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COUNTY

Year in review with Mayor Wade Williams...

see page 10

SNOW

County celebrates World Snow Day...

see page 4

COMMENT

Liberal's carbon tax darling...

see page 6

Town moves forward on Aerial Fire Truck purchase

by Niki Luymes

At the Edson Town Council meeting on January 21, representatives from the Edson

Fire Department presented a request for funding for the purchase of a new aerial fire engine. The group is asking for the approval of \$2,750,000 in

the capital budget for 2025. "We have done significant research and spoken with a number of dealerships and aerial providers regarding

these trucks and the timeline it takes to get them," said Edson Fire Chief Bradley Milton. "We are looking at a typical delivery time of 16 to 24 months or

continued page 2



After enjoying the free winter activities at the January 19th World Snow Day event, many took the chance to sit and enjoy a snack around the campfire. The County event was held at Bear Lake Park from 1pm to 3pm (see page 4). photo Niki Luymes

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Town Council agrees on purchase of Aerial Fire Truck through debenture

continued from front

more. Some providers are saying that we would be looking at upwards of 48 months for the provision of a truck."

This new engine would replace the current engine 604 as the main, frontline apparatus. Engine 604, which is approaching the end of its 20 year life span for warranty, will then be moved to reserve status.

Currently, the Edson Fire Department has an opportunity to secure a stock unit which is currently in production. It would be completed and delivered within the fourth quarter of 2025. The manufacturer offered a delivery window of 7 to 10 months. "This will ensure that the truck will be available for use sooner," said Chief Milton.

"Also, by securing this vehicle now we will be able to avoid the risk of cost inflation, particularly in the fluctuation of exchange rates," added Milton. "Time is of the essence for this vehicle. Right now it is an aerial buyers market. These trucks will go onto the dealers lists and they will sell very quickly in North America."

The proposed engine will be manufactured by Rosenbauer. Most of Edson's current fleet consists of Rosenbauer engines. It will also meet the basic requirements for pumping capacity and ladder specifications.

"One of the other big things with the Rosenbauer ladder trucks is that they are the only hot dip galvanized aerial apparatus on the market. They have a 25 year structural warranty on the outriggers, frame, and the ladder. The industry standard is 20 years," said Deputy Chief Joey Cherpin.

After the presentation Council discussion turned to funding the project. Denise MacDonald, the acting CFO presented council

with multiple funding options. Council and Administration then discussed whether or not to fund the purchase of the engine with money allocated from various reserves, or through a long term debenture (loan).

Because reserves mainly function as a source of funding for unforeseen projects, Council did not want to risk a deficit. Therefore, discussions centered on going with up to a 20 year debenture. This would result in a 1.67% increase in the tax rate beginning in 2026.

"How long do we have to make a decision and still secure that truck," asked Councillor Greg Pasychny. "We have currently submitted a letter of intent to Rosenbauer for that truck. So that does temporarily put that truck on hold for us." Answered Chief Milton.

"All of these things are very important to the community," said Mayor Kevin Zahara. "If we are looking at the residents that are going to benefit from this, it's going to be those residents over the next 20 years. And so, debenture it will make sure it is equitable for those who will actually be utilizing that service and benefiting from that protection in the community." Councillor Krystal Cacka asked what the timeline and procedure would look like for going with a long term debenture.

"My understanding is that we can secure the truck with a deposit moving forward. On a longer term debenture, we will have to create a debenture bylaw and advertise it for two consecutive weeks in the local newspaper after first reading. Wait 10 days and bring it back for second and third reading, and then bring it forward after 30 days before we could do any borrowing, but the intention would be to borrow later in the year. There is an opportunity for it to be petitioned down by the community,"

explained MacDonald.

MacDonald also explained that moving forward council would have the option of supplementing the project from reserves.

Council would be able to make that decision at the end of the fiscal year after a more holistic understanding of the year's effect on the reserves. They could then transform the debenture into a 10 year, thus reducing the overall interest paid.

Council then voted on the motion to direct Administration to fund the Aerial Fire Truck Capital project through a maximum of up to 20 year term debenture. The motion was carried unanimously.

Council Allocation of Electronic Tablets Policy. In order to establish clear guidelines, a new policy has been developed and approved regarding the allocation of electronic tablets for Council use during their term.

Sanitary Project Funding Request. Due to challenges uncovered with the B1 Sanitary Project (from 14th Ave/55th Street, south to 10th Avenue/53rd Street), Council has allocated additional funding for the B1 project and deferred the A6 Project (48th Street) for consideration in the 2026 Capital Budget. \$3.4 million from the A6 Project and an additional \$2.5 million from the Revenue Sharing Agreement Reserve has now been allocated to the B1 Sanitary project, which will be a full rehab of the area, including water mains, storm, sidewalks/gutters, and road base.

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Yellowhead County approves signing of purchase contract for Crown land

by Shaylyn Thornton

At their November 26, 2024 meeting, Yellowhead County Council discussed the potential purchase of Crown land from the Alberta government. The purchase of the land, which is located in the vicinity of the Jasper/Hinton airport, would be part of an “economic development initiative.”

Yellowhead County was previously a participant in a policy development exercise with the Government of Alberta (GoA) that resulted in a November 2008 policy statement supporting the development of recreation and

tourism nodes along the Highway 16 corridor between Hinton and Jasper National Park.

The nine nodes established include Obed Lake, Eccles Pond, Obed Summit, Pedley, Hinton West, Athabasca Lookout, Airport Road/Maskuta Creek, Entrance, and Overlander. Yellowhead County “has been supportive of the development of these nodes” since that time, said Cory Armfelt, General Manager of Infrastructure Services for the County.

Council’s Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 includes the plan to “Build a Robust and Adaptable Economy,” with direction to “put a focus on

enhanced tourism attraction” and “work towards Jasper/Hinton Airport becoming a potential economic driver.”

Since 2022, County Administration has “navigated the GoA process for the purchase of approximately 1873.79 acres” located in Node 9 (Overlander) of the West Yellowhead Corridor.

While the County has yet to release details on the specific intentions with the land, the location (near the Jasper/Hinton airport) and the commitment to developing enhanced recreation and tourism opportunities in that area meet Council’s mandate from their Strategic Plan.

The purchase contract with the Province had a number of sales conditions for Council to consider, including:


- Compliance at the time of development with provincial legislation for wildlife, wetlands and wildfire,
- Respect of the future Alberta transportation access corridor and their permitting processes,
- Creation of a project webpage indicating adherence to development policies from Yellowhead County’s Municipal

Development Plan,

- Retention of an established informal access corridor to the Brule Dune area,
- Ensuring West Fraser's access to their Forest Management Area to the west of this property,
- Approval of an easement or right of way ensuring access and operation of the sanitary lagoon for the Overlander Lodge,
- Transition of approximately 20 disposition interests from the Public Lands Act to the Land Titles Act,
- An approved plan of survey suitable for the creation of a Land Title,
- Signing an indemnity agreement, and
- Payment in full.

