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VOLUME 17 ISSUE 49

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All-stars come to Strathmore

Page 5



Fighting hunger

No need for more speed

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Opposition is being expressed to Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors regarding an ongoing proposition to increase speed limits on select divided rural highways.

Wheatland County council voted to send a letter with concerns about an increase of the posted speed limit on Highway 1 through the county from 110 km/h to 120 km/h.

"I think that for farmers having to cross the highway, it is dangerous. We are slow and it is already risky. Highway 2 has a lot of overpasses and ways to get on and off, and for farmers to cross their large distances between them but at least they can cross without having to try and dodge across," said Coun. Shannon Laprise. "Highway 1 is not as busy, but there are times when it is. I know there are times where we have sat at our Highway 1 and 842 crossing, waiting and waiting to cross, and I think it just increases the risk."

Laprise added should the speed limit be increased to 120 km/h, many drivers would inevitably travel at 130 km/h or faster, creating an even greater risk of serious collisions.

Key points expressed in Alberta Transportation's communication with the county included reducing travel times, reference to a 2024 public survey suggesting 58 per cent of respondents supporting the idea and applying the increase only to highways under provincial jurisdiction.

Coun. Keith Clayton expressed he would only support the province's suggestion for greater speed limits if designated lanes were added for slower moving farm equipment.

Coun. Berle Hebbes spoke inversely, iterating his belief that the highway in its current state already offers enough space for farmers to traverse safely.

"The roads are designed for that. When you make a four-lane highway, you do eliminate a lot of the blind corners and stuff like that. It does give traffic on the highway time to see the farm equipment, it gives the farm equipment enough time to see the traffic," he said.

Continued on Page 4



Rose blossoms

Brettyn Rose was the latest performer at the Hope Bridges Society's Community Concert on Dec. 2 at the Hope Community Covenant Church. Rose graced the crowd with a few original songs, along with some familiar country hits, and of course some classic Christmas carols. The talented members of the Music Discovery Class – led by Kate Ager – opened the concert, including a great rendition of Mariah Carey's classic, *All I Want for Christmas is You*.

Melissa Piche Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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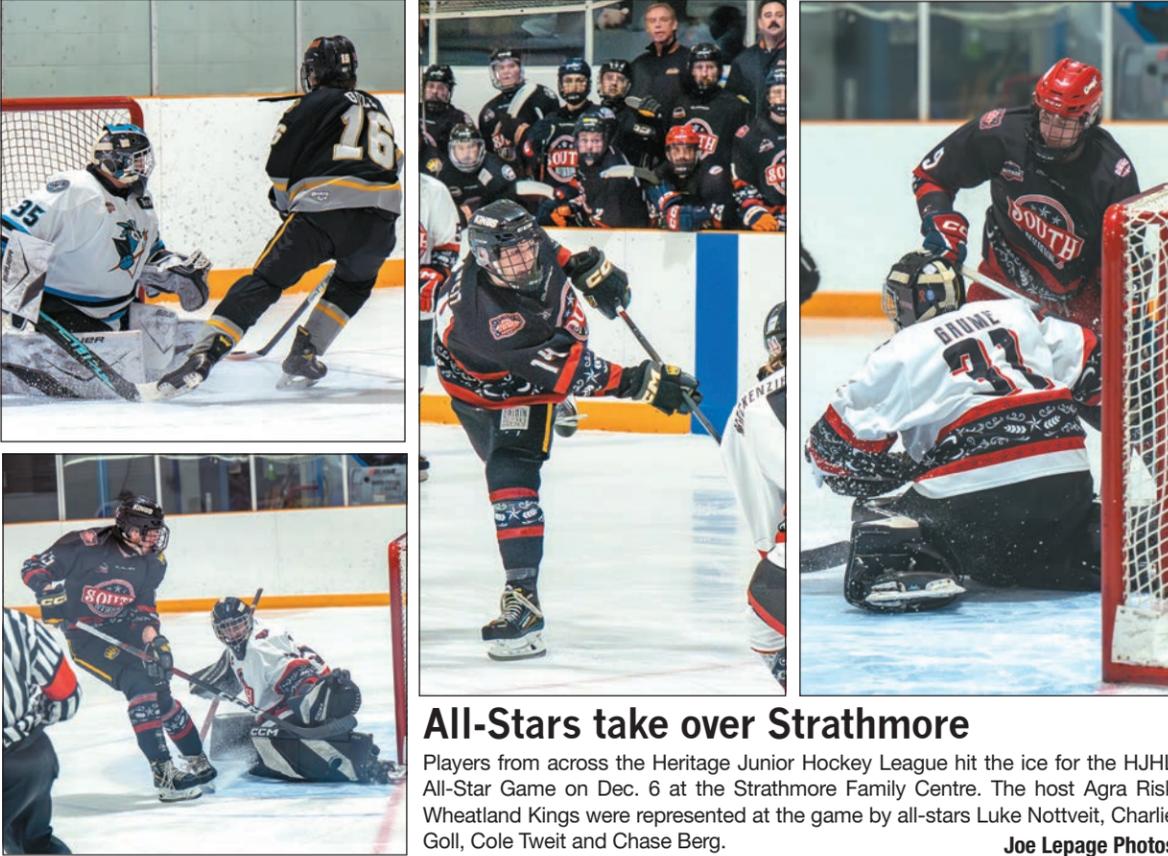


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All-Stars take over Strathmore

Players from across the Heritage Junior Hockey League hit the ice for the HJHL All-Star Game on Dec. 6 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The host Agra Risk Wheatland Kings were represented at the game by all-stars Luke Nottveit, Charlie Goll, Cole Tweit and Chase Berg.

Joe Lepage Photos



Tessa Galandy (right), shown here at the Strathmore Minor Ringette Association kick-off event in late September, was named MVP of the U21 World Ringette Championship in November.

