into an electrical outlet at a time.

- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.

- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home or any nearby buildings.

"It's also the time of year where vehicles get plugged in and it's important to keep these tips in mind to protect your vehicle and home from fire risk. Use a properly rated extension cord made of medium or heavy-gauge wire. Avoid using old, damaged, or multiple extension cords. Check the cords for damage before use. Plug it in solidly to make sure the connection is tight. We've all done it...but don't drive away while plugged in as it can damage the cord and plug," says Bethge.

"Over the holidays our members responded to one structure fire that was able to be contained to the roof/attic area; a few minor motor vehicle collisions; along with some medical responses and alarm calls," explains Bethge.

"We also held a Christmas and Awards Banquet for our members in December where multiple members were honoured. Five years of service went out to Louwill Eslava and Ryan Stephens. 10 years of service went out to Duane Woodhouse, Stefan Bittner, and Cody Weston. 15 years of service awards went to Evert Jonker, Brandon Blue, and myself [Steve Bethge]. 20 years of service went to James McMorran and Greg Pasychny. 40

years of service went to Scott Weston, Stefan Farkas, and Bruce Whitworth. Rookie of the year went to Marc Girouard. Our firefighter of the Year went to Hunter Ashburn. And Officer of the Year went to Brandon Blue."

"For the month of January the Edson Fire Department is focusing on our

annual fitness testing and 1001 certification training for some of our newer members. We're looking forward to another great year of training and protecting our community," says Firefighter Steve Bethge.



L to R: Deputy Chief Joey Cherpin, Firefighter of the Year Hunter Ashburn, and Chief Brad Milton. photos submitted



L to R: Deputy Chief Joey Cherpin, 40 Years of Service: Scott Weston, Stefan Farkas, and Bruce Whitworth. Far right is Chief Brad Milton.



Deputy Chief Joey Cherpin, Officer of the Year Brandon Blue, and Chief Brad Milton.



Deputy Chief Joey Cherpin, Greg Pasychny 20 Years of Service, and Chief Brad Milton



Deputy Chief Joey Cherpin, James McMorran 20 Years of Service, and Chief Brad Milton.

Travel Log: The Mexican Temazcal ceremony



A Mexican Tenazcal Hut in San Carlos, Mexico. A fire burns to heat lava rocks for ceremony. photo by Deanna Mitchener

Experiencing the true Mexican Temazcal ceremony (a type of sweat lodge)

Views & News

by Deanna Mitchener

These ancient rituals have been part of Mexican culture for thousands of years. The word

while traveling this winter has been another first for this reporter.

Here in Mexico, a Temazcal is typically a dome-like structure made out of cement, mud, or volcanic stone.

This Mexican traditional ritual is said to have all sorts of health benefits from cleansing your body to improving your mental health, as well as therapeutic benefits.

At the start of the ceremony we were asked to step into the sweat lodge and get comfortable. Inside, we sat on a ledge made from stone or we could sit on the ground in a circle. Once the participants were settled in, steaming volcanic stones were placed in the middle of the circle. Water was then poured over the stones to produce steam.

The rocks used during the ceremony were heated just outside the structure before the ceremony started. As the ceremony went on, more hot rocks were brought into the dome at intervals to keep the space hot.

The water thrown over the rocks was infused with herbs that are believed to have healing and therapeutic properties. Cold water and herbal tea were offered halfway through the ceremony. Inside the dome it was pitch black during the ceremony. The only light allowed in was during the time more lava rocks were being added.

itself originates from a Nahuatl word Temazacalli which translates to house of heat.

Thought to have derived from the pre-Hispanic Indigenous people of Mesoamerica, the cleansing ritual took place before and after battles and sports tournaments. It was also thought to have healing powers and was a place to give birth.

Some health benefits that come from these ceremonies include flushing out toxins from the body to improve overall well-being. The steam helps to promote clearer skin. The heat helps to promote blood flow opening up capillaries and allowing blood to move around the body more easily. This has many benefits including increased oxygen levels and lower blood pressure.

Temazcals are thought to purify not just the body, but the mind and soul. For many these ceremonies are deeply spiritual and hold a great meaning. During our experience the ceremony was led by a Shaman and involved chanting, singing, and drums.

After the ceremony was complete, we were offered fresh fruit and drinks outside while we took time to cool down and meet others.