Armfelt recommended that Council approve the signing of the purchase contract from the Province of Alberta for approximately 1873.79 acres of land at a value of \$6,370,500, which would then facilitate the purchase of the land by the County. The full funding for the purchase is contingent on the full approval of the 2025 Capital Budget.

Council voted unanimously in favour of approving the signing of the purchase contract.



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Employment Type: Full-Time
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About Us: Moving Edson & Area, formerly known as Edson Seniors Transportation Service, is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe, affordable, and reliable wheelchair and lift-accessible transportation services to Edson residents.

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- Manage incoming communications, including answering phone calls, scheduling appointments, signing for packages, and assisting visitors.
- Respond to emails and other digital correspondence promptly.
- Manage the Executive Director's calendar.
- Draft, edit, and proofread letters, reports, and other documents as needed.
- Input and update data in databases and spreadsheets.
- Prepare meeting agendas, take Minutes, and coordinate meeting logistics, including room setup and catering.
- Assist with marketing using social media and other digital platforms.
- Utilize Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, and Notion for document creation, editing, task management, and accountability.
- Operate and maintain office equipment, and manage office supplies.
- Coordinate with contractors to ensure office and mobility vehicles are properly maintained and supplied.
- Conduct research, compile information, and prepare summaries for reports or presentations as requested.
- Collaborate closely with the Executive Director and provide support to other team members as needed.
- Handle sensitive information with the utmost discretion, ensuring compliance with privacy policies and regulations.

Requirements:

- Strong attention to detail is a requirement for this position.
- Ability to meet deadlines and adapt to changing priorities effectively.
- Present a positive and professional image of the organization at all times.

Assets:

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Yellowhead County celebrates World Snow Day

by Niki Luymes

Sunday, January 19th was World Snow Day. Yellowhead County celebrated it by having an assortment of winter activities set up at Bear Lake Park. From 1pm to 3pm everyone was welcome to come and try out the activities, while also making use of one the county's prime recreation locations.

Upon arriving at the park, visitors could choose from a variety of classic winter activities. "This year the skating loop was back open, we had free use of snowshoes and cross country skis, plus campfires going with hot chocolate and s'mores," said Jina Materi, Recreation Coordinator with the County.

Unfortunately, with the weather sitting at around -15c, this year was a bit too cold for snow sculptures or sleigh rides, but families still found lots of ways to stay entertained.

Throughout the day about 50 people made their way through the park. This included families with kids of all ages. "We feel the event was a great success, our goal is to get people outdoors in winter and the fact that we still had good numbers even on a pretty chilly day shows the

enthusiasm for this event. Participants especially enjoyed testing out the cross country skis and snowshoes, and then warming up by the fire with a hot chocolate after," added Materi.

World Snow Day, was created to encourage people to get outside in the winter months. It was originally started as a celebration of skiing specifically. Over time however, it has spread beyond its roots to include lots of winter sports and activities. Whether that's skiing, sledding, skating, ice fishing, or simply walking around in snowshoes, there are lots of things to do in the cold.

The Bear Lake event has been an annual occurrence since 2017. Yellowhead County uses the holiday to specifically encourage its residents to take advantage of the spaces and resources within its borders. The County also offers cross country ski and snowshoe rentals throughout the winter months.

The Yellowhead County team has lots of events planned for this year. "We have two Family Fun Days in February during the Teacher's Convention, Robb on Feb 6 and Niton on Feb 7, as well as a Valentine's Family Dance in Evansburg on February 14.



Cross country skiing was only one of the activities offered at the Yellowhead County World Snow Day event January 19. From 1pm to 3pm, families could enjoy, skiing, skating, snowshoeing, and free hot coco and marshmallows. photo Niki Luymes



Congratulations to Muskeg Flyers Nordic Ski Club



At their January 22, 2025, event, the dynamic group 100 Women Who Care Edson raised an impressive \$8,900 for The Muskeg Flyers Nordic Ski Club. The funds will help the club replace equipment lost during the devastating wildfires and floods of 2023. Lisa McCartney, supported by Vivian Williams, presented on behalf of the club.

The Muskeg Flyers Nordic Ski Club plays an important role in promoting outdoor activities and community engagement. To learn more about the club, contact them at (780) 712-1906, visit their website at <https://muskegflyers.ca>, or follow them on Facebook.

Since its founding in June 2022, 100 Women Who Care has donated a remarkable \$70,200 to non-profit organizations in the Edson area. This dedicated group shows no signs of slowing down in its mission to empower local initiatives and make a lasting impact.

Join the Movement: Membership in 100 Women Who Care is simple and accessible. Members commit to just one hour, three times a year, and proxy votes are available for those unable to attend meetings in person.

For those interested in joining, registration is available via their Facebook page (100 Women Who Care Edson) or by emailing wwc.edson@gmail.com.

The 100 Women Who Care model ensures funds are directed to deserving organizations through a structured nomination and voting process. The Muskeg Flyers Nordic Ski Club is just one of many groups that have benefited from their generosity.

Together, they continue to make a meaningful difference in the community.



TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2025

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

RFP ISSUE DATE: Monday, January 13, 2025
RFP CLOSING DATE: Thursday, January 30, 2025
RFP CLOSING TIME: 14:00:00 (2:00 P.M) MST

Submissions attention to:
Gil Belcourt, Fleet Supervisor
Email: Gilb@edson.ca



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RFP ISSUE DATE: Wednesday, January 7, 2025
RFP CLOSING DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2025
RFP CLOSING TIME: 14:00:59 (2:00 P.M) MST

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



Liberal's Carbon Tax darling...

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is calling on Liberal leadership front-runners Chrystia Freeland and Mark Carney to clearly state whether they will scrap the carbon tax.



by Dana McArthur
publisher/Editor

Member Canadian Association of Journalists

Liberal's purpose of openly bludgeoning Canadians with a punishing tax until they switch to

'approved' forms of energy.

Mark Carney, an advocate of carbon taxes, ominously stated, "If you are going to take out the carbon tax, we should replace it with something that is at least, if not more, effective." We are not sure what that means, but we are very sure we don't want to find out!

Below is the editorial written by Kris Sims, the Alberta director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Of note, Chrystia Freeland did not renounce the carbon tax in her statement, "We have heard very clearly from Canadians in provinces where there is a consumer-facing price on carbon that they don't like it."

Sorry, but that sounds exactly like she is fine with a hidden carbon tax. Which, by the way, would defeat the

Guest Editorial/Column

Liberals turning around on the carbon tax?

Canadians are fed up with the rising cost of living. Liberal leadership candidates must promise to kick the carbon tax to the curb.

by Kris Sims

The federal Liberals are turning on the carbon tax faster than Vin Diesel turning a corner in Fast and Furious.

But Canadians need to know who's in the driver's seat and where they are going.