Strathmore Times File Photo

Celebration of Lights

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Galandy named MVP during silver medal at World Championship

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

For most athletes, stepping onto the ice to represent their country is a lifelong dream, one earned through years of discipline, sacrifice and unwavering passion.

For Tessa Galandy, that moment arrived this year at the World Ringette Championships in Finland, where she and Junior National Team Canada captured silver in an intense international showdown.

Though proud of her team's achievement, Galandy admits the result is still settling in.

"Right now, it's still a bit of a sore spot," she said. "But I'm really proud of everyone. And I'm proud of how hard we worked. I know down the road, I will feel better about it."

Representing Canada on a world stage brought a wave of emotions. For Galandy, the magnitude of the moment struck her the second her skates hit the ice.

"It was kind of surreal for me," she said. "It was probably the best experience of my life up until this point, that's the moment that I've been waiting for, for the past 10 years."

Among the unforgettable highlights was a special on-ice moment with long time teammate Dylan Pighin, whom Galandy has played with for seven seasons. In one of the team's early games, both players created scoring opportunities for each other, an experience she called especially meaningful.

"She assisted my goal and I assisted her goal, and I think it was just special for us to have that moment on the international stage," she said.

Although this wasn't her first time facing elite competition, having played on the national team two years ago, Finland still presented new challenges. Galandy said that facing familiar opponents helped Team Canada prepare.

"Some of the Finnish girls that were on that U18 team, made the U21 team," she explained. "So, we knew on some level what we were expecting and not just going in and being blind to what the competition looks like."

Galandy emerged as one of the tournament's biggest standouts, earning Overall Tournament MVP. The moment, however, was overshadowed by the team's emotional post-game atmosphere.

"I think I was just more, taking in being there with the team after the loss," she said. "But I am super, super grateful. I think part of why I had such a good performance was the support from my teammates, my coaching staff, (and) my parents, being in an environment that allowed me to perform so well."

Looking ahead, Galandy is already focused on the next chapter; earning a spot on Canada's senior national team. With the next world championship set for 2027 in New Brunswick, she's driven by unfinished business.

"I don't want another silver medal," she said. "I want to represent my country again, and I want to work my butt off to make sure that we can get the best outcome that we can."

Legion prepares to celebrate centennial year

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Royal Canadian Legion is preparing to celebrate their centennial year of operations with a series of events taking place throughout 2026, recognizing a century of volunteerism, advocacy, and service.

Locally, the Legion Branch 10 in Strathmore is presenting a campaign scheduled to begin as of Jan. 1, consisting of nine events throughout the year.

“It is a tremendous feeling because this is the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion in Canada, so this is something we, the Legion community have never experienced before,” said Donovan Arnaud, president of the Strathmore Legion Branch 10. “October 8 was the actual day that our particular Legion received its charter a hundred years ago, so (that) will be a very special day for us, but we are celebrating this national anniversary throughout the year.”

New Year’s Day will feature a levee at the Legion intended to be for anyone within the local community to be able to attend.

Each of the individual events have been planned, if not already scheduled around the Legion’s more regular calendar and will take place in ad-

dition to normal activities instead of as replacements.

Arnaud explained the Legion’s planning committee has already been at work for the last four months to bring the calendar together.

“We are into the weeds now in terms of details, but the plan is just about finished. In fact, we have now begun to publish a literature to that effect,” he said. “We can’t mess this one up – we have got to do it well and do it right for the first time, and I am very confident that is exactly what is going to happen.”

Come February, the Legion will host a Blackfoot cultural experience featuring food, traditional dancing, and stories.

Apr. 18 will feature a centennial cribbage tournament, followed by a centennial dart shoot on May 2. On June 20, a Vintages for Veterans wine tasting will be open to those in the community aged 18 and above.

July 17 marks the centennial of the first legion in Canada. Strathmore’s Legion branch will host a commemorative service, as well as a celebration to mark the occasion.

A community talent show has been earmarked for the fall; however, the exact date has not yet been announced publicly as of this publication deadline.

Oct. 3, Branch 10 will be hosting a charter gala for veterans and legion members, followed by a children’s Christmas party in December to wrap the year’s series of celebrations.

“Our role withing the community, not only is our primary mission to support veterans and their families, of equal importance is our relationship with the community, that being Strathmore and Wheatland County,” said Arnaud. “We intend to engage them in our celebrations, and we are well on our way to making this happen, and we are looking forward to getting started on New Year’s Day with the levee at the Legion.”

Any who are interested in supporting the Legion or volunteering to prepare or participate in any of next year’s events are encouraged to contact them directly.

Town to debate amending community group funding criteria

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Fundraising activities may soon be considered ineligible to receive community group funding from the Town of Strathmore through the Community Improvement Program.

Council approved a motion, Dec. 3, for drafted amendments to the program to be brought before the Committee of the Whole to be considered before any vote by council takes place.

“Council has a responsibility to manage taxpayers’ funds appropriately. When grants are distributed to organizations to subsidize their fundraising efforts, council lacks oversights in what programs that funding is ultimately supporting and whether they align with the needs of the community and the priorities of council,” said Coun. Melissa Langmaid. “These types of indirect benefits make it difficult for council to quantify and evaluate the benefits gained through the grant funding.”

She said she believes grants distributed under the Community Improvement Program should apply to programs, initiatives, and events that have direct benefits to the community as opposed to indirect.

Currently, the five funding streams outlined in the Community Improvement Program are detailed as to be intended for:

Assisting with the costs of recreation, culture and/or arts programs and events provided to community residents; assisting with capital costs associated with conservation, development or enhancement of programs and service delivery provided by community associations, assisting in offsetting organizational expenses incurred in the operations of programs designed to support com-

munity associations offering demonstrated needs; assisting with events and programs which align with family and community support services; and to assist with opportunities to improve local economic well-being and quality of life.