If you have never had the opportunity to experience this type of a ceremony, I would personally encourage you to do so.

~ In loving memory of ~ Harvey Logan

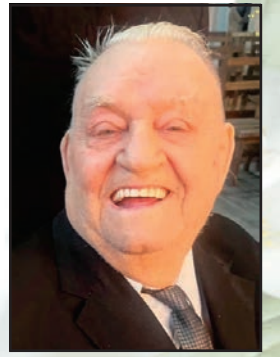
October 22, 1940 - January 1, 2025

It is with great sadness and love that we announce the passing of Harvey Logan. He passed away peacefully at the University Hospital in Edmonton on January 1, 2025, at the age of 84 years.

Harvey is survived by his wife Velma, of 63 years; 4 children - Sandra Anderson, Lester Logan (Tammy), Jackie Blahun (Greg), Treena Ueland (Chris); many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brother Earl Logan (Connie); sister Gladys Amber; and numerous friends and family.

He was predeceased by his parents, 8 brothers and sisters, and infant great-grandson.

A private family service will take place at a later date.



~ Obituary ~ Tom Stad

Tom was born on April 3, 1938, in Hardenberg, Netherlands the youngest of eight children born to Thijs and Aleida Stad. Tom passed away peacefully in Edson, AB on January 4, 2025, at the age of 86 years old.

Tom moved with his family from the Netherlands at the Age of 1 to Fulham, AB. The Family then relocated to Smithers, BC where he began working in the logging industry. This is where he met his wife, Janet Haayema. Tom and Janet were married on April 6, 1962.

They moved to Kitwanga where the first 3 children of 6 were born, Ralph (1963), Kenneth (1964) and David (1965). Outgrowing their 1-bedroom camp cabin, Tom moved his family into Smithers, BC. This is where they built a 5-bedroom house on Zobnick Road. They welcomed two more children to the family here Linda (1968) and Edward (1973). Tom wanting to fulfill his dream to return to Alberta moved to Niton, AB where they stayed with Tom's sister Minnie and family until the purchase of a trailer was finalized.

There they completed their family of 6 with Betty (1974). Tom started his own business, operating John Deere equipment. The family lived in the trailer while building the house that still stands today at the Peers corner where they continued to raise their children.

This house is remembered by many as the stopping spot for the many trips made between Alberta and BC. Many family and friends were welcomed to the home. Tom and Janet moved back to Niton, AB when it was time to downsize and Janet became ill.

After Janet's passing in June 2001, Tom sold the trailer and moved across the road to a small acreage where he remained until moving into the long-term care wing of the Edson Hospital.

In his retirement years, Tom enjoyed camping, square dancing or could be seen on his quad bottle picking along the highway. Tom also enjoyed driving around and exploring new places and new people, venturing to Alaska, BC, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Tom was a regular at Cowboy Church including his final attendance at the Christmas service held December 17, 2024.

In his immediate family he was predeceased by his wife Janet in 2001, Grandson Jonathan Stad in 2008 and Grandson Scott Stad in 2020.

Tom is survived by his children Ralph (Bonnie), Kenneth (Crystal), David (Janet), Linda (Gerry), Edward (Annette) and Betty (Lyndsay). He is also survived by 16 Grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren. He is also survived by one remaining sibling Jean Klok as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Tom's funeral service will take place at the Niton Hall at 1:00 pm on Monday January 13, 2025. Interment to follow at the Carrot Creek Cemetery.