Liberal leadership candidates must declare their positions on the carbon tax. If they say they'll keep it, they are no different than Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. If they say they'd scrap it, they need to prove it by getting rid of it as soon as they are chosen as leader of the party.

The new Liberal leader would have a different last name, and they might not wear fancy socks, but if they want to keep punishing Canadians with the carbon tax, they would be the same as Trudeau.

On April 1, the Liberal government is hiking the carbon tax.

After the increase, the carbon tax will cost 21 cents per litre of gasoline and 25 cents per litre of diesel. Filling up a minivan will cost about \$15 extra in the carbon tax, while filling a pickup truck will cost about \$25 extra.

Truckers who deliver nearly everything in Canada will pay about \$250 extra when they fill their big rigs with diesel, with the industry reporting the carbon tax cost it \$2 billion last year.

The carbon tax will cost the average household about \$400 to heat with natural gas this winter.

Farmers pay the carbon tax to heat their barns and dry grains. The Parliamentary Budget Officer reports that the tax will cost farmers \$1 billion by 2040.

About half of Canadians say they are within \$200 of being unable to make the minimum payments on their bills. That means making a minimum payment on a credit card, convincing the power company to keep the lights on by putting some money down on a huge bill, or visiting a food bank.

This is known as barely scraping by. Meanwhile, federal politicians who are paid a minimum of \$200,000 per year, are far removed from these financial hardships..

Just before the carbon tax hike last year, nearly 70 per cent of Canadians said they opposed it, according to a

Leger poll.

Liberal leadership candidates need to answer these questions: Will they keep this carbon tax or obliterate it and save struggling Canadians a lot of money? Or are they going to hike the carbon tax on April 1 as they potentially hit the campaign trail?

Imagine door knocking that first week of the campaign.

"Knock knock."

"Who's there?"

"Carbon tax hike – can I have your vote?!"

Good luck with that.

Some Liberal candidates are going on the record.

On CTV's Power Play, Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson told host Vassy Kapelos he is "committed" to keeping the carbon tax. On CBC's The House, former British Columbia premier Christy Clark told host Catherine Cullen, "we would scrap that [carbon] tax."

Before Trudeau announced his intention to resign, expected candidates Mark Carney and Chrystia Freeland repeatedly proved themselves big fans of the carbon tax.

But what about now? Has the policy changed?

When American comedian Jon Stewart asked Carney about the carbon tax, Carney said, "We need to do it in a way that Canadians today are not paying the price."

What does that mean?

When radio host Ben Mulroney asked his guests if it was time to scrap the carbon tax, MP Anthony Housefather said, "Canadians have been convinced the carbon tax needs to be revised," and MP Yvan Baker said, "We need to revisit all of our policies, including that one."

After years of carbon tax hikes, many Canadians have trouble trusting promises from politicians.

Liberal leadership candidates who say they are now opposed to the carbon tax must prove it by eliminating it entirely and immediately.

Canadians cannot afford the carbon tax, and it must be kicked to the curb and left in the rearview mirror.

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

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



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Edson RCMP Occurrences

For the week of January 13 – January 19, 2025

Assistance Calls 24; Traffic Collisions 12; and Theft Complaints 7 topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 1; Alarms/False Alarms 2; Animal Calls 1; Assault 1; Cause Disturbance 0; Child Welfare 0; Fail to Comply with Conditions 0; Fail to Stop or Remain at Collision 1; False/Abandoned 911 Call 3; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Fraud 0; Harassment/Criminal Harassment 0; Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 0; Information File 1; Lost or Found property 1; Mental Health Act 2; Mischief or Damage 2; Missing Person/Request to Locate 0; Municipal Bylaws 1; Noise Complaints 2; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 0; Recovered Stolen Property 1; Sudden Death 0; Suspicious Persons 2; Traffic Complaints 5; Traffic Violations 4; Trespassing 0; Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; Uttering Threats Against Person 1; and Wellbeing Checks 5.

KID'S CORNER

Meet Kolby in Grade 6 at Vanier Community Catholic School.

Q: What's your favourite colour?
A: Baby Blue.

Q: What's your favourite subject?
A: Math

Q: What is your favourite food?
A: Salmon

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8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

REGISTER YOUR EQUIPMENT FOR 2025 WITH YELLOWHEAD COUNTY



Deadline for Registration is April 1, 2025.

All equipment hired by Yellowhead County **MUST** be registered annually by the deadline.

Yellowhead County will select equipment that is the best suited for the work to be done and provide the most cost effective level of service. **For more information or to register your equipment, call the Infrastructure Services Department at (780) 723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030.**



Approved Development Permits have been issued authorizing the following:

Permit No.	Location	Proposal	Date	Appeal Deadline
D25-003	Plan 0526646 Blk 2, Lot 9 SW-32-51-24-W5 East River Road	Addition to Existing Single Detached Dwelling	Jan 13/25	Permitted Use
D24-104	NW-20-54-15-W5 Rosevear Area	Campground (52 non-serviced sites) - Discretionary, Accessory Buildings (Storage Building, Garage, Office Trailer)	Jan13/25	Feb 3/25
D25-004	NW-2-47-18-W5 & PT NE 3, SE 1, & SW 11 Dismal Creek Area	Workcamp - 50 Person Discretionary	Jan 15/25	Feb 5/25
D25-002	SE-14-53-09-W5 South of Wildwood	Manufactured Home with loft	Jan 16/25	Permitted Use

Yellowhead County Development Permits are also posted online at www.yhcounty.ca. The public is considered officially notified of approved development permits once posted online, in accordance with the Public Notification Bylaw. The Yellowhead County Land Use Bylaw NO 02.24 provides that any person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority may appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board or Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal dependent on jurisdiction of the appeal authority. Appeals under the jurisdiction of Yellowhead County's Subdivision and Development Appeal Board require a written notice of appeal and a payment of \$500.00 payable to Yellowhead County within 21 day of the publishing of the Notice of Decision.

Requirements for appealing the development to the Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/subdivision-appeals.aspx> or by calling 780-427-2444.



FAMILY Valentines Dance

Grab your loved ones and join us for a fun-filled evening!

\$10 per family (Advanced registration)
\$20 per family (At door)

Friday, February 14 from 6-8pm
Evansburg Legion.

DJ Services provided
by Music by Taz
Light Snack & Refreshments provided

To register visit yhcounty.ca/registration or call 780-325-3782 or 780-723-4800
Registration closes February 12
Important note: This is a family event that requires a parent or guardian to remain on site.

Ice Skating & Winter Fun!

Thursday, February 6th | 12-2 PM
Robb Skating Rink & Park
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Phone: 780-723-4800 Toll Free 1-800-665-6030 Fax: 780-723-5066
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

INVITATION TO TENDER

2025 Rosevear Area Gravel Supply for Yellowhead County

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

Sealed tender marked: **TENDER NO. 2025-867**
Project: 2025 Rosevear Area Gravel Supply

Will be received until: **1:30 PM, February 6, 2025**

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

For the following work: Approximately 84,000 tonnes of Contractor supplied Des 4 Modified Class 25 crushed gravel aggregate over the next three (3) years for the Rosevear Area.

