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Page 2



Christmas season

Page 8



Arts on 817

Town passes 2026 budgets

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore approved the capital and operating budgets for the 2026 financial year during the Nov. 25 budget meeting.

The operating budget was approved for \$44,259,300, and the capital budget was finalized for \$8,721,000.

"I can confidently say there was not a lot of meat left on this bone – in fact I would argue there was no meat left on this bone for us to pick at," said Coun. Melissa Langmaid. "That makes it both a very easy budget for me to review, and also a very difficult budget because I would really like to find that meat on the bone that we could find some savings on, but there just was not a ton there."

Similar to what was noted during the Nov. 20 budget meeting, council stressed that the overall municipal tax increase was set at 2.8 per cent. Last year, the budget was approved with a 3.62 per cent total increase.

Residents must still prepare to stomach a significant tax increase due to the provincial government's education requisition, which is beyond the Town of Strathmore's control to influence.

The town's operational reserve policy mandates a minimum reserve balance of five per cent of the operational budget. This time around, that equates to \$2.212 million.

Coun. Claude Brown motioned to reduce the proposed operating reserve contribution from \$638,200 to \$404,000, aiming for a 1.2 per cent tax decrease. This reduction was suggested to cut the \$100,000 financial stabilization contribution and reduce non-annual recurring expenditures by \$134,000.

"Reserves are what-ifs that will happen in the current year, and ... should we require more payment into policing, and it doesn't happen this year, then the reserves are just a means of building up money that we could be paying into that," said Brown.

Continued on Page 4



Santa hits the ice

The Town of Strathmore hosted its annual Skate with Santa event on Nov. 30 at the Strathmore Family Centre. Skaters would pay just \$2 to skate, or bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Wheatland County Food Bank. For more coverage, see Page 7.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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REPs



Light up the Night!

The Strathmore and District Agricultural Society held the opening night of the annual Celebration of Lights on Nov. 29 at the Strathmore Ag Ball Diamonds. In addition to the impressive light displays, the event offered numerous activities such as horse-drawn sleigh rides, caroling, and hot chocolate, culminating in a magnificent fireworks display at the end of the evening.

Joe Lepage Photos




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Perfect parade

The Town of Strathmore and RE/MAX Key hosted the annual Santa Claus Parade in downtown Strathmore on Nov. 29. Community groups and businesses paraded through the streets handing out treats to children.

Joe Lepage Photos



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County launches into budget season

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It's budget season for Wheatland County and discussions regarding the interim operating, and capital budgets opened during the Nov. 25 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The interim budget focuses on upcoming service and capital requirements and is scheduled to be approved by Dec. 16. This gives the necessary authority under the Municipal Government Act to spend in the new fiscal year.

Final budgets are typically to be presented in late March or early April of the new year. The delay is intended to allow county administration to incorporate more accurate details, as well as to finish the previous year's audit, and give council members more time to receive accurate inflationary projections.

"That can help drive and inform council's decisions on that final budget, and then finally in March, we have the assessment information ready," said Joel Chiasson, manager of financial services.

"That is the base of the property taxes – we have the updated assessment values and then the tax rates are calculated on that assessment base. That is when we really get into the details of the specific tax revenue, the amount requested, (and) the split between the different classes."

The currently drafted budget continues to prioritize significant infrastructure investments, including engineering and planning studies throughout the municipality.

A two per cent placeholder for a municipal tax increase was included in the draft to account for growth or inflation, however the actual tax rate decision will be reserved for implementation in the final budgets.

Within Wheatland County, a one per cent tax increase equates to approximately \$300,000 of additional annual revenue.

As it was presented to the Committee of the Whole, the gross base interim budget is currently estimated at \$56.4 million.

Notable operational changes include the completion of the Goldfinch raw water line in 2026, implementation of the internal waste transfer roll off bins program, and decreased local area pension plan rates.

As this is the first year of a new council term, council may make amendments in the final budget based on early 2026 strategic planning discussions, which will better cement their goals and priorities for the upcoming term.

"This year might be a little bit different because council will have their strategic planning where they will set their priorities and their specific goals for the upcoming four years, and that will likely drive some of the budget decisions that we or council makes in the final budget and corresponding tax strategy," said Chiasson. "The plan is to do a community survey as well. Administration felt that would be a good thing to correspond with that final budget with the strategic planning as well; bring that to some of those findings with the final budget."

Among the major priorities outlined in the interim budget, it is suggested for the county to commit to spending \$50 million over the next five years, and \$100 million over the next 10 to address its backlog of bridges which require repair or replacement.

Committee members have been requested to send detailed inquiries and comments to administration by Dec. 5 in order to allow staff time to compile responses for the final interim budget approval.

County presented with updated asset management plan

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County is developing an update to its asset management plan which aims to better describe and catalogue county resources for council use.

The purpose of the Nov. 25 presentation was to review the master asset management plan which was discussed earlier this year in preparation for the county's budget deliberations.

The initial version of the plan provides an overview of the county's assets, as well as provides information regarding maintenance and rehabilitation needs of local infrastructure. Additionally, eventual decommissioning is documented with regards to upgrading or adding assets.

"It's not a deep dive into every asset, but we (have) a picture of where we are at with every asset and the plan going forward is to supplement that with deep dive asset management plans where we are really looking at everything within that asset to update the master asset plan," said Harry Kim, manager of information services. "The county's total asset replacement cost is estimated to be at \$766 million as of 2025. Every asset we have, over time at different times and periods is going to need replacement, so this is the number that we are looking at."