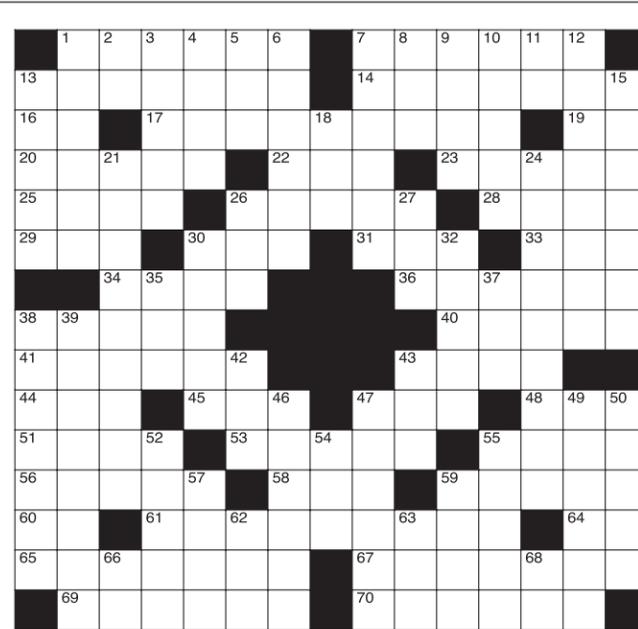
She explained she believes the purpose of the fund should be to support programming that directly benefits residents and the local community – the outcomes of which may be concretely tracked or observed.

Coun. Brent Wiley suggested that perhaps instead of modifying the Community Improvement Program to such an extent as was suggested, that fundraiser applications be required to clearly identify in what capacity their requests align with grant criteria.

“We don’t want to create a loophole where we are creating the ability just to ask for funds to raise more funds, but ... the amount of money raised at these fundraisers could outweigh the money that would be asked for from these organizations, and so what you are doing is you are providing the means to raise the funds and not necessarily funding them unnecessarily,” added Coun. Claude Brown. “These programs come to us because they need funding and a fundraiser to get funding is also in need of funding.”

Currently, as per the current policy, the CAO has the authority to reduce or waive fees for certain circumstances, such as the rental of the Civic Center, should the CAO deem it to be in the public interest.

Langmaid’s motion was passed in a vote of 5-2 in favour. Councillors Wiley and James Chisholm voted against.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. A type of solution
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. They precede C
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Government lawyer
- 20. “Game of Thrones” actor Ciaran
- 22. The eighth month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex Machina
- 26. Makes happy
- 28. Type of berry
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular Dodge truck model
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. Influential German psychologist
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. You can get stuck in one
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Fiber optics network
- 48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 55. Sound
- 56. MLB legend Hank
- 58. Very attractive person
- 59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig
- 60. South Dakota
- 61. Mocking
- 64. Symbol for gold
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary patient assessment

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Necklace material
- 4. Containers
- 5. A way to save for your future
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan
- 7. Dipped down
- 8. Head injury (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. Opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Spiritual leader of Islam
- 15. Businesslike
- 18. Not in
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. An animal with its own day
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start over
- 32. Field flowers
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. A visual way to interact with a computer
- 38. Up-to-date
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. Supporter of the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. One who’s faking it
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. A form of dance
- 63. Automobile
- 66. The man
- 68. Justice Dept. head honcho



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Christmas sing-along

The Vault Cultural Collective was merry and bright as they hosted their second annual Christmas carol sing-along on Dec. 5. While the tunes were playing upstairs, Yvonne Way was busy teaching the popular Christmas wreath centrepiece class on the main floor.

Joe Lepage Photos

County signs new MoU with Strathmore Handi-Bus Association

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County is updating their relationship with the Strathmore Handi-Bus Association, approving the signing of a new memorandum of understanding during the Dec. 2 meeting.

The memorandum of understanding has been in development since 2023, which was to incorporate a consistent funding schedule, as well as reporting expectations to the county.

Quarterly payments of \$10,000 will be made to the Handi-Bus Association, with an annual inflationary adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index, or the approved county

tax increase – whichever is lesser.

“Any surplus would be returned to the county. Every year, if they do not require \$40,000 in funding as the deficit between their user fees and their expenses, if they don’t need that amount, they are going to credit back on a prorated basis between the Town of Strathmore and Wheatland County,” said Coun. Shannon Laprise. “We are protected in that they are not going to amass any money by having this contribution from us. This is for their operating side of things.”

Council authorized a one-time donation of \$40,000 to the Handi-Bus Association in February. At the time, administration was directed to wait for the updated memorandum of understanding to reflect changes in the association’s operations.

Since 2020, the county had contributed \$10,000 annually to the Handi-Bus Association. During the Nov. 21, 2023, council meeting, a one-time contribution of \$35,000 was authorized for the 2024 financial year.

Council at the time requested ridership data from the association, as well as its reserve policy, and asset management strategy. This was presented before the Committee of the Whole, Nov. 19, 2024.

Based on nine months of current year data, approximately 13 per cent of the Handi-Bus Association’s ridership resides within Wheatland County.

“From 2024 to 2025, the ridership representation has gone from an average of 36 clients per month approximately to about 23 clients per month, which represents about an average of a 36 per cent decrease,” said Cory Adamson, general manager of corporate and financial services. “This change in operations has been noted by the association which presented to the public presentation committee ... it is important to note though that while the data shows 13 per cent of the handi-bus’ ridership originates within the county, a study was done in 2022 which revealed that about 24 per cent of their clients were rural users who may still hold property inside the county, but are residing in Strathmore care facilities.”

The updated memorandum of understanding maintains several similarities with the previous document, save for revised dates. It also annotates the requirement of a review engagement in the place of the previous annual financial statements audit due to cost considerations.

A four-year agreement term employing the new document will begin as of Jan. 1, 2026, and will conclude on Dec. 31, 2029. Resolution of the document was supported unanimously. Coun. Glenn Koester abstained from voting on the subject.

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Thought for the Week
~
Perhaps we're not there yet, but we're closer than we were yesterday.