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

Electronic (PDF) copies of the tender documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website on or after 12:00 P.M., January 16, 2025 at the following link: www.purchasingconnection.ca.

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

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

INVITATION TO TENDER

2025 Niton - MacKay Area Gravel Supply Yellowhead County

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

Sealed tender marked: **TENDER NO. 2025-868**
Project: 2025 Niton - MacKay Area Gravel Supply

Will be received until: **1:30 PM, February 6, 2025**

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

For the following work: Approximately 45,000 tonnes of Contractor supplied Des 4 Modified Class 25 crushed gravel aggregate over the next three (3) years for the Niton - MacKay Area.

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

Electronic (PDF) copies of the tender documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website on or after 12:00 P.M., January 16, 2025 at the following link: www.purchasingconnection.ca.

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

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

INVITATION TO TENDER

2025 Shiningbank Area Gravel Supply Yellowhead County

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

Sealed tender marked: **TENDER NO. 2025-869**
Project: 2025 Shiningbank Area Gravel Supply

Will be received until: **1:30 PM, February 6, 2025**

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

For the following work: Approximately 42,000 tonnes of Contractor supplied Des 4 Modified Class 25 crushed gravel aggregate over the next three (3) years for the Shiningbank Area.

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

Electronic (PDF) copies of the tender documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website on or after 12:00 P.M., January 16, 2025 at the following link: www.purchasingconnection.ca.

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Bylaw 13.24

Pursuant to Sections 22(2), 216.4, and 606 of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000 c M-26, and amendments thereto:

Notice is hereby given that the Public Hearing will be at 9:30AM on Tuesday February 11, 2025, in the Council Chambers of the Yellowhead County Administration Building located at 2716 1 Avenue, Edson, AB.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow persons to make known their views with respect to proposed Bylaw 13.24 being a Bylaw for the purpose of closing a portion of a public roadway (aneway) in MacKay legally described as:

PLAN 2120MC
BLOCK 1
ALL THAT PORTION OF LANE AND CORNER CUT OFFS LYING SOUTH OF A LINE JOINING THE NORTHERLY NORTH EAST CORNER OF LOT 3 SAID BLOCK AND PLAN WITH THE NORTHERLY NORTH WEST CORNER OF LOT 1 SAID BLOCK AND PLAN, LYING WEST OF PLAN 0321392, AND LYING EAST OF THE SOUTHERLY PRODUCTION OF THE WEST BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 3 EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS

Submissions can be emailed to planninginfo@yhcounty.ca or dropped off at the Yellowhead County Administration Building located at 2716 1 Avenue, Edson, AB. The deadline for submissions to be included in the published agenda is 12:00PM on January 31, 2025. Submissions received after this date but will not be included in the published agenda but will still be presented to Council during the Public Hearing by Administration. All written submissions become public information upon receipt by Yellowhead County Council.

Copies of Bylaw 13.24 are available for public inspection during regular office hours from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday at the Yellowhead County Administration Building located at 2716 1 Avenue, Edson, AB. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Planning Department at 780-723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Bylaw 14.24

Pursuant to Sections 22(2), 216.4, and 606 of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000 c M-26, and amendments thereto:

Notice is hereby given that the Public Hearing will be at 9:30AM on Tuesday February 11, 2025, in the Council Chambers of the Yellowhead County Administration Building located at 2716 1 Avenue, Edson, AB.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow persons to make known their views with respect to proposed Bylaw 14.24 being a Bylaw for the purpose of closing a portion of a public roadway near Wildwood legally described as:

PLAN 5050 MC
ALL THAT PORTION OF THE FIRST AVENUE EXCEPTING THEREOUT THE MOST SOUTHERLY 5.00 METRES IN PERPENDICULAR WIDTH EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS

Submissions can be emailed to planninginfo@yhcounty.ca or dropped off at the Yellowhead County Administration Building located at 2716 1 Avenue, Edson, AB. The deadline for submissions to be included in the published agenda is 12:00PM on January 31, 2025. Submissions received after this date but will not be included in the published agenda but will still be presented to Council during the Public Hearing by Administration. All written submissions become public information upon receipt by Yellowhead County Council.

Copies of Bylaw 14.24 are available for public inspection during regular office hours from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday at the Yellowhead County Administration Building located at 2716 1 Avenue, Edson, AB. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Planning Department at 780-723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030.

Year in review with Yellowhead County Mayor Wade Williams

by Mayor Wade Williams

Council is in its final year, and there is an election coming up this October. I am taking a look back to highlight some of the projects Council has achieved over the past three years and what is in the hopper for the final year.

The Brule Hall Grand Opening was one of the first things that came to mind. This hall is a huge addition to the community and will be enjoyed by all for many years to come.

Unfortunately, fires hit Yellowhead County (YHC) in 2023. The devastation was far and wide, with 13 out-of-control fires burning across the County at the same time. All hands were on deck to try to combat these fires and save the County from as much loss as possible. Unfortunately, many, many hectares burned, and a few structures were lost. Still, I am proud of the work of YHC's First Responders, with the help of emergency crews from around the world, for finally bringing these fires under control.

During week 6 of the fires, the skies opened up, and the next emergency we had to deal with were the floods. Many low-lying areas throughout the County experienced major flooding. Roads, Bridges, and culverts were washed out, leaving people stranded. Emergency crews had to shift their focus from firefighting to rescuing residents who were stranded and setting up water dams to help save properties from the floods.

While the floods were happening, the county's west end experienced heavy snowfall, with more than 3 feet of wet snow falling. This took down much of the power grid that services the Cadomin area. Crews worked around the clock to restore power to Cadomin, which was without power for a week.

YHC had states of local emergencies declared for more than 60 days (fires and floods simultaneously),

which is rare. Throughout it all, I am proud to say that no human life was lost.

Council and Administration had to refocus all efforts on the recovery and are still working on pieces of that even now. Most roads and culverts have been repaired, but one bridge still needs to be replaced.

Some of the larger projects Council has approved, some have been completed, with others in various stages of completion:

- Rebuild of Swanson Road: This project was delayed many times due to environmental approvals, but it is now complete.

- Edson Library: In partnership with the Town of Edson and the Edson Library, the library expansion and renovation project was completed in May, and the Grand re-opening was held on October 18th

- Council supplied funding for the Yellowhead Agricultural Society indoor riding arena. This project was completed and will serve Yellowhead County and area residents for years.

- The YCE multiplex is being built in Edson in partnership with the Town of Edson. This much-awaited project is scheduled to have shovels in the ground by spring 2025.

- Fibre Internet: Council has accelerated this project with the success of grant funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments. When this grant-funded portion of the project is complete, 90% of Yellowhead County will be serviced with Fibre. This portion of the project is scheduled to be completed by spring-summer 2027. Council is working on plans to finish the other 10% once this portion is completed.