Accounting for nearly half of the county's asset portfolio (47 per cent), is the local road network, which demands an estimated total cost of \$359.7 million to replace in its entirety.

Kim clarified this number is fluid based on construction costs at any given time; however, the ongoing trend is for such expenses to increase.

Gravel roads were specifically excluded from the replacement cost calculation due to requiring an estimated \$22 billion to replace, which would skew the rest of the results. Gravel roads are typically maintained perpetually as opposed to being replaced.

Immediately behind the road network in terms of cost to replace are the county's bridges and culverts, estimated to be at approximately 120.4 million.

"Some of the good news is that our condition data (shows) we have almost 84 per cent of our assets to be in fair or better condition. The main consideration behind condition is year built, so we are estimating that if it was built at a certain period, by now it is at a certain condition," said Kim. "What we did right now is just get an overview. We didn't get a deep dive, but this is an area that could improve in the future when we do deep dives into specific assets where we will be able to get more accurate information."

The current asset management plan suggests approximately 41 per cent of the county's assets will require replacement within the next 10 years.

Though no decisions regarding the master asset management plan have been formalized due to its presentation before the committee of the whole, the information will serve to guide future council decisions, particularly in regard to the upcoming 2026 budget.

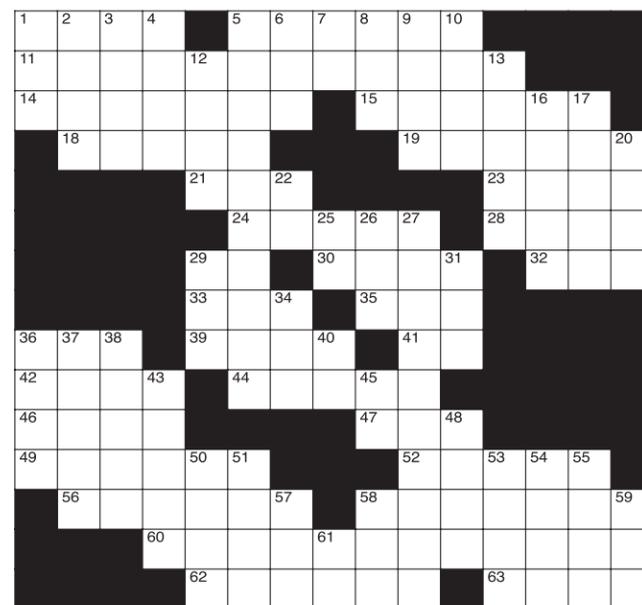
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dough made from corn flour
- 5. Rise
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. A low wall
- 15. Kidnap
- 18. A cup golfers want to win
- 19. Outgoing
- 21. "Partner" to flow
- 23. Former Michigan coach Brady
- 24. Proverb
- 28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 29. Helps a body recover
- 30. Baseball Cy Young winner
- 32. Very fast airplane
- 33. Offensive baseball stat
- 35. Body of water
- 36. Record of one's heartbeat
- 39. Signs a contract
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Bind securely
- 44. French Jesuit theologian
- 46. Fragrant brown balsam
- 47. Post office box
- 49. Sells tickets at inflated prices
- 52. Places to hang coats
- 56. Jewish salutation
- 58. Yellow fruits
- 60. Poorly educated
- 62. Microorganism
- 63. Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to plan
- 2. Three-banded armadillo
- 3. Mobile
- 4. Romanian city
- 5. Making sour
- 6. Take a seat
- 7. "The Golden State"
- 8. When you hope to arrive
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. Extinct flightless bird
- 12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- 13. Nape of neck
- 16. Problems (Spanish slang)
- 17. Narrow carpet
- 20. To avoid the risk of
- 22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
- 25. Equally
- 26. Traditional cars still need it
- 27. Eligible voters
- 29. Greek alphabet letter
- 31. Body part
- 34. Referee-declared outcome
- 36. Means to moving money
- 37. Popular footwear brand
- 38. Cockatoo
- 40. NFL's big game
- 43. Botswana currencies
- 45. News-reporting organization
- 48. Batman villain
- 50. Urgent request
- 51. Not all
- 53. Hallmark's specialty
- 54. Knot in a tree
- 55. Satisfy
- 57. Notable space station
- 58. Baby's dining accessory
- 59. Stitch clothing
- 61. ___ and behold

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Shining silver

The Strathmore Spartans senior boys volleyball team earned a silver medal at the 4A Volleyball Provincials in Fort McMurray on Nov. 29. The Spartans' silver medal completes the trifecta as the team earned a 3A gold last year and a 3A bronze on home court in the prior two provincial championships. This season, SHS moved up to the 4A championship as they now have a student population of over 800 students.

Photo Courtesy of SHS

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RCMP advise of ghost broker scam

ALBERTA RCMP

RCMP are raising awareness about a ghost broker scam. During a recent motor vehicle collision in the Ponoka area, it was discovered that one of the involved parties was the victim of insurance fraud. The victim provided his pink card as required which indicated the company All Covered Canada, only to find out that this insurance company did not exist.

Ghost brokers are individuals who disguise themselves as insurance brokers under the false pretext of selling insurance. As a result, those who pay ghost brokers for these fake insurance policies are not covered or insured at all.

Some red flags to look for are:

- Deals that are too good to be true.
- No physical office or suspicious online presence.
- Unable to provide proof of insurance immediately.
- Charging a “finder’s fee.”
- Asking for cash only payments.

It is recommended that the public should always:

- Speak with an insurance professional who is properly licensed and qualified to sell insurance.