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County opposes province regarding increased highway speeds

Continued from Page 1

“Because it is a four-lane highway, you only have to cross one way, and then you have an interim spot in the middle. I think the faster speed limit, based on the engineering studies is the way to go.”

Coun. Glenn Koester added the county could take the opportunity to communicate with the province not only their opposition to the increased speed limit, but also the need for more overpasses on certain sections of Highway 1.

Council passed the motion to have administration prepare and send a letter expressing opposition to the province under the Reeve’s signature in a vote of 5-2 in favour. Councillors Rick Laursen and Hebbes were opposed.

Hockey for Hunger returns to support food bank

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Continuing their annual tradition to support the Wheatland County Food Bank, Crowther Memorial Junior High School gathered donations through their Hockey for Hunger exhibition game.

Donna Lewis, a teacher at Crowther Memorial, explained the game offers an opportunity for the entire school to gather both for a good cause, as well as to celebrate their fellow students in the hockey program.

“We do a big game every year and we ask for admission from the (students) if they come over just to bring a food bank item to donate. It’s been going for about 13 years,” she said. “Our hockey program has been a fairly big thing for a few years, and it was just an easy way to combine an opportunity with our leadership students at the school to raise food bank items for the community. We found it a more productive way to get more food.”

Throughout the event, the school partners with Wheatland EMS and the Strathmore Fire Department to migrate all of the students’ donations from the Strathmore Family Centre to the food bank.

The leadership students are responsible for contacting Wheatland EMS and the Strathmore Fire Department to coordinate donation efforts, as well as conducting the in-school announcements and marketing efforts.

Lewis explained the school does not issue an exact goal in terms of donations, rather that students are encouraged to participate and bring in what they can.

“We have been marketing it at the school with posters; our leadership class has been announcing it for about two weeks. We promote it at the school level and try to get lots of participation,” said Lewis. “There’s no specific goal, just to get as many donations as we can and make everybody feel included – get as much as we can for the community and really try to put that community emphasis and spirit in the students to give back, especially around the Christmas season.”

Students participating in the Hockey for Hunger game largely consist of Grade 9’s, supplemented by a few of their younger peers who have all participated in the school’s hockey program.

This year, Lewis said a total of approximately 75 students enrolled in the program between the three grades.

“They go to hockey program twice a week and it is part of their health and wellness and physical education. They practice on ice, do skill training and play games against one



Crowther Memorial Junior High students celebrated their peers who participated in the school’s hockey program, while also raising annual donations for the Wheatland County Food Bank. The school worked in partnership with the Strathmore Fire Department, as well as Wheatland EMS, to gather and deliver donations.

John Watson Photos

another,” she explained. “This is kind of the way to culminate and celebrate their achievements on the hockey program. The program continues after this, it is almost a mid-year point ... and it is a prideful thing for them.”

Many of the students who participate are continuing to do so from their time in elementary, largely feeding into Crowther Memorial from Westmount.

At the conclusion of the game, the winning team is treated to celebration and bragging rights within the school.

An exact count of weight or number of donations was not provided prior to the publication deadline.

NEXT HOME GAMES

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Strathmore Family Centre - Gold Arena

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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

People with a family member with Alzheimer’s disease (ALZ), sometime worry that they will develop it, too. The risk of developing ALZ is influenced by a combination of factors, including the effects of multiple genes. Environmental, lifestyle, and health factors such as hypertension, exercise, diet, exposure to pollutants, and smoking, can also affect a person’s risk. We can’t do much about our genes but getting regular exercise, managing high blood pressure and not smoking will certainly help one’s ALZ risk profile.

High blood pressure is a serious health problem and if left untreated, can cause adverse effects on the heart and kidneys. Fortunately, there are excellent medications for fix high blood pressure. The key to treatment is to take the medication routinely as the doctor prescribes. If you take your blood pressure at home and it seems normal, don’t stop taking the medication because it means the treatment is working.

It was back in 1796, that Edward Jenner introduced a vaccination against smallpox, a serious disease that has been eradicated from the face of the earth. This is just a reminder that vaccines do work and have saved millions of lives over the past 100+ years. There has been much misinformation about vaccines lately, much of it coming from the U.S. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about vaccines and get the right information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has much good and bad about it. The hope is that it will help in medicine and the treatment of diseases. Recently, AI was used to develop two new antibiotics to kill *superbugs*. Too early to tell how effective these drugs will be, but it marks a significant milestone in drug discovery.

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Strathmore local awaiting lifesaving six-organ transplant

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Maggie Kosterewa is looking to beat the odds and successfully undergo a six-organ transplant – a rare treatment which she has been on the wait list for since spring.

She fell ill with gallstone-induced necrotizing pancreatitis five years ago. This disease caused significant damage to her pancreas, as well as several other organs.

“Over the past five years ... they have removed her pancreas, removed her spleen, removed her gallbladder, half of her stomach, and the problems have just kept continuing with blood clots, infections, and other issues,” said Jennifer Theriault, Kosterewa’s mother. “Last May ... she ended up spending two months in Foothills Hospital. They tried many procedures, many things, and their last thing was they said they can’t do anything more for Maggie without a transplant.”

Theriault explained to the family’s understanding, Kosterewa is the only adult in Canada currently awaiting a six-organ transplant.

The organs required for the transplant are the liver, small bowel, portal vein, stomach, pancreas, and lower esophagus.

Readily, and repeatedly travelling back and forth between Strathmore and Edmonton, Kosterewa has on several occasions spent months at a time in hospital. Now, the family awaits a phone call to drop everything at a moment’s notice to go for surgery.

“(Maggie) will go through an extremely grueling surgery that involves many surgeons and many people for over 20 hours, and when she pulls through that, then we will have at least a four-to-six-month recovery with the transplant team in Edmonton making sure all is well,” said Theriault. “It’s hard to fathom even, there have only been about 30 other people across Canada to ever have a surgery like this ever. It’s pretty remarkable.”