- Cadomin Hall is a beautiful new building in the Hamet that will serve the community for the next 60-80 years.

- West Land purchase: YHC was fortunate enough to purchase approximately 1800 acres of land from

the Provincial Government on the County's West end by Jasper Park Gate. This property was purchased for economic development initiatives; more information will be provided soon.

- Marlboro Lagoon: It has taken a long time to reach this point, but Council has made huge strides on this project. The lagoon and discharge lines are currently being installed, and other potential phases of this project are being considered in the future.

- The rebuild of Range road 171 North of highway 748.

There is a lot of work being done across the County as well, some of which include:

- The conceptual design of a new hall in Evansburg. Council wants to be ready to move forward when the need arises, probably not in the short term.

- Council is looking at options for the possible relocation of the Evansburg Library.

- Continued sewer, water and street improvements in Evansburg.

- Council donated a piece of property to the Evergreens Foundation in Wildwood for the future Seniors lodge that is planned to be built in the near future.

- Replacement of the fire hall in Niton Junction.
- Rebuild and pavement on Twp Rd 542 from the North road to Tom Hill Tower Road.

- Bridge and Culvert repair and replacement are still ongoing due to the flood of 2023, including the bridge replacement on Range Rd 170, South of Twp Rd 542.

Council has focused on keeping taxes as affordable as possible by prioritizing needs over wants. Over this entire term, Council has not had to raise the mill rate for residential or non-residential taxes. This should help promote Yellowhead County as a place to live and do business with some of the lowest taxes in Alberta.

Helping build safer and stronger communities

by Dana McArthur

The RCMP in Alberta are encouraging residents to help build safer, stronger communities by joining a local citizen-led crime prevention group, particularly in rural areas like Edson and Yellowhead County.

While policing is a critical component of public safety, law enforcement alone cannot address the complex challenges some communities face. Citizen-led organizations are instrumental in fostering community bonds, providing valuable insights, and building partnerships that support community needs that enhance public safety.

"No one knows a community as well as its residents," says Chief Superintendent Peter Tewfik, Officer in Charge of Community Safety and Well-being. "These volunteer-led organizations are our partners. They act as an extra set of eyes and ears in their neighbourhoods and work closely with their local Alberta RCMP detachments. They assist local police by promoting crime prevention education, reporting suspicious or criminal activity, and they strengthen relationships between the police and the community."

There are several different organizations that

operate across the province, fulfilling a variety of community roles. Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association (ACCPA) connects rural and urban communities, law enforcement, and agencies to promote crime prevention education and awareness to community members.

Crime Stoppers empowers citizens to anonymously report crime.

Edson Citizens on Patrol Vice President, (Edson Mayor) Kevin Zahara, says, "Edson Citizens on Patrol does regular patrols in Yellowhead County within the Edson Detachment area. In 2024 our volunteers had 66 patrol shifts and covered over 7400km in Edson & Yellowhead County. This includes the hamlets of Peers, Marlboro, Niton, Millers Lake and Rosevear Areas."

"Citizens on Patrol members are trained by RCMP to patrol, observe, and report suspicious and illegal activity. There are scheduled shifts and we patrol in pairs, having direct access to RCMP officers on shift. Some of our volunteers are also trained in Fraud Prevention and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and Flagging. We are often out there patrolling with RCMP when everyone is sleeping," says Zahara

To become a member of Edson's Citizens on

Patrol application forms are available at the Edson RCMP Detachment. Applicants must be able to pass a security check and be committed to a minimum of one patrol a month.

Alberta Rural Crime Watch groups promote education and awareness, report suspicious activity, and help ensure property security on farmsteads and acreages.

While Yellowhead County does not have an official Rural Crime Watch group there are various neighbourhood watch groups that have formed on internet chat sites.

"Everything begins in our communities," says Jean Bota, Executive Director of ACCPA. "When strong, engaged citizen-led groups work alongside law enforcement, we harness tremendous citizen power to create meaningful change."

To learn more about citizen-led groups, visit:

- www.acopa.ca
- crimestoppers.ab.ca
- www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

- with files from Alberta RCMP

Western Alberta Regional Victim Serving Society

by Deanna Mitchener

The Western Alberta Regional Victim Serving Society (WARVSS) took over services to support victims of crime and trauma in Edson and surrounding communities.

Samantha Semograd, their Chief Executive Officer, says, "WARVSS is an accredited non-

profit organization fully funded but the Government of Alberta's Victim of Crime Fund. Our services are there to ensure that those who have experienced tragedy and crime are best served, during the aftermath of an event, and while they navigate the criminal justice process."

"Our local Court and Support Navigators support clients with emotional support and debriefing, referrals to the victim assistance

program, crisis intervention, as well as court support, court preparation, providing information about victim rights, and general navigation and liaison of the court system," said Semograd.

Victim Services can be contacted through the local RCMP detachment in person or via telephone, alternatively Victim Services can be reached at 1-825-799-512.

County considers whistle cessation for priority crossings

by Shaylyn Thornton

In November 2024, Yellowhead County Council discussed the potential of pursuing whistle cessation for some crossings within the County. At that time, Council directed Administration to bring back a list of crossings which had received resident complaints/concerns over the recent past.

General Manager of Corporate Services Cory Armfelt brought back this information to Council's January 21 GPC meeting after Administration reviewed community concerns.

Three locations were identified as "crossings of interest" for potential whistle cessation:

1. South of Marlboro - Range Rd 195A
2. MacKay - Hwy 751
3. Northeast of Edson - Township Rd 534

While train whistling remains mandatory under Transport Canada regulations for grade crossings to ensure public safety, neighbouring municipalities have pursued and implemented whistle cessation at some crossings and "have reported significant improvements in quality of life for affected residents," said Armfelt.

"The whistle cessation process requires adherence to stringent safety standards to ensure compliance and the safety of all crossing users," said Armfelt, noting that the process is "fairly straightforward."

Armfelt's Request for Decision included an outline of the steps required by Transport Canada regulations and Alberta Municipalities guidelines:

1. Joint Safety Assessment - Conduct a detailed safety assessment in collaboration with railway operators to determine existing safety conditions and required upgrades.
2. Crossing Upgrades - Implement necessary safety improvements to meet Transport Canada's requirements. Typical upgrades may include installation or enhancement of flashing lights and gates, improved signage and pavement markings, and/or potential fencing or barriers to restrict unauthorized access.
3. Council Approval - Present findings and proposed measures to Council for review and final approval.
4. Formal Notification to Transport Canada - Notify Transport Canada and railway companies of the intent to cease whistling at the identified crossings, including documentation of compliance with safety standards.
5. Implementation - Implement the whistle cessation by removing the requirement for whistling at the approved crossings.

The County's next step in this process would be to conduct a safety assessment of any crossings of interest, in collaboration with CN Rail. This assessment would determine the necessary improvements and associated costs.