- Only purchase insurance from a brokerage or agent you trust.
- Confirm a specific insurance broker’s license status by referring to the licensing body within your province.

For example, in Alberta, Albertans can check the Alberta Insurance Council to look up and confirm details of an insurance representative and the agency they represent.

If you believe you are a victim of or have information regarding ghost broker fraud please call your local police. If you want to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), by internet at www.tipsubmit.com, or by SMS (check your local Crime Stoppers www.crimestoppers.ab.ca for instructions).

PUZZLE SOLUTION

M	A	S	A	A	S	C	E	N	D										
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Thought for the Week
~
Maybe the poorest person can leave their child the richest inheritance

SUDOKU

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Budget approved

Continued from Page 1

“Once that does become operational, it will be introduced into the budget. I do not believe that there is a risk in reducing the reserve at this time and breaking even.”

Brown’s motion was defeated in a vote of 4-3 against.

After accounting for all planned expenditures, administration estimated the uncommitted operating reserves sit at \$3.421 million.

Seven community protective services projects were approved for funding, totaling \$2,596,000. These included the final payment on a fire truck, \$100,000 for the front-end engineering design of a new fire hall, \$220,000 for a bush buddy replacement, \$195,000 for a modular fire training center, and \$850,000 for Phase 3 of the Family Centre Arena roofing project.

The town received over \$27.6 million in capital requests for 2026. The current year capital requests funded was noted by administration to be at a little over \$8.7 million. This represents the greatest amount of unfunded projects since 2023.

“It’s a country-wide problem talked about at all levels of government. It affects local government as well. It is important to note that while there is a \$19 million deficit, it is just like our own home balances,” said CAO Kevin Scoble. “We all have things that we want that we can’t necessarily (afford). So, it is about building the reserves for what we absolutely need for future infrastructure.”

Local ball player crowned player of the year

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

For most young athletes, earning recognition at the provincial level is a dream.

For 18-year-old Aubrey Stender that dream became reality last weekend in Edmonton when he was awarded Baseball Alberta's U18 AAA Player of the Year, a milestone he describes as both meaningful and long-awaited.

"I feel accomplished," laughed Stender, as he searched for the right words. "Ever since I went to U18 Baseball Alberta, I knew that (Player of the Year Award) was a thing and I just wanted to win it, and I feel after three years, being my last year as well, it just feels like a great accomplishment in my (baseball) career."

Stender has spent more than a decade on the diamond.

"This year was my 11th year of playing baseball," he said.

Growing up through Strathmore Minor Baseball, he developed steadily, eventually becoming one of the top players in the province and earning attention from college programs.

"This year I got a scholarship for baseball in Williston North Dakota," he explained, where he plays for the Williston State Tetons. "And I think that was a big turning point, mainly because I wasn't trying; this season was not like a season for trying to make myself seen, you know? It was more of a development and just (to) have a little more fun. And I think that's one of the reasons why I was able to get Player of the Year, because I was more relaxed and I just felt more in the element and playing the sport I love."

The transition to a higher level of competition hasn't been as overwhelming as one might expect.

"Not as much as I would have thought," he said. "I've been playing with teams that the competition is just way higher than the small-town baseball. I've played with an academy out of Saskatoon that went down to Arizona and played a bunch of college teams, and so I think it's good that I got the exposure before going because now I kind of know what's going on and I know what to expect and what the coaches look for."

Despite the award and the college opportunity, Stender remains grounded and quick to credit those who helped him get here. When asked about the biggest influences on his growth, he didn't hesitate.

"Strathmore Minor Baseball, that was the stepping stone. I would not be where I am without them," he said. "They have been there since Day 1. They've been coaching me since day one. They know what I do. They know what to do. It's just



Strathmore's own Aubrey Stender was named Baseball Alberta's U18 AAA Player of the Year. **Strathmore Times File Photos**

been great."

Another key influence is his father.

"He's living through me a little bit and he pushes me to go harder, and he drives me all these places," said Stender. "The support from my family and friends is also awesome."

Looking ahead, Stender says he's focused on the present.

"I'm kind of tunnel vision right now with this year, it's constantly competing for a spot, so I'm kind of just focusing on the spot now," he said. "Further down the line now, I'm gonna be playing baseball until I can't. I'll go as far as I can."

For now, Stender is enjoying the moment, an honour earned through years of dedication, community support and unwavering love for the game.

"I'm doing what I love," he said simply. "And I'm going to continue doing what I love."

NEXT HOME GAMES

Friday, December 12

• 7:45 pm VS Coaldale

Saturday, December 13

• 7:45 pm VS Airdrie

Friday, January 9

• 7:45 pm VS Medicine Hat

Saturday, January 10

• 7:45 pm VS Coaldale



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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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Santa 'arrested' for a cause

Santa Claus found himself arrested – temporarily – on Saturday, Nov. 29, as Strathmore peace officers staged an “arrest” to support local families in need. Santa was detained outside Strathmore’s Walmart, encouraging shoppers to bail him out with donations of toys, hats, mittens, and hygiene items. Peace officers partnered with the U19 girls ringette team, who joined in collecting contributions for the Strathmore and Wheatland County Christmas Hamper Society.

Joe Lepage Photo



SHS celebrates excellence

Strathmore High School recognized its 2024-2025 outstanding academic achievement for students in Grades 10-12. Loyal Sarhan (l-r, Grade 10), Abbie Skene (Grade 11) and Gwen Smith (Grade 12) each received the honour of having the highest mark in their respective grades. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the prestigious Governor General’s Bronze Medal, which was also won by Smith, who earned the top academic average in all three years she attended SHS. After graduating last year, she chose to take a gap year to explore her future path. She is now planning to apply to McMaster University with the goal of becoming a Reproductive Endocrinologist.