Upon receiving the call for surgery, the family will have eight hours to get to Edmonton. If the call is not answered within a certain amount of time, Kosterewa explained she has been told the RCMP will be dispat-

ched to locate her.

Kosterewa has logged over 1,000 days at Foothills Hospital throughout her treatment. Care, treatments and appointments have become the family’s lifestyle.

Theriault has effectively retired in order to be Kosterewa’s full time care giver. Their concerns stretch from gas, parking, vehicle maintenance and food to medications which are not covered due to the family being considered as low income.

Maggie’s younger sister, Olivia, also fell ill at a similar time. It was discovered she had a tumor along her spine which had to be removed. The sisters both underwent major surgeries around the same time.

“Gallstones are hereditary, although we don’t have anybody in our immediate line that have had gallstone issues. This was all caused because of a gallstone, and it was not caught in time. Therefore, the gallstone had caused a lot of damage already,” said Theriault. “She’s been fighting ever since to just keep going. She’s been given different, horrible numbers – 10 per cent chance of life, 30 per cent chance of life, and then in May, her life will definitely be shortened if she does not get this transplant. It’s just a hope and a prayer that that happens.”

All six organs will have to come from one eligible donor. According to Alberta Health Services, one to two per cent of people are eligible as potential organ donors at the time of their deaths.

“It’s a huge mental toil, the thought of losing a loved one to save my loved one weighs very heavy on the heart,” said Theriault.

Theriault explained their transplant coordination team has suggested the requirement of over \$50,000 for the six months following the operation, during which time, she and Maggie will be required to relocate to Edmonton.

Benefit concerts were held in April and May respectively to support the family’s fundraising efforts. T-shirts featuring several of Maggie’s tattoos are being sold in order to supplement the campaign.

Additionally, a Go-Fund-Me has been initiated for the family by Hailey Sutherland. As of the publication of this article, over \$56,000 had been donated.

“I haven’t fully processed everything because I’ve



Maggie Kosterewa is awaiting a rare six-organ transplant in order to potentially repair much of the damage caused by gallstone-induced necrotizing pancreatitis. All six organs will have to come from a single donor. She has been told she has a roughly 50/50 shot of surviving the operation. Should she beat the odds, she and her family will need an excess of \$50,000 to cover expenses related to the operation, as well as her several month-long recovery.

Photos Courtesy of Jennifer Theriault

gone through so much in the last seven years. I try not to get my hopes up with certain things, put all my eggs in one basket,” said Kosterewa. “It’s definitely been a struggle having to change my whole life around ... I used to be just a regular young adult, graduated from high school, was trying to live her twenties dancing, doing all those things, (then) just one day being super sick and not understanding why.”

For those who are interested and able to support the family, Sutherland’s Go-Fund-Me campaign remains open. Alternatively, tax receipts are offered should donations be made through knoxbassano100@gmail.com. T-shirts can be purchased via maggiestransplant@gmail.com



Upcoming Meetings

Council and committee meetings will now be open to the public and via teleconference. For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person.

- December 9, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Municipal Planning Commission
- December 16, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting
- January 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting

To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted. Agenda packages can be found on our website.

Public Hearings

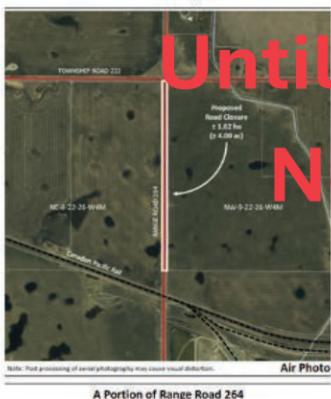
Wheatland County Council Chambers December 16th, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, December 16th, 2025. The following public hearings begin at 9 a.m. and proceed until all applications have been heard:

Bylaw #: 2025-25 (RC2025-001)

Location: The intervening road allowance between NE-8-22-26-W4M and NW-9-22-26-W4M, immediately south of the intersection of Township Road 222 and Range Road 264

Proposal: To close a 1.10 hectare (2.74 acre) portion of Range Road 264 to public travel between NE-8-22-26-W4M and NW-9-22-26-W4M, and to amend the consolidation of the road allowance into the adjacent lands.



Any comments provided will become part of the public record in accordance with Section 37 of the Access to Information Act or the Access to Information Act. Any personal information on submissions made regarding applications is collected under the authority of the Protection of Privacy Act, Section 4(c) that information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body.

2026 DOG LICENSE RENEWALS & REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Payment for 2026 Registrations and Renewals are currently being accepted. License fees are due by January 2, 2026.

- ✓ Providing proof of spay/neuter reduces your dog’s annual registration fee to \$20; otherwise, the fee is \$50.
- ✓ Please ensure your contact information is up-to-date, this helps us reunite you with your dog quickly if it becomes lost.
- ✓ If your dog’s tag is lost, replacements are available at no cost. Contact our office, and we’ll mail a new tag or have one ready for pickup.
- ✓ A valid dog license is required for all dogs over 90 days old. Failure to comply may result in a fine.

- **New registrations:** Use the QR code to access the online Dog License Registration Form.
- **Renewals:** If your dog is already registered, please email admin@wheatlandcounty.ca to request your renewal form.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Are you wanting to give back or become more involved in your community? Wheatland County Fire Services is recruiting volunteer firefighters!

Minimum requirements:

- 18 years of age
- Valid class 5 driver’s license
- No criminal record
- Good physical health



If you’re interested or have questions, please call or email Fire Services at 403-361-2182 or fireservices@wheatlandcounty.ca.

Address: 242006 Range Rd 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4
Phone: 403-934-3321 www.wheatlandcounty.ca
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





Magical market

Strathmore's Main Street Market hosted their annual Merry Market on Dec. 5-6 at the Strathmore Civic Centre. Over 70 vendors took part in the event, which featured swag bags, DIY Christmas workshops and even photos with Santa.