Councillor Dawn Mitchell asked how many residents are affected by the Township Road 534 crossing, which Armfelt was unable to give exact numbers for without further research.

"It would essentially be how far the noise travels. We would have to do a bit of a radius around each of these crossings if that was a direction of Council, to come back and determine how many residents might be impacted by the whistles," said Armfelt. "We'd have to make some assumptions on how far that whistle carries, and the nuisance factor associated with that, and then essentially just count up the residential lots that are within that radius."

Councillor Anthony Giezen said he "struggles to some degree in respect to identifying three particular crossings," noting that he had received several calls and complaints with crossings that aren't one of the three identified.

Giezen suggested a more "holistic approach" with a policy and guidelines that would help identify which crossings Council may consider for future whistle cessation. "If we should choose to go down this path it's going to open up a lot of requests," Giezen said, noting that he didn't disagree with the three identified.

"I think that's quite sound advice," responded Armfelt. "If Council provided that feedback to Administration, to come up with some structure related to what constitutes a crossing of interest for cessation, I think that's a very wise way to go

about this and a logical next step. I would definitely support that."

Councillor Brigitte Lemieux added her support for creating a draft policy that would outline some of the criteria before considering whistle cessation, as did Councillor Ken Groat who pointed out that "there could be a lot of crossings where people will have concerns."

Councillor Penny Lowe echoed the need for a policy. "There needs to be some sort of guidelines for future Councils and Administration... and for the public, so that they know that 'this is how it's done' and if they fall into those parameters before they put the complaint forward," she said. "It should simplify a lot of decisions going down the road."

Mayor Wade Williams noted that he had "similar concerns." "I think it's going to open up a can of worms and we need to have some guidance and some guidelines," he said.

While Armfelt originally recommended that Council direct Administration to include funding for whistle cessation assessments at the three identified crossings of interest in the 2026 Budget deliberations, the discussion led instead to the decision for Council to direct Administration to prepare and bring back a draft policy dealing with whistle cessation.



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County Council meets Yellowhead Conservative candidate

by Shaylyn Thornton

At their January 21 meeting, Yellowhead County Council met with William Stevenson, who is now the nominated Conservative candidate in the Yellowhead riding. Stevenson will be running for the Conservative Party of Canada in Yellowhead in the upcoming federal election.

Stevenson thanked the Council for having him, noting that he was “getting out to all the different areas that are making up the new Yellowhead riding.” This referenced the adjusted boundaries of the Yellowhead riding, which changed by more than 25% in April of 2024.

The new Yellowhead riding, or electoral district, now includes the towns of Banff, Canmore and Jasper together with Edson, Hinton, Grande Cache, Rocky Mountain House, Sundre, Caroline, Cremona, Carstairs, Crossfield, the summer villages of Burnstick Lake, Ghost Lake and Waiporou, and the municipal districts of Bighorn No. 8 and Clearwater County.

Stevenson introduced himself as a CPA who practiced in Carstairs over the past 25 years and who lives on a farm near Mountain View. Stevenson said that he has been involved in politics “behind the scenes for many years.”

Stevenson told Council that his aim in going around introducing himself was to “make sure that everybody knows that I’m accessible and that I want to hear your concerns that are going to affect the federal government.”

“You guys have actually had the privilege of having the current and prior-to-that MPs on your Council, so you had pretty good access there, so I hope to still give you as good of access to me for

any federal issues,” Stevenson said, referring to former MPs Gerald Soroka and Jim Eglinski.

Former two-term Yellowhead MP Soroka ran against Stevenson for the current nomination, but with 63% of the population being new to the riding due to the changed boundaries, and only an 18% voter turnout, Soroka was unsuccessful in the nomination.

Stevenson spoke about some of his priorities. “Being involved in business, I do intend to work heavily on eliminating red tape on that end of it,” he said. “Being involved as a CPA dealing with the CRA pretty much on a weekly basis, they’re going to be a pretty big bullseye for me.”

Stevenson recognized housing as an issue for the entire new Yellowhead riding, saying, “I hope that we can deal with a good chunk of that.” And now that two national parks are within the Yellowhead riding, Stevenson also talked about dealing with Parks Canada “and how it relates to both the citizens and tourism.”

Councillor Dawn Mitchell asked Stevenson to provide some additional information such as what his role looks like in the coming months and when he thinks the next general election could happen.

“My role until there’s an actual election is just having my ear to the ground because I don’t have any powers as a candidate,” Stevenson explained, adding that the previous riding boundaries and existing MPs are still in place until an election takes place.

As far as when that could be, Stevenson couldn’t give a firm answer. “I’m still involved somewhat with a couple of other MPs, and each one of them have a different opinion as to what’s going to happen, so it looks like everything is going to come

down to the leader of the NDP and whether or not he’s going to be able to work with the Liberal government come March 24,” he said.

“I know the Conservatives and the Bloc absolutely are going to bring a motion of confidence. It all depends on the NDP whether they side with the government or the opposition,” Stevenson said. “If they do [side with the opposition], then we’re probably going to have an election May 5 or 12.”

“If Jagmeet Singh decides that he can work with the Liberal government, we’re probably going to be going to October,” Stevenson continued. “So, nothing will change until that time.”

Councillor Brigitte Lemieux addressed the new and “very large” boundaries for the Yellowhead riding. “Within the new boundaries I think you are going to have opposing views, so my question is, how are you going to balance the environmental asks against the business or development?”

Stevenson acknowledged the diversity of the riding. “From Canmore and Banff and Jasper with their tourism, to Hinton with pulp mills and coal mines and forestry, and then the agriculture and the oil of course, we are so different. It’s going to be a challenge to balance each area and not pit them against each other,” he said. “I don’t have an exact solution for you because part of it is going to depend on the issues of the day and how they affect each area.”

“It’s going to be a balancing act,” Stevenson continued. “And from my end of it, I’m also going to have to work with other MPs to make sure that what we do in Ottawa doesn’t harm or hinder or prevent what we want to do in Yellowhead as a whole.”

Town council reallocates budget for sanitary repair projects

by Niki Luymes

Edson Town Council discussed the reallocation of the budget for Sanitary repair projects, B1 and A6, during their Jan. 21 meeting.

After investigation, Administration believes that a full rehabilitation for the B1 would be overall better for the community. As such, they asked that Council authorize the deferral of Sanitary A6 Project for consideration within the 2026 Capital Budget and redirect the \$3,400,000 allocated for the joint Sanitary B1/A6 Project solely to the Sanitary B1 Project.

Council would also need to authorize an additional transfer of \$2,500,000 from the Revenue Sharing Agreement Reserve to fully cover the B1 rehabilitation project.

At the November 13, 2024 Budget Meeting, Council approved the budget for the B1/A6 Sanitary upgrade project. The B1 portion alone will encompass repairs to 7 blocks worth of sanitary lines under the Tiffin neighbourhood (14th Ave, 13th Ave, 10th Ave, 52nd St, and the connecting sections of 54th St.).