Joe Lepage Photo

Sam Crowfoot elected new Chief for Siksika Nation

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Siksika Nation has elected its new Chief and council with Sam Crowfoot at the helm, defeating Frederick Rabbit Carrier and Jack Royal for the position.

A total of 49 candidates campaigned to claim 12 council seats. The new council now consists of Romeo Crow Chief, Own Crane Bear, Louise Doore, Stephen Old Yellow Woman, Kendall Panther Bone, Lenora Rabbit Carrier, Candace Backfat, Carlton Big Snake, Darrell Daniels, Jamie Spring Chief, Ike Solway, and Tracy McHugh.

Voting took place Nov 26, from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. This followed in the wake of advanced polling, which had taken place Nov. 19.

“We need to make our community safer. Our community is already safer than what it was six years ago, which is really good, but it still needs to be safer. We need to bring back our policing, that is a big thing to work toward,” said Crowfoot, outlining his immediate priorities as council activities resume.

“We (also) need to work on different governing documents. There is a big push for us to shore up our governance – looking at a constitution for our nation is going to be key, and then we need to develop some infrastructure, some capital projects ... things like that.”

Crowfoot has spent the last six ye-

ars serving on Chief and council as an elected councillor.

He explained a significant part of his platform is to address legal challenges the nation has been experiencing, particularly before the courts, as well as to protect the nation against provincial encroachment.

Crowfoot steps into his new role as Chief, succeeding his cousin, Ouray Crowfoot, who has stepped away from council in order to pursue private ventures.

“I’ve talked with (Ouray) a lot ... we have been close our entire lives so there is a natural discussion with the passing of the torch,” said Crowfoot. “From the last term, we had a transition of seven, and five remain on, which is a pretty high transition. But that being said, two of those transitions are not first-time councillors; they have been on four or five terms in the past, respectively.”

The first meeting of the new Chief and council took place, Nov. 28, which Crowfoot explained consisted of laying out expectations and things that members wished to bring forward and prioritize.

Among the capital projects which have been suggested is the development of more facilities for nation members to be able to develop their sense of community.

“Our fiscal year operates on the same kind of time frame as everybody else, so that is something we are definitely looking at,” added Crowfoot.

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

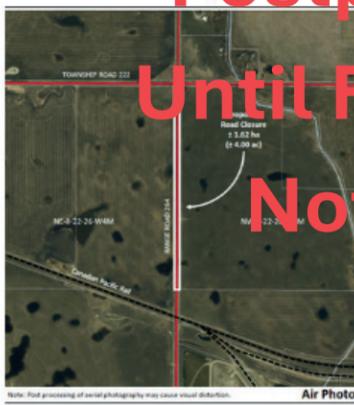
Wheatland County Council Chambers December 16th, 2025 at 9 a.m.

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 ± 1.60 hectare (± 4.00 acre) portion of Range Road 264 to public travel between NE-8-22-26-W4M and NW-9-22-26-W4M, to facilitate the consolidation of the road allowance into the adjacent sections.



Any comments provided will become part of the public record in accordance with Section 3(1) of Alberta’s Protection of Privacy 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.

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.



CONVERSATIONS WITH A COUNCILLOR

Conversations with a Councillor is an opportunity for residents to connect directly with their elected officials, ask questions, share ideas, and learn more about what’s happening in the County; all in an informal, welcoming setting.

This session will be hosted by Division 1 Councillor, Deputy Reeve Shannon Laprise.

Join us for good conversation and community connection.

4 DECEMBER 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Gleichen & District Community Centre
204 3 Ave, Gleichen

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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.



Santa on blades

Santa Claus and some of his closest skating friends hit the ice for the annual Skate with Santa event on Nov. 30 at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Joe Lepage Photos

Wheatland County resident smashes yet another world record

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Jennifer Fraser and her dogs have smashed yet another world record, this time setting a new fastest time for completing 10 leapfrog jumps.

She explained the trick consists of two dogs facing a trainer jumping over each other in sequence “leapfrogging” over each other.

This record was completed by Fraser’s three-year-old Australian shepherd, Chardonnay, and two-year-old rescued border collie, Kiwi.

“I had Kiwi for like eight months; we did the record with Chardonnay and she nailed it. She’s been a great performing dog, a great family dog, she gets along with my kids, my cats, everything. She just fit into my team like a glove, like it was meant to be,” said Fraser.

“I was looking for a dog, and I ended up finding (Kiwi), this drop-dead gorgeous border collie and I rescued her. The first week she was performing at Stampede events. She was just so friendly and so outgoing, and she loved the kids.”

Fraser emphasized having found Kiwi through the Alberta Herding Dog Rescue, operated by Cindy Sweeney. The not-for-profit organization specifically focuses on rehoming and retraining herding and athletic breeds into environments where they will be able to have proper stimulation and enrichment.

“(Sweeney) has a lot of lovely dogs there that just need a little extra love and a little bit more education when it comes to giving them a home,” added Fraser.

She explained Kiwi was previously under the care of a young girl who

lived in an apartment. Kiwi was given up around when she reached eight months old as she began to come into adolescence and required more time and space to run around.

Kiwi was able to perform the record attempt with Chardonnay after only eight months of training with Fraser. She clarified that for a dog to go from adoption to performing at such a level, this time frame is exceptionally brief.