FOOTHILLS MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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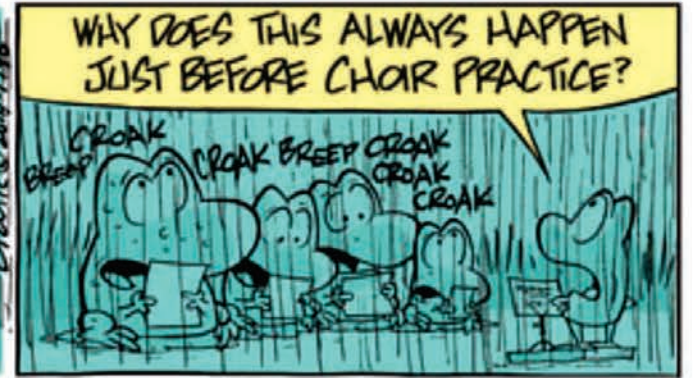
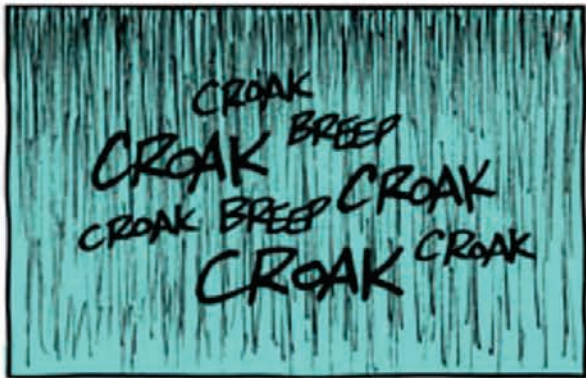
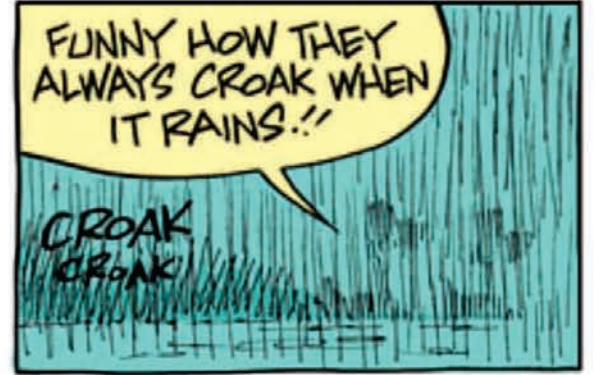
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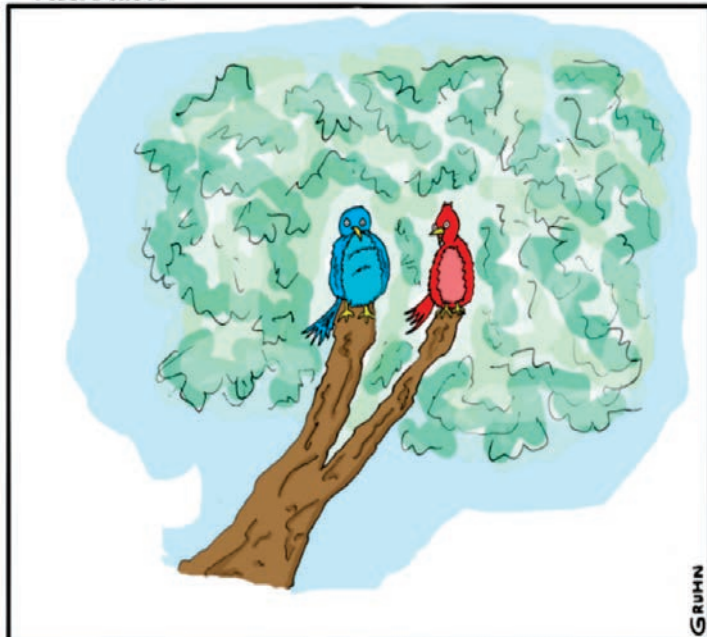


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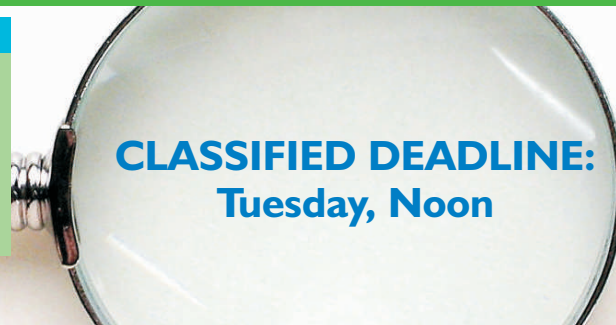
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What's happening, when and where in the community