The project began as a simple sanitary main upgrade through single trench removal and replacement. However, the design team, McElhanney engineering, has encountered multiple challenges that require the project to transition to a full rehabilitation of the streets in question.

This would be a very similar project to what was completed on 18th Ave in 2024. It would mean a replacement of town infrastructure, including water mains, manholes, storm drains, and more. The existing infrastructure in this area is currently 45 to 50 years old. “Certainly not the oldest subdivision and infrastructures in town. But given that we are going to be in here upgrading the sanitary, there is certainly justification to do that full rehab,” said General Manager of Infrastructure and Planning, Clayton Kittlitz.

Some of the reasons for the full rehab, as stated by the designers, include: Poor previous construction practices observed in the 54 Street and 10 Avenue area may be present within this project, possibly requiring sections of storm pipe replacement. The existing sanitary line is being upsized which increases the likelihood of conflict with deep

utilities and services. The water main and valves were noted to be in poor condition for the 54 Street and 10 Avenue project.

Because of the increased cost that accompanies a full rehabilitation, Administration is asking that the A6 part of the project (48th Street between 5th Ave and 2nd Ave), be postponed until 2026, and its funds reallocated to the B1 project. This, plus the additional money from reserves, will cover the new estimated cost of \$6,789,000. “We have applied for a grant that will go towards this,” explained Kittlitz. “If we are successful in getting that, obviously we will use that to offset the draws from reserves.”

“If council approves this project as recommended, do you know what kind of timeline would there be to complete that?” asked Councillor Krystal Cacka. Jeff Amundson, a representative from McElhanney, answered, “We haven’t scheduled it yet, but to

honest I would expect it to take the entire summer.”

“What would be the lifespan of these completed projects,” asked Councillor Ed Moore. “It depends on a couple factors,” replied Amundson. “But I think 70 years is the common number placed on PVC pipe. The other nice thing is that the current pipeline is asbestos cement, which is quite brittle and subject to breakage. The plastic pipe that we would be putting in will last a lot longer. This is the material with the greatest longevity.”

“Without question, the flooding concerns in the neighbourhood need to be addressed,” commented Mayor Kevin Zahara, “We are tackling these issues and we are spending millions upon millions of dollars upgrading these lines. I think it is well worth the investment.”

The motion was then carried unanimously.

YKCS Romania Trip Fundraiser

by Deanna Mitchener

The Yellowhead Koinonia Christian School (YKCS) is hosting a dessert auction fundraiser on February 2. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the chapel of the school. All proceeds go to the Romania Missions trip.

Mr. Colton Black, Assistant Principal at the school, says, “I am excited to share that I have chosen to participate in a mission trip to Romania with my school. This trip will allow our team to serve in Romania by helping with various building projects at Camp Falcon Rock. This camp (modeled after Camp Caroline) is being built in North Western Romania as a partnership between the North American Baptist Conference (NAB) and the Hungarian Baptist Convention of Romania.”

“While in Romania our team will get to participate in sharing God’s love through construction projects at the camp and leading youth and young adult ministries in a nearby village. We will be traveling with a team of other youth and adults from across Alberta, meaning it’s

a great opportunity for us to connect with other Christians. Traveling internationally to one of the poorest nations in Europe, our team will get to know people from the other side of the world, opening our eyes to different cultures and worldviews,” said Black.

YKCS would like to invite the community to their dessert fundraiser. If you would like to bring a dessert, a cheese platter, or meat platter to be auctioned off to help raise money towards this trip, please contact the Yellowhead Koinonia Christian School at

780-723-3850 or email
colton.black@ykcschool.com

Besides all the delicious food items to bid on, you can also bid for a day of service. If you are in need of some extra help with yardwork, babysitting, or some other kind of help, they will be auctioning off helpers to do just that.

The trip to Romania has six students, between grades 9-12 and two staff traveling from March 24 to April 8th. You can help support local students on their once in a lifetime opportunity to travel and experience Romania.

Virtual Emergency Physician pilot launches in Hinton

Pilot project uses remote physicians to support emergency department patients

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is launching a pilot project to improve support for emergency department (ED) patients in four northern rural communities.

The new Virtual Emergency Physician program will use 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 will collaborate with local staff, speak with patients, order tests and medications, and transfer or discharge patients.

“This pilot program will help support timely, efficient care for patients visiting rural emergency departments, such as the

Hinton Healthcare Centre, in addition to supporting the on-site clinical staff,” says 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,” says 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 is being piloted at the Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital, Elk Point Healthcare Centre, Hinton Healthcare Centre, and the William J. Cadzow – Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre.

The Virtual Emergency Physician program will be available to the four pilot sites starting Jan. 20, 2025. 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 four pilot sites as needed.

Alberta Health Services provides a range of healthcare services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Our mission is to provide excellent, patient-focused healthcare that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans. Our current focus is on reducing emergency department wait times, improving EMS response times,

increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.

When asked about the pilot project, Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara said, “Hinton is in a much more difficult situation than Edson currently. Our focus is getting quality doctors to our community so they can understand the needs and build relationships with their patients in Edson. We’ve welcomed two new doctors over the last year. Work is underway by the Attraction & Retention subcommittee of the Community Care Foundation and our local physicians to help AHS attract others to our community.”

-With files from Dana McArthur



For good or bad, winter just isn't what it used to be. Warmer weather in the Edson area brought lots of slush and freezing rain. Always remember to drive with caution. Town crews were out salting roads and clearing roads recently. photo submitted Deanna Mitchener

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of:
Gregg Allan Watson
who died on October 3, 2024.
 If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by:
 February 27, 2025,
 with:
Shari L. Boisvert;
Boisvert Law Group
 at:
 324-50th Street, P.O. Box 6568
 Edson, AB T7E 1T9

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

~ In Loving Memory ~

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of **FRED MIROSLAV KUZMIC** Who went home to be with the Lord on **January 9th, 2025**



A Celebration of Life will be held in his honor on **Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 11 am** at the Edson Legion

FOOTHILLS MEMORIAL CHAPEL
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 www.foothillsmemorialchapel.com

~ Obituary ~

Neil David Gering

August 11, 1965 - January 13, 2025

The family is sad to announce the passing of Neil David Gering, on January 13, 2025, at the Grey Nuns Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta.

At the age of 59 years, Neil put up a brave battle against a recurrence of pneumonia, however, it finally won out.

He was predeceased by his father Alexander (Alex) Gering in 2016, his mother Josephina (Josie) Gering in 2022, as well as a number of others on the Gering and Aschenmeier sides.

Neil's main loves were his family, the staff and residents at the Ermineskin Group Home, and food. Other activities Neil enjoyed were bowling, hockey, magazines, and playing with his cards.

He is survived by his two brothers, Darryl (Heather) and Robin (Brenda) and their children; Sheena, Sean, Kyle, Matt, and Carley. He is also survived by his aunts, Emilie Joy and Marlene Schmeidek, and 26 cousins.