This record follows immediately in the wake of another approved world record attempt, being the fastest 10 hoop slalom completed by a dog.

The task was to jump through five raised hoops, loop around and return back through in as short a time as possible.

Chardonnay set the new record for this at 7.34 seconds. The previous record had been set at 8.58 seconds in 2016 by Stephen Bailey and his dog Neo in Minehead, United Kingdom.

Fraser is now credited with holding 18 world records with her dogs. Of these, 16 were previously set by Daiquiri, who is now aging out of his performance days at nearly 11 years old.

She joked that her motivation for breaking record after record is due to boredom.

“I have ADHD – if I am not busy 24/7, my brain explodes,” laughed Fraser. “I love to stay busy, but also, honestly, it is to challenge myself, to challenge my dogs, to really get my name out there proving that I am a trainer who can train any breed any time and get them to be exceptional.”

Fraser added for those who would be able to provide a working home for an energetic dog, visit albertaherding-dogrescue.ca to learn more about the dogs looking for their forever homes, or how to help out the organization.



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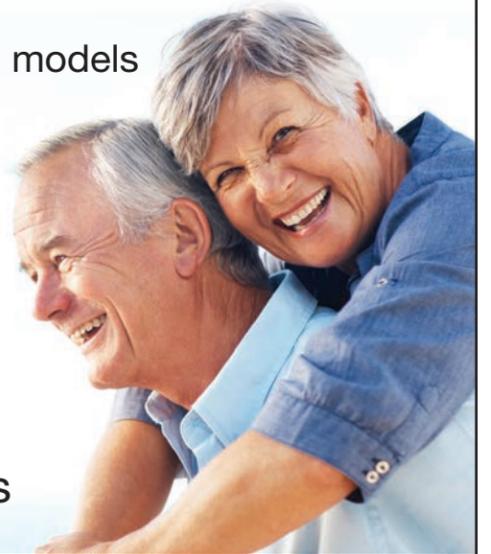
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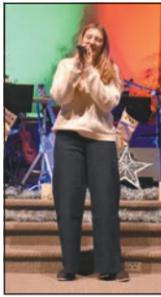
@LAKEWOODOFSTRATHMORE



Christmas cheer

The Strathmore United church was filled with holiday cheer as the Traveling Mabels were the headliners for the Arts on 817 Concert Series on Nov. 28. Their playlist included many favourites such as “River” and “Let it Snow,” along-side originals like “Grandma’s Kitchen.” Opening for the Mabels was Santas Songbirds, a collaborative group of seven singers from the Ally Brigley Music Studio.

Melissa Piche Photos



Earning a point

The Strathmore Storm U13A team earned a well deserved point after a 5-5 draw versus Okotoks on Nov. 29 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Storm will now prepare to host Cochrane on Dec. 5 in Gleichen, before hosting Lethbridge the following day at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Joe Lepage Photos



Kings to host revival of Heritage League All Star-Game

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings are gearing up for the return of the Heritage Junior Hockey League All-Star game, set to be hosted at the Strathmore Family Centre on Dec. 6.

Cody Holdaway, general manager for the Wheatland Kings, explained each team throughout the north and south divisions have submitted amounts of players based on their regular season rankings.

“We have a best-on-best north division versus south division full all-star game, backed up with a skills competition as well,” he said. “We have got a

couple events, there are quite a few – everything from fastest skater, hardest shot, accuracy shooting; there will be some challenges to test the league’s top goalies; we have got radar guns set up and everything.”

Each team will be comprised of players from all teams in the league. The idea being to showcase some of the top talent in the league all in one place.

Holdaway added that the Heritage Junior Hockey League being among the premier leagues in Canada, the players participating will effectively be among the top talent for their age in the country.

“Each team’s general manager had to submit their picks by (Nov. 23) and then

the rosters were released Monday (Nov. 24) evening,” explained Holdaway. “Although the Kings are technically in first place in the south division right now, all star rankings were selected based on point percentage and Medicine Hat Cubs were a marginal percentage above us.”

Due to this, the Cubs have five players selected to participate in the all-star game. The Kings have selected four, being in second place by this metric.

The third place team, in this case for the south division being the Coaldale Copperheads, sends three players. Beyond this, the remaining three teams each send two players to participate. The top two goalies in the division are then added in order to form the 20-man roster.

Representing the Agra Risk Wheatland Kings will be Luke Nottveit (forward), Cole Tweit (forward), Charlie Goll (forward), and Chase Berg (defenceman).

The selected rosters for both divisions do not practise together prior to the start of the game, instead being expected to be able to blend together with their teammates on the go.

Holdaway explained the all-star game was a tradition within the league for a number of years prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, it

was something he said all of the teams agreed would be welcome to see revived.

The last time the all-star game was hosted was in 2019.

“Strathmore has actually never hosted it before. It was just selected at the annual general meeting every year. Teams were able to submit bids and then the league’s members would vote based on which proposal they thought would be the best,” said Holdaway. “It’s definitely been a challenge – there are lots of logistical things with bringing 12 junior hockey teams to one game. Our media team has been running off the rails posting all the player announcements and everything. We are pretty excited.”

He added that several scouts representing the Alberta Junior Hockey League have confirmed their attendance, as well as from other notable hockey organizations.

The coaching staff for the all-star game will consist of those from the first-place representative teams – in this case being the Medicine Hat Cubs for the south division, and the Red Deer Vipers from the north.

The skills competition starts at 3 p.m. on Dec. 6 and lasts about 90 minutes. The All Star game begins at 7:45 p.m., following the usual Kings game schedule.