Joe Lepage Photos



Nightingale deals

Over 25 vendors took part in the Nightingale Christmas Market on Dec. 6 at the Nightingale Community Hall. There were plenty of foods and crafts, with proceeds from the event going to the Wheatland County Food Bank.

Joe Lepage Photos



2025 Memory Tree



Previously, the Tree of Hope. Sponsored by the Strathmore District Health Foundation.

You are invited to honor your loved ones while supporting Strathmore Hospital by donating to the Hospital Foundation. Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for an income tax receipt upon request. Please send your contribution and the names to be commemorated to:

Strathmore District Health Foundation
200 Brent Blvd., Strathmore, AB T1P 1J9

Alternatively, donations can be made online at Strathmoredistrictfoundation@gmail.com or dropped off at the Hospital.

All proceeds directly contribute to patient care through the purchase of equipment.

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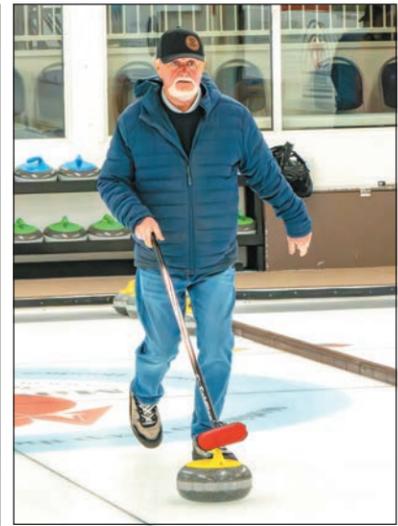
GOLDEN HILLS - POWERING HOPE AND POSSIBILITIES



Awesome auction

The Standard Lions Club hosted their annual Stag Auction on Dec. 5 at the Standard Community Hall. The over 150 guests enjoyed the barbecue beef supper followed by the auction. All proceeds from the event, which was in excess of \$107,000, will go toward community betterment.

Joe Lepage Photos



Hurry hard

The Strathmore and District Curling Club held their first Stirling bonspiel on Dec. 6 at the curling club. The next tournament on the schude is the Craiger Memorial on Jan. 3.

Joe Lepage Photos

True North receives family violence prevention grant

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The True North Society has successfully received another grant from the province of Alberta, this time through the Taking Action on Family Violence grant program.

This investment of \$93,500, as indicated by the province, aims to reinforce their commitment to supporting victims of gender-based violence, as well as to promote awareness during Family Violence Prevention Month.

Courtney Helfrich, executive director of the True North Society, explained the grant is similar to another that the organization has previously been successful in acquiring over the last several years.

“Previously, it was titled the Family Violence Prevention Grant ... and then the province did a little bit of restructuring of that grant and opened it up to the whole province and not just our sector any longer,” she said. “They put out a call for proposals and so we were able to submit an application for that last year in the spring, and then we were notified that we were successful in September.”

The True North Society submitted their grant application to support the continued employment of a family support coordinator role, being very similar to what has previously been applied for.

Previously, similar grants were utilized to fund an early intervention team. Due to financing cuts, the family support coordinator role remains the sole purpose of this successful grant application.

“We have added in some educational supports as well, and some additional parenting supports, but the idea is that it is really targeted prevention and early interventi-

on to support families who have experienced violence or maybe are at risk of experiencing violence,” said Helfrich. “(We) really want to focus on the kids, to be able to provide some tools for emotional regulation, building routines, skills for healthy communication, and setting boundaries. It is really about creating more protective factors for people to really try and either break that cycle of violence from continuing or stop violence.”

The province has released a commitment to invest more than \$188 million in gender-based violence prevention efforts across Alberta as part of a 10-year strategy. Via a statement, it was reported that greater than \$88 million would be invested this year.

“Domestic violence can take many forms, and it threatens that individual’s safety, well-being, and sense of self-worth. It breaks families apart and can lead to generations of trauma,” said Chestermere-Strathmore MLA, Chantelle de Jonge. “That is why it is so important to support organizations like the True North Society, who work to break the cycle of abuse by empowering individuals and by fostering safe, supportive environments for all.”

The family support coordinator operates parenting groups on site at True North, meets one-on-one with families to discuss routines and communication strategies, as well as to build atonement between parents and their children.

It is not a therapeutic program – rather it is meant to provide families with tools to be able to communicate more effectively, build healthy relationships and increase self-esteem.

The grant funding period will last until Aug. 31, 2026.

FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2026

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2026 Table Deadline - Friday January 2nd, 2026

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Party time

Strathmore families came together for an evening of cultural celebration on Dec. 6, as the annual Community Holiday Party was held at the Strathmore & District Agricultural Remuda Building. The celebration featured cultural performances, live music, crafts, face painting, and a wide range of family-friendly activities. The event was hosted in partnership by Trellis Society, Community Futures Wild Rose, and CCIS.

Joe Lepage Photos



Removing federal barriers

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

For too long, families across Alberta have felt the impact of federal policies that made it harder to grow our economy, build major projects, and create good jobs. Many Albertans watched opportunities slip away because Ottawa kept putting up new roadblocks that created needless uncertainty for investors and held our province back.

But now that's changing. Premier Danielle Smith and Prime Minister Mark Carney signed a new agreement to double Alberta's ability to ship oil to Asian markets, remove federal barriers to new investments, and set our province on a path to remain a global energy leader.

This agreement is a big win for working families. By ending the federal oil and gas production cap and suspending the Clean Electricity Regulations, Alberta will be an even more attractive destination for major energy developments. Those two federal policies threatened thousands of good jobs across Alberta and the livelihoods of the energy workers who power our economy and keep the lights on.