A Memorial Celebration will be held at the Edson Legion at 1:30PM on Friday, January 31, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Good Samaritan Society of Edmonton may be offered in Neil's memory.



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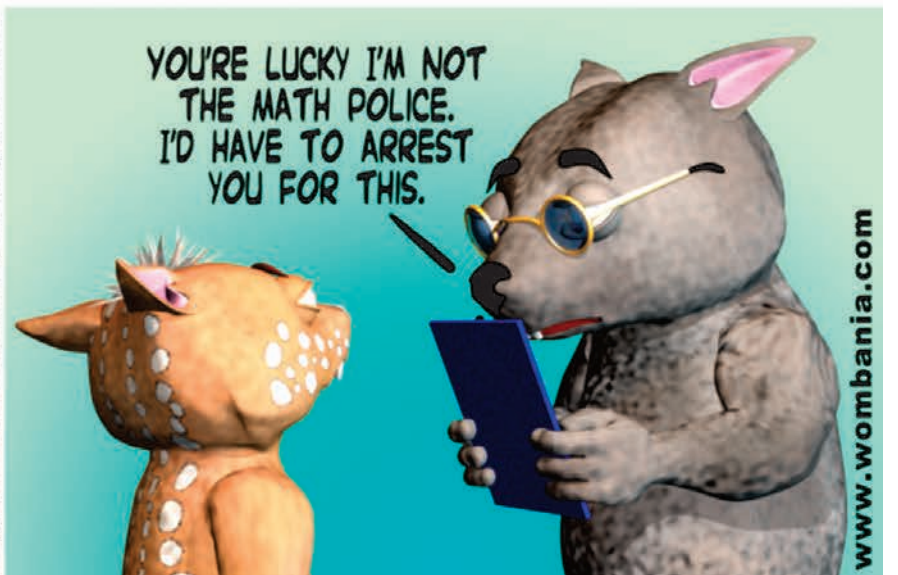


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The three men suddenly realized they had realized all of their childhood dreams.

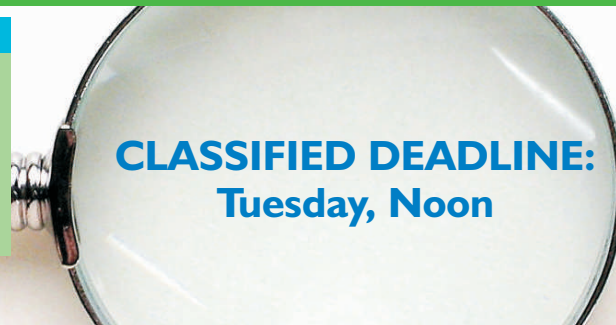
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Office space for rent, various sized central location, ample parking call 780-712-9890

FOR RENT: 2 bdrm, suitable for 1 person only. No children, pets or smoking. Call 780-728-5917 leave message

Pine Manor Apt: 4102-6Ave, Edson 2 bdrm \$1075/ mth rent, \$1075 damage deposit. 1 bdrm \$950/ mth, \$950 damage deposit. Includes heat and water. 780-723-2177 or 780-728-3932

For Rent: Basement Suite, Country living 5 min away from town. 2BR 1 1/2 bath. Private entrance and parking. No pets Non smoking. Perfect for seniors, workers and small family. Available june 1. Phone 780-517-9227 evenings or leave a message

HELP WANTED

EYAEYO Cleaning Services Ltd: Looking for 2 Cleaning Supervisor with NOC62024. Wages \$35.50 hourly. Resumes: eyaeyo.cs@yahoo.com

Wildwood Legion Bottle Depot is hiring bottle sorters. Forklift experience would be an asset. Please drop resume off at the bottle depot on Tues- Sat from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm or email to rclbr149@gmail.com

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.

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4911 B 3rd Avenue, Edson, AB

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Rev. Noemi Sogocio, Senior Pastor, 780-600-0050;

noemi_sogocio2006@yahoo.ca

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What's happening, when and where in the community

Community Events

Fire Smart Community Series- **January 21** Rosevear Hall, **January 23** Cadomin Hall, **February 18** Trail Hall, **February 20** Mackay Hall. Drop in style any time between 4:00-7:00pm

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 22: Wellness Wednesday Jeopardy Game night. 6:00pm-8:00pm Location Griffiths Park Centreages 18+ Register www.edson.ca/cdprograms

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

February 5:@ 5:00pm March 12, April 2 April 20: @

6:00pm Wellness Wednesday Winter Walks. Join for a 60 min

walk through Town of Edson starting at Edson Drive Trail Head

February 6: Ice Skating and Winter Fun 12-2pm Robb 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

yhcounty.ca/registration

February 7: Ice Skating and Winter Fun 12-2pm 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

yhcounty.ca/registration

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

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

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The Weekly **ANCHOR**

Farm & Field
News and Views

Edson Forest Area wildfire update

by Caroline Charbonneau,

The wildfire danger in the Edson Forest Area remains LOW. Since January 1, 2025, no wildfires have been detected in the Edson Forest Area [as of Jan 21, 2025].

PERMITS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED UNTIL MARCH 1

While fire permits are not required for burning outside of wildfire season in the Forest Protection Area of Alberta, residents and industry planning a

burn during winter should keep safe burning practices top of mind and follow Alberta Wildfire's guidelines. These include some of the following:

- Carefully select your burn site and do not burn until you have good snow cover in the area.
- Check weather conditions and refrain from burning when an inversion is in place or is forecasted.
- Actively manage burn projects to reduce total burning time.
- Burn debris in stages so that you can adapt to

changing weather conditions and reduce smoke.

- Ensure you have the right tools, water and equipment on hand to keep the burn under control.
- Consult your local municipality on how to safely undertake larger winter burning projects near communities or roads.

To assist the Edson Forest Area, please let us know if you plan any large scale winter burning by contacting the dispatch line directly (780) 723-8507 (leave a message if closed) with the following: name of landowner burning or company and representative name; phone number in case of emergency; and legal land description or latitude/longitude.

SMOKE MANAGEMENT AND INVERSIONS

Before you burn, check the weather forecast. If an inversion is expected, smoke can be trapped close to the ground overnight reducing visibility and causing dangerous driving conditions and can affect those with smoke related health concerns.



Karon Whitnack-Ahlskog made some great memories recently by getting together with four generations. Karen's daughter Candi and her kids Sean (Miranda), Alayna (Marcus), and grandchildren Xander, Avery, Mavis, Hawkly, Lovie, Noah, and Ellie, Daughter Jolene and her kids Chelaine (Travis), Chenay, and Brycen and her grandchildren Adrianna, Adeline and baby Travis, and their Papa Chris all together after a winter sleigh ride out at Seltzer's Sleigh and Wagon Rides, in Niton. Karen's mom Irene Whitnack missing from photo, but was with the group beforehand. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

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