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Council adopts Strathmore’s 2026 operating and capital budget

TOWN OF STRATHMORE

Strathmore town council adopted a recommended \$44,259,300 operating and a \$8,721,000 capital budget for a total combined 2026 budget of \$52,980,300 at the Nov. 25, regular council meeting.

“Administration has worked diligently to present budgets that prepare the town for future growth, with a focus on making strategic investments to create long-term efficiencies,” said Kara Rusk, Director of Strategic, Administrative, and Financial Services.

The 2026 budget ensures that the town can continue delivering the many quality services that Strathmore’s residents and businesses rely on, while investing in new capital projects and reserves. These services include water and wastewater services, snow removal, road maintenance, garbage collection, and recreation.

“I’d like to thank Strathmore’s resi-

dents, community organizations, and businesses for their participation during the 2026 budget deliberations. Their help ensured that this budget reflects our community’s priorities,” said Mayor Fule. “Council faced many challenges throughout this process as our residents and municipality continue to grapple with the affordability crisis and inflation. I am proud that we were able to pass a fiscally responsible budget that supports our residents by investing in essential programs, services, and infrastructure.”

The total 2026 budget of \$52,980,300 results in a proposed property tax increase for 2026 of 2.8 per cent (municipal portion), which, on average, is an increase of \$15 per \$100,000 of assessed property value, or \$75 per year for a house valued \$500,000.

For more information about the budget process or to view a final copy of the adopted 2026 Budget (Strathmore.ca/Budget).

RCMP shares tips to protect against fraud

ALBERTA RCMP

RCMP reminds residents about the importance of staying vigilant as more of our daily activities take place online and over the phone. With the rise in digital communication, fraudsters are finding new ways to scam unsuspecting victims.

Over the past month, RCMP have seen an increase in reported frauds with fraudsters purporting themselves as representatives of government agencies, using technology to “spoof” that the person calling appears to be from a legitimate government agency. Victims were contacted, told they had outstanding fines or were wanted by police, provided a link to pay those fines or given instructions to download an app and provide personal information in order to avoid arrest.

RCMP offers the following tips on how to protect yourself from online fraud and scams:

- Protect your computer and accounts – be cautious of urgent looking pop-ups and suspicious emails with spelling or formatting errors.
- Don't click on unknown links or attachments.
- Use anti-virus software and keep your operating system up to date.
- Secure your online accounts with strong and uni-

que passwords.

- Do not use the same password for numerous accounts.

- Don't be afraid to say no. If a caller pressures you to buy something or send money immediately, hang up. Scammers often create a sense of urgency to manipulate victims.

- Confirm the legitimacy of businesses by checking official websites and contacting them directly before you act. If someone calls about a family member in trouble, reach out to others before acting.

- Guard your personal information and never share personal details (name, address, birthdate, banking info, etc.) unless you initiated the contact. You never know who's on the other end of an unsolicited call or message.

- Beware of upfront fees. In Canada, legitimate prizes do not require fees or taxes to claim.

- If you didn't enter a contest, you're not a winner.

- Create passwords with at least eight characters, including uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Never reuse passwords across different accounts.

- Keep your computer, smartphone, and tablet secure with updated antivirus software and automatic

system updates.

- Don't be afraid to say no. If someone pressures you to send money or provide personal information right away, end the conversation. You're not being rude – you're being safe.

- High-pressure sales tactics, requests for secrecy, urgent demands, or upfront fees are all signs of potential fraud.

- If you're unsure about a message, email, or phone call, talk to a family member or someone you trust. You can also visit the company's official website and call their verified contact number to confirm any claims.

- Be suspicious of calls or messages claiming you've won a prize, especially if you're asked to pay a fee to receive it.

- Legitimate businesses and government agencies will never ask for payment using gift cards. This is a common tactic used by scammers.

- Use a family safe word. If someone calls claiming to be a

relative in distress, ask for the safe word. If they can't provide it, hang up immediately and call the person they claimed to be directly.

- Never give out personal information. This includes your SIN, banking details, or passwords – especially if you didn't initiate the contact.

- Report suspicious activity, even if you didn't lose money. Reporting scams helps protect others. Contact your local police or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.

RCMP encourage anyone who suspects they have been a victim of fraud to report it to police.

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre offers information on what to do if you're a victim of fraud. This includes:

- Gather all information about the fraud, including documents, receipts, copies of emails and/or text messages.

- Report the incident to the fi-

ancial institution that transferred the money.

- Tell family, friends, neighbours and co-workers about your experience. You may prevent someone else from becoming a victim.

RCMP encourage the public to report any criminal or suspicious activity to police. Reports tell us where to look, who to look for, and where to patrol in the future. If you see a crime in progress, dial 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the “P3 Tips” app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store. To report crime online, or for access to RCMP news and information, download the Alberta RCMP app through Apple or Google Play.

For more fraud prevention tips follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta.

Online safety tips

ALBERTA RCMP

Though the internet and social media have become commonplace, it's important to remember that online activities can have real life consequences.

To help stay safe online, keep the following in mind:

- Post wisely: Keep personal details to a minimum and enable privacy settings on social media sites to limit who has access to your information.

- Turn off location services: Only share your location with those you know and trust.

- Do the right thing: Online cyberbullying, harassment, or threats can have very real and even criminal consequences.

- Friend requests: Only accept friend requests from people you know. Not everyone is who they appear to be online.

- Images: Only share images you're comfortable with being public and remaining public. Once something has been shared, it could go anywhere and live online even after deleting.