Community Events

January 18: Edson Sabres Excel U13 Tourney. Time: All Day, Location: Edson & District Leisure Centre. Please come out and cheer our local Sabres on and check out the raffle table.
First Wednesday of Every Month: Senior's Recycling Day. Between 10 am and 1 pm, senior citizens are welcome to visit the depot for snacks and refreshments while their staff unloads your sorted recyclables free of charge.
January 18: Womens Fitness Conference 9am-5pm. At The Best Western High Road Inn for more info call 780-725-0582/ edson.ca/cdprograms
January 19: World Snow Day. Bear Lake Park 1pm-3pm. Sleigh Rides, Cross Country Skis and Snowshoes. Free drop in event.
January 22 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. www.yhcounty.ca/registration
January 23: Ladies Night Clay pottery. The Griffiths Park Centre 6PM-8PM AGES 18+ Register at www.edson.ca/cdprograms
January 25: Gospel Jam for January. Admission is free. Niton Community Hall 1-4pm Call Jill for more info 780-795-3961
January 29 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/registration

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5525-2nd Ave., Edson
Ph: 723-5776 Pastor Bryan Walter
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Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting.
EDSON BAPTIST CHURCH
4719 - 9th Ave., Ph: 723-3982
Pastor Mesh Hit
Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m.
EDSON MENNONITE CHURCH
6212 - 13 Ave, Edson
Office hrs: Tues 9am-1pm
Office phone: 780-723-4992
Pastor Tyson Moerike
(Call or text 403-966-4705)
Sunday worship - 9:45
EDSON-PEERS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
4633-7th Ave., Edson
Ph: 723-5242
Pastor: Ryan Hoogerbrugge
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EDSON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1133-55 St. Edson - Ph: 723-5490.
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463 72 St., Edson (formerly Glenwood Hall), Telephone: 780-517-7558
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Pastor Father Thomas Basani (SAC)
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The Weekly **ANCHOR**

Farm & Field

News and Views

Fighting the spread of aquatic invasive species

The Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force recommends measures to defend Alberta against invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species for years to come.

Zebra and quagga mussels are not native to Canada and can wreak havoc on ecosystems and infrastructure. With growing concerns that invasive mussels could arrive in our province, Alberta launched the first Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to identify ways to improve inspection, detection, response and education so that these dangerous species do not get established here.

Invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species can be easily and inadvertently introduced, often by the movement of boats and other watercraft. These mussels might be tiny, but the negative impacts are massive. If invasive mussels became established inside Alberta's borders, they could spread rapidly, clog waterways, upset lakes and other ecosystems and cause hundreds of millions of dollars annually in damages.

Alberta is currently free of invasive mussels and inspected a record number of boats and other watercraft in 2024 to help keep it that way. The task force has provided a set of recommendations to address the threat of invasive mussels while also strengthening Alberta's prevention and early detection efforts.

"Zebra mussels and other invasive species may be tiny but can cause massive damage. The work of this task force was vital for identifying ways to improve defense programs across our province, and we will continue to push the federal government to take this threat as seriously as we are. I'm grateful to the members for their time and expertise to help protect Alberta's water infrastructure and rivers, lakes

and waterways." - Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

The provincial task force, led by Grant Hunter, MLA for Taber-Warner provided valuable advice on critical topics to strengthen the province's aquatic invasive species programs. The team of experts also assessed strategies, including education and awareness, watercraft inspection and decontamination, monitoring, as well as the detection, response and management of current and emerging threats.

"The AIS Task Force did great work helping safeguard our waterways. It is critical that we keep quagga and zebra mussels out of Alberta's waterways. Alberta has 70 per cent of Canada's irrigation and it would cripple our irrigation farmers." - Grant Hunter, MLA for Taber-Warner and chair of the Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force

Environment and Protected Areas will take these recommendations to determine priorities and how best to implement them ahead of the 2025 season to make sure Alberta stays invasive mussel free.

Quick facts:

In 2024, Alberta conducted 13,408 watercraft inspections and 15 watercraft were confirmed positive for invasive mussels.

- Alberta's Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force's recommendations included:
 - Implement a mandatory annual watercraft sticker initiative that provides visual proof of inspection.
 - Pilot a decontamination dip tank for watercraft.
 - Issue a Ministerial Order requiring mandatory watercraft inspections for all watercraft entering Alberta from eastern or southern provincial borders.
 - Advocate to the federal government for more chemical options to treat aquatic invasive species.
 - Establish a provincial eDNA monitoring

program for aquatic invasive species.

- Create an invasive mussel-specific early detection and rapid response plan as well as an invasive mussel tactical plan.

- Conduct tabletop and field-based exercises for invasive mussel response training. -agrnews



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