Ottawa has also declared an Indigenous co-owned bitumen pipeline to the West Coast a project of national interest. Along with a planned expansion to the Trans Mountain pipeline, the new pipeline will enable Alberta to grow production to six million barrels per day by 2030 and eight million per day by 2035. For communities in oil country, contractors, trades workers, small businesses, and Indigenous partners, this means good jobs and long-term prosperity.

While Alberta's government is standing up for our energy sector, we're also taking action to defend law-abiding firearms owners. This week, our government introduced a motion under the Alberta Sovereignty within a United Canada Act to push back against Ottawa's expensive and ineffectual firearms confiscation scheme.

The vast majority of Alberta firearms owners are trained, licensed, and responsible. They're sport shooters and hunters lawfully enjoying a treasured pastime. They're farmers and ranchers defending livestock from predators. These Albertans are not the problem, and they don't deserve to be treated like criminals by their own federal government.

Our motion makes it crystal clear that law enforcement should focus their limited time and resources on violent criminals, not law-abiding Albertans. And it reaffirms that Albertans have the right to acquire, keep, and use firearms in accordance with the Alberta Bill of Rights. It also makes clear that Albertans have the right to use reasonable force to defend themselves, their families, and their homes from intruders.

These actions prove that when we push back and stand firm, we get results. We are strengthening our economy, defending our communities, and protecting the rights of responsible Albertans.

As always, please feel free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions (Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca).

(Chantelle de Jonge is the MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore and the Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities)

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary



BROWN,
Allan Graham "Al"
Nov. 27, 1933 – Dec. 5, 2025

Allan was the beloved husband of Marian for 64 years, and father to Alison (Mike), Gregory (Catherine) and Cameron (Brandi), grandpa to seven and great grandpa to five. Born in Hamiota, Manitoba to a farm family with eight siblings, his childhood was filled with farming and sports, especially baseball and hockey. In 1954, he and his twin brother, Charles, became RCMP officers. It was when he was stationed in Grande Prairie that he met Marian, then a nurse at the local hospital. They formed a love that lasted a lifetime. At that time, RCMP officers were moved every six months so he switched careers. He went to the University of Alberta and got his teaching degree. He got a job in Strathmore at Samuel Crowther School and completely embraced the community. He helped run Cadets with Roland Hansen, was on Town Council, and volunteered for Strathmore's first ambulance service sponsored by the Lion's Club.

Allan started a girls hockey team, and the Legion-sponsored Strathmore Sirens came to be. He had a passion for hockey and refereed and volunteered wherever he was needed. With his math acumen he remembered player's stats and even his student's birthdays decades later. He also coached Track and Field and ran several Alberta Legion Track and Field events in Strathmore, alongside Mr. Prusky. After his retirement he joined the Slow Puckers hockey and played until he was 80.

In 1995, he became a Justice of the Peace. He volunteered for the United Church Thrift Sale and helped out at the local recycling center. He affectionately called himself a "recyclopath". He was always proud of his family and was the King of the "Dad Joke". Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit with him. He had a wonderful 92 years of life and will be remembered with a smile.

If desired, donations can be made directly to the Strathmore Hospital Auxiliary (200 Brent Blvd., Strathmore, AB, T1P 1J9).

A funeral service will be held on Monday, December 15, 2025, at Strathmore United Church at 11:00 a.m. To send condolences or to watch the live stream, please visit Allan's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

NOTICES

FOR SALE – WATER LICENSE ALLOCATION (BOW RIVER BASIN)

Offered Volume: 75 Acre-Feet

Asking Price: minimum \$750,000

A portion of a licensed water allocation from the Bow River Basin is being offered for sale. This represents a valuable opportunity to secure a dependable water source in one of Alberta's most actively managed basins. The allocation is suitable for municipal, agricultural, commercial, or industrial use (subject to transfer approval by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas).

All transfers will be conducted in accordance with the **Water Act (R.S.A. 2000, c. W-3)** and the policies governing the **South Saskatchewan River Basin (SSRB)**. Interested parties are encouraged to review applicable transfer procedures and allocation limits prior to submitting an offer.

Key Details:

- Source Basin: Bow River
- Allocation Offered: 75 Acre-Feet
- Asking Price: \$750,000
- Transfer Type: Permanent (subject to regulatory approval)
- Terms: Negotiable

Seller Information

Name/Organization: Strathmore Golf Club
Water License Number: DAUT0024005
Contact: Ethan Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer
Phone: 403-934-1021
Email: ethan.wilson@shaw.ca

For additional details, pricing discussions, or to arrange a confidential conversation, please contact the seller directly using the information above.

All transactions are subject to the approval of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and compliance with existing water management policies.

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE WHEATLAND COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Wheatland County has applied to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for an amendment to the existing Approval No. 497-04-00 for the Hamlet of Carseland and Speargrass development area in the Wheatland County. The waterworks system obtains raw water from three groundwater wells located at NE1/4 32-021-25-W4M The Wheatland County has applied to add two additional groundwater wells (Goldfinch wells, NW1/4 33-021-25-W4M) as supplementary raw water sources to improve water supply reliability in the region and construct an interconnection between the Goldfinch raw water system and the Speargrass Water Treatment Plant. The project includes installation of a 300 mm HDPE pipeline, pump station upgrades, and associated valving and instrumentation.

The amendment will reflect that water continues to be treated in accordance with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas' current standards and guidelines.

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
Email: epa.epeaapplications@gov.ab.ca

The written statement of concern should include the following information to be assured it can be considered:

- The application number 013-497.
- 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 concerns that are relevant to the application and for which the Director has delegated authority to address in the decision on the application, will be considered in the technical review of the application. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at <https://aww.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:

Wheatland County
Attention: Jose Podio-Cuervo
242006 RANGE ROAD 243
WHEATLAND COUNTY, AB T1P 2C4
Telephone: 403-361-2015
Email: jose.podio-cuervo@wheatlandcounty.ca

AUCTION

MEIER GUN AUCTION, Saturday, December 20 - 10am Wetaskiwin - Selling Rifles, Shot Guns, Antique Firearms, Gun Safes, Ammunition, Scopes, Sportsman Equipment. Consign now! Free Pick-Up. Call 780-440-1860; www.meierauction.com.