- Scams: Be cautious of suspicious links, emails, and attachments, and avoid giving information to untrustworthy websites.

Parents of youth should also keep the following in

mind:

- Create an open dialogue: Let your children know they can come to you to discuss their online life. Make them aware of the risks of being online, including cyberbullying, sextortion, and inappropriate content.

- Rules: Establish clear boundaries for screen time and online activity. It can be helpful to keep computers and other devices in shared spaces to allow for supervision.

- Age restrictions: Use parental control software to ensure your child or teen is accessing appropriate content.

If you believe you may be a victim of fraud, or are currently being targeted by fraud, please report it to your local law enforcement and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) at 1-888-495-8501. Instances of compromised personal and/or financial information should be reported to your bank and credit card company. To learn more about the various types of frauds and scams, please visit the CAFC's scam webpage.

For more cybercrime prevention information and resources, please follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta, X @RCMPAlberta, and on YouTube @RCMP-GRC Alberta.

FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2026

AG PAVILION - 33 WHEATLAND DRIVE STRATHMORE, ALBERTA

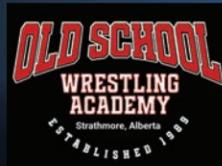
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Landmark agreement reached

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Our government understands that Alberta families want stability, good jobs, and a future full of opportunity for the next generation. For the last 10 years, Albertans have felt the impact of federal policies that held our economy back, slowed major projects, and made life harder for the workers and families who rely on a strong energy sector.

But now, things are changing. Premier Danielle Smith and Prime Minister Mark Carney have reached a landmark agreement to more than double oil exports to Asian markets and remove major barriers facing our province, including the federal oil and gas emissions cap and Clean Electricity Regulations.

With this new agreement, Alberta can focus on what we do best: growing our economy, exporting responsibly produced energy, and advancing nation-building projects that support all Canadians.

Ottawa will not implement the oil and gas emissions cap, allowing for a massive increase in heavy oil production and moving the province closer to its goal of reaching six million barrels per day by 2030 and eight million by 2035. The agreement will also bring stability to Alberta's power grid and unlock new investments in AI data centres with the immediate suspension of the Clean Electricity Regulations in Alberta.

At the centre of this agreement is a declaration by the federal government that an Indigenous co-owned Alberta bitumen pipeline to Asian markets is a project in the national interest. This new pipeline, along with the Trans Mountain expansion, will allow for even more Alberta energy to reach international markets. It also represents one of the most significant steps toward Indigenous economic participation in Canada's energy sector through equity ownership.

Alberta and the federal government have also committed to partnering with industry to build the world's largest carbon capture utilization and storage project. Alberta bitumen will be the cleanest heavy oil on the planet displacing heavier emitting oil from Russia, Venezuela and Iran, and bringing better environmental and geopolitical outcomes.

This agreement restores investor confidence, cuts red tape, and strengthens Alberta's competitiveness. It gives Alberta's energy sector the stability and certainty needed for its success, and advances Canada's position as a global energy superpower.

There is still more work to do, this agreement is just a first step, but this agreement marks a major landmark and step forward. This is Alberta's moment of opportunity, and our government is ready to roll up our sleeves and continue to work on ensuring our province is the best place to live, work and raise a family.

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

GUTSFELD, Michael



Michael Gutsfeld cherished husband, father, grandfather and friend passed away peacefully on November 22, 2025, at the age of 63 in Strathmore, Alberta.

Mike was born February 10, 1962, in Hamilton Ontario. Mike's life was a testament to his love for his family, travelling, swimming, music and the great outdoors.

Mike is survived by his wife of 38 years Marcia (nee Douglas), their daughter Teren, and his pride and joy his grandson Brayden all of Strathmore. Mike is also survived by Stacey Robinson-Henry (Alan, Skyler, Dilen) of Brooks and Medicine Hat, Jimmy Robinson, Murray (Marilyn) Douglas and family of Calgary, James (Christina) Douglas and family of Chestermere and Strathmore.

Mike's life was marked by his love for fishing, hunting, boxer dogs, most water sports, he truly loved the outdoors and traveling. He was one not to sit idle. He could always be found planning the next great adventure, fixing things and tinkering around being a testament to his resourceful and inventive nature. Mike's memory will live on in the hearts of those he touched. He was born to Hilda and Anton (Tony) Gutsfeld with 2 older sisters, Barbara and Inglore all who predeceased him.

Mike was born in Hamilton, Ontario and continued to live in Hamilton through secondary school at Delta Secondary School. Delta Secondary School was added to the Hamilton's historical site, which Mike was able to attend in 2019. Mike moved with his parents to Alberta for a better living shortly after high school, settling in Rumsey, Alberta, where he worked at many different jobs for the MD of Starland and the Pig Improvement Company (PIC). Through this move to Alberta, he met his wife in Strathmore. On Nov. 19, 1987, they were married, had one daughter in 1991. And then in 2019, they welcomed a grandson. Mike attended SAIT in 1988 for Drafting and Design upon completion, he worked for various engineering companies in the city of Calgary. Finally, being employed at Shanahan's Building Specialties as a senior estimator for 20 years in Calgary. The company downsized in 2021 due to the Covid Pandemic and he was laid off for 2 years. Finally getting hired on to Allmar Inc. where he stayed until his death.

A cremation will take place and a funeral service will be planned for the spring.

Any Memorial Donations may be made to the following: Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (ARRCS), Inclusion Alberta, Diabetes Canada or The Canadian Cancer Society.