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To learn more about how your donations assist visit www.legion.ca/legion-national-foundation

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to Creditors and Claimants

Estate of ALLAN DALE EDWARD MEEKS, AKA AL MEEKS, who died on the September 15, 2025.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by January 10 2025.

with STRATHMORE LAW,
 ATTN: Daman K. Gill
 at 101, 318-3rd Ave.,
 Strathmore, AB T1P 1V9

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

Creditors: you must include a full description and value of the debt you allege the deceased owes you and a full description and value of any of the deceased's property that you hold as security for the debt.

Claimants: you must include a full description of your claim and why you have a right to make such a claim.

SUDOKU

5	2	4	3	6	8	7	1	9
8	7	6	1	4	9	2	3	5
3	1	9	7	5	2	8	4	6
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7	9	8	2	1	3	6	5	4



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Servicing Strathmore, Wheatland County and the communities within, The Wheatland County Food Bank provides food support to those in need. Emergency hampers are available. Our Bread & Extras drop-in program runs Tuesday to Thursday, 9-10:30 a.m., once per week per household.

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Upcoming Council Meetings

December 10, 2025 | 6 p.m. Committee of the Whole
December 17, 2025 | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting of Council
January 14, 2025 | 6 p.m. Committee of the Whole

Come Say Hi

Hearing from the community is really important to us, so you're welcome at any Council or Committee of the Whole meeting. You do not need to call ahead or register to observe Strathmore Council in action.

Good food, great food. Get the Good Food Box.

The Good Food Box is a non-profit organization offering access to nutritious, quality produce while ensuring variety, freshness and affordability.

Help keep hydrants from looking like snowmen. Adopt a hydrant.

In the winter months, heavy snowfall turns hydrants into snowmen lookalikes, making it difficult for firefighters to locate and access them during emergencies.

Visit Strathmore.ca/adopt-a-hydrant to learn more, or be the proud adopter of one of the 370+ hydrants in town.

Curious about your neighbourhood? Planning Dashboard.

Curious about what's being built down the street? Now you can find out with just a few clicks.

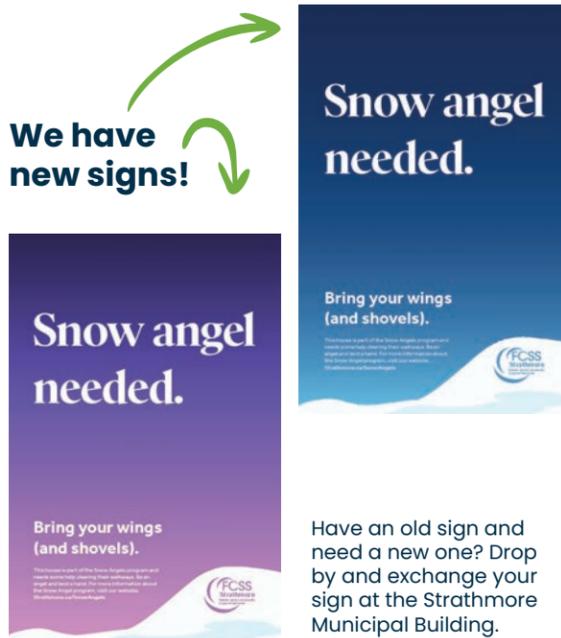
Our Planning Application Dashboard (PAD) is an interactive map that makes it easy to stay informed about local developments.

View the Planning Application Dashboard at Strathmore.ca/PAD.

Now with new signs! Be someone's Snow Angel.

While the winter season makes for a beautiful snowscape, it also comes with its icy challenges. Navigating icy sidewalks can be daunting, especially for those who face mobility limitations or health concerns.

Need the Snow Angels help? Call FCSS at 403-934-9090 to request a sign or visit the Strathmore Municipal Building.



Have an old sign and need a new one? Drop by and exchange your sign at the Strathmore Municipal Building.



Snow's here and so are we.

Winter in Strathmore means snow—sometimes a lot. We're prepared, and your cooperation helps keep things moving.

Our Operations Team maintains priority roads, sidewalks, and pathways to keep Strathmore safe. We clear over 160 km of roadways and 120 km of sidewalks and paths.

Snow clearing focuses on keeping emergency routes safe and restoring reasonable travel conditions as quickly as possible.

Some FAQ

1. When will my street be cleared?

It depends on where you live and available Town resources. Roads are cleared by priority to keep key infrastructure, emergency services, and schools accessible.

Clearing third priority roads can take up to 72 hours. If it snows again, crews must return to first priority routes before continuing.

Priority roadway details:

- First priority: includes high volume and strategic arterial and collector roads, emergency service access roads, school zones when in session, etc.
Second priority: includes major collector roads linking neighbourhoods, central business district (downtown), etc.
Third priority: includes minor collector roads, commercial roads, roads where drainage issues have been identified, Town owned parking lots, etc.
Non-priority: includes local residential roads, lanes, cul-de-sacs, and alleys, etc.

2. When do priority roads get plowed?

Snow plowing begins when five-centimeters of newly fallen snow has accumulate and it is likely to remain on the ground. That's roughly the height of a AA battery.

Who ya gonna call? Snow plows! We're here for you.

If you have a concern about your street or suggestions about winter maintenance, let us know. There's a few ways you can reach out:

- Fill out a Citizen Communication Form at Strathmore.ca
Call or email Operations during office hours at Operations@strathmore.ca or 403-361-2126

Please do not direct any concerns or suggestions about snow removal to the equipment operators. After regular working hours, on weekends or statutory holidays, emergency calls can be directed to 403-899-1428.

Get into the Spirit of Christmas.

Events happening all month.

Visit Strathmore.ca/SpiritofChristmas2025 for more information.