To send condolences, please visit Mike's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

Obituary

MERCER, Eleanor "Ellie"



It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Eleanor "Ellie" Mercer, age 73, of Cochrane, Alberta, on November 22, 2025, following complications from a stroke.

Born on October 24, 1952, in Vita, Manitoba, to Michael and Nellie, Ellie lived a life defined by strength, kindness, and unwavering love. To know her was truly a gift. Her greatest joy was her family, and she poured her heart into every moment spent with them. Ellie's warmth, laughter, and generosity touched all who had the privilege of crossing her path.

Ellie leaves behind her devoted husband of 51 years, Doug Mercer; her three children and their spouses—Kyle and Erin Mercer, Scott and Lauren Mercer, Kelsey and Matt Mercer-Slingsby; and her four cherished grandchildren, Kaylin, Keira, Quintin, and Juliana. She is also survived by her brothers and sisters in law Mike and Gail Baziuk, Bill and Maureen Baziuk, and Dan and Linda Baryliuk. Ellie was predeceased by her brother Fred Baziuk. Her legacy of love and resilience will live on in each of them.

At this time, there will be no formal memorial service. The family kindly requests that no flowers or gifts be sent. For those wishing to honor Ellie's memory, donations may be made in her name to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Ellie will be deeply missed, but her spirit will forever remain in the hearts of those who loved her.

MEMORIAM

Peter Armstrong

Sunrise Sunset
Nov 24/1943 Dec 5/2012

To Dad (pops)...remembering you is easy,
we do it everyday.

Missing you is the heartache that never goes away.

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure.

You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.

We know you and Mike are now enjoying a pint together.

~

Thank you again so much to his friends in Strathmore.

Love always Glenn, Cherie, Trinity, your great grandson

Darhyn, Tyra, Jordyn & Lida.

BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday

A "young" man living outside of Strathmore with his wife and son, plus a number of horses and his favorite Ford truck is turning the BIG "65". When you see him, let him know he hasn't changed much from his picture!!

All the best from his somewhat older but wiser sibling.

THANK YOU



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Strathmore Times

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Strathmorearts.com

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NOTICES

Hussar Seed Cleaning Co-op Ltd.

AGM

Tuesday, December 9

1 p.m.

Hussar Curling Rink

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.

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TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

COMING EVENT



Seniors Christmas Party

Sunday, December 7
1pm at the
Strathmore Civic Centre -
Chuck Mercer Room

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.

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

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admin@brotech.ca

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thevaultcc2021@gmail.com | 403-901-1654
Carolyn Steeves,
thevault.carolynsteeves@gmail.com

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Website: www.davidbextemp.ca
Toll Free: 1-844-241-0020

David Bexte, MP
Bow River

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Upcoming Council Meetings

December 03, 2025 | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting of Council
December 10, 2025 | 6 p.m. Committee of the Whole
December 17, 2025 | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting of Council

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. There is ample public seating and additional standing room if needed. You can also watch livestreamed meetings online as they happen, or catch up later on YouTube.

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. This program is accessible for everyone regardless of income level. For more information visit Strathmore.ca/GoodFoodBox

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. By adopting a hydrant and keeping them clear all year long, you're helping firefighters help others.

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.

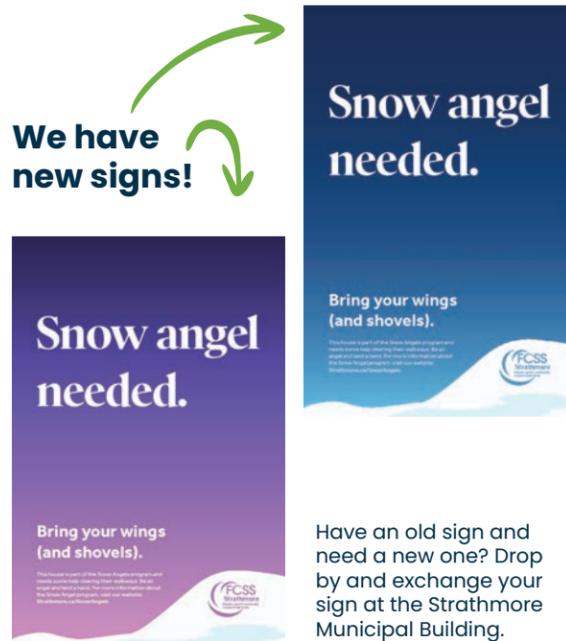
Our Planning Application Dashboard (PAD) is an interactive map that makes it easy to stay informed about local developments. Whether it's a proposed new subdivision, commercial development, or secondary suite, you can now see where projects are happening, what stage they're at, and key details about applications received on January 1, 2025 or later.

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. Shoveling those same sidewalks is an even more daunting challenge. This is where the Strathmore Snow Angels Program comes in.

Need the Snow Angels help? Call FCSS at **403-934-9090** to request a sign or visit the Strathmore Municipal Building. Visit Strathmore.ca/SnowAngels for more information.



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. Here's what to know about snow removal this season.

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. Note: the Town does not maintain strata properties, private roads, Wheatland Trail, or the Trans-Canada.

Snow clearing focuses on keeping emergency routes safe and restoring reasonable travel conditions as quickly as possible. Our ability to respond to changing weather conditions must always be weighed against the availability and cost of resources. Each year, Council reviews our *Winter Maintenance Policy* to set service levels and guide our snow response.

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. Crews stay on priority routes until they're safe, then move to second and third priority roads.

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 Christmas Spirit.

Check out our website, Strathmore.ca/SpiritofChristmas2025 for what's happening this month.