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Page 2



Golden tournament

Ag Society expands its horizons

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore and District Agricultural Society announced, Feb. 15, its campaign to raise funds for the construction of a Western Events and Cultural Centre in Wheatland County.

An announcement event was hosted at the Strathmore Golf Club, with members of local governments, the community, and stakeholders invited to learn about the ambitions for the project.

Ryan Schmidt, CEO of the Strathmore and District Agricultural Society, said his team was excited to show off their progress so far of the facility design, and talk about its future benefit to the region.

“We have been working on this for almost five years now, so to finally get to the point where we have got everything lined up that we can go out and raise the capital for it is a huge achievement,” he said. “Obviously this year ahead, raising the capital, there is a lot of hard work to be done there, but we feel confident that we can make this happen.”

The Strathmore and District Agricultural Society is aiming to have a total of \$20 million raised by the conclusion of 2024 in order to finance the construction of the facility.

Schmidt explained the facility will serve to provide a space within Wheatland County for year-round event hosting, be it from rodeo sporting events to powwows to concerts – something that is currently lacking at the outdoor Ag Society grounds in Strathmore.

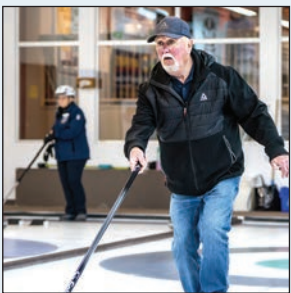
“The facility (will) bring so much to the region, and it is not just an argument about having a space for western events or for cultural and performing arts activities,” he said. “This is about creating an economic development hub in Strathmore, (and) a place to attract tourism as the gateway to the Canadian Badlands.”

The greater facility aims to feature amenities that are rare commodities amongst western events venues. This includes a 37,900 square foot horse hotel, 5,500 square foot multi-use and roughstock arena, and 150 electrified RV and camper stalls.

In addition to being an events venue, the facility also intends to serve as a practical space for hosting rodeo and ranching schools for future generations to learn about sports and industries.

Continued on Page 4

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Stirling Provincial hosts

STRATHMORE TIMES

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New foundation

Astokomii Smith performs a dance during the Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman Foundation announcement, Feb. 16. The foundation will be spearheading the second annual Lead By Example powwow in June, and hosted their sponsors as a way to announce the formation of the foundation, as well as to thank them for their support. See Page 6 for more coverage.

John Watson Photo



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Striking gold at home

The Strathmore Spartans senior boys and girls basketball teams hosted their annual tournament Feb. 16-17. Both teams captured the gold medal in their respective divisions, as the Lady Spartans defeated École H. J. Cody High School 80-45 in the final, while the boys beat Fort McMurray's Holy Trinity 87-71.

Joe Lepage Photos

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Shasta Seniors Living presents long-term care facility update to county

JOHN WATSON
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, Doug Murphy, president and CEO of Shasta Seniors Living, presented to the Wheatland County Public Presentation Committee.

The purpose of the presentation was to provide an update on and answer questions regarding the seniors' care community building proposed to see construction in Strathmore.

"We have had a lot of questions about the project, a lot of misinformation, and we just wanted a forum to talk about what we are doing, what we have done to get here and how we see ourselves going forward," said Murphy. "We are doing similar things (to the Hospice Society) but in a different way. It is good to clarify the difference between what the lodge is and what our care building is because they are completely separate people who will live there."

The timing of presenting before the county now was intentional, as Shasta Seniors Living will soon be starting on the geotechnical and environmental evaluations necessary prior to construction of the facility beginning.

In October 2020, Shasta Seniors Living Society responded to a request for expression of interest and qualifications from Alberta Health Services for the provision of supportive living, long-term care and hospice spaces in a host of locations across Alberta, one of which being in Strathmore.

Shasta received a signed commitment letter for

funding 54 long-term care spaces, 18 supportive living level four spaces, 18 supportive living memory care spaces, and six hospice spaces with Alberta Health Services in October 2023. These will be fully funded by Alberta Health Services, with accommodation rates set by Alberta Health.

Approval has been granted for Shasta to purchase 3.25 acres of the Strathmore Health Centre land. Land investigation, appraisal, subdivision, and sale is anticipated to be finalized in June.

"We have had a number of meetings with the Town of Strathmore, all generally positive. Our interactions with the planning and development department have been exceptional; they are very knowledgeable, very responsive, and we are going to enjoy working with them very much," said Murphy.

Despite serving a similar purpose to the facility which the Wheatland and Area Hospice Society aims to construct in Strathmore, Murphy added he does not anticipate adverse or hostile competition with them.

Plans for the project propose a three storey, 87,520 square foot facility, including an 8,000 square foot hospice.

The anticipated cost of the facility is currently estimated at approximately \$36.5 million, and aims to see a construction period of two years, opening in early 2026.

The Strathmore facility will be the fifth such development of this nature completed by Shasta in Alberta, with other locations located in Edmonton, Medicine Hat, and Airdrie.

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Vault Cultural Collective hosts Kyle Brittain to speak about high-impact weather

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Kyle Brittain, a freelance video journalist and storm chaser, gave a presentation at The Vault Cultural Collective, Feb. 16, about his adventures, and extreme weather events across Canada.

His presentation marked his first time in Strathmore, attending at the request of The Vault to come out.

“It is quite a niche career ... I work professionally in weather and have for six years now. I basically just take my meteorological knowledge, experience as a storm chaser and former wildland fire fighter to get out there and document high impact weather,” said Brittain. “I want to be able to try and inform the public, as well as to try to help keep them prepared for intense weather events.”

Brittain explained his work largely consists of capturing footage of weather events as they occur, reporting on what is happening in the atmosphere, and attempting to forecast how the weather events will develop.

He added weather has been effectively a life-long passion, which is what eventually lead him to the career choice.

“It sort of came naturally as a result of liking weather, so I decided to start chasing storms. I

thought it would be cool to work as a firefighter for a few years, and then they started to come together,” he said. “You start to realize how much you love to witness, observe, and document these sorts of displays of nature and I think it is a matter of falling into place over time.”

Brittain said he hosts similar presentations at libraries and schools in a variety of capacities. For audiences, he explained they are often interested because it is uncommon to have access to first person, on the ground accounts of extreme natural events.

An understanding of meteorology and atmospheric science aids in the profession and his ability to effectively be in the right place at the right time to witness weather events.

“I love it. That is why I do it. I like to share those experiences with others who will not be going out there and documenting that, or seeing that up close,” he said. “I think it is important to educate the public as well about these type of severe weather events, especially here in Alberta where we are no strangers to high-impact weather.”

Photography, he added, is another aspect of his career he said came about by happenstance, following a train of thought that if he was going to travel to document high impact weather, it would be a good idea to learn how to capture still images.

Premier Smith to attend Surface Rights Society AGM

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland and Area Surface Rights Society will be hosting Alberta Premier Danielle Smith at their Annual General Meeting (AGM), March 5, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Standard Hall.

“Our March AGM, (the way) we planned it, we had a meeting in November in Calgary with Premier Smith and a number of ministers, and a couple of MLAs. It was a really good opportunity to have a chat with a group of our government officials,” said Spencer Hilton, chairman of the Wheatland and Area Surface Rights Society. “We were specifically talking about service rights, and I think specifically what is of concern to us right now is ... oil and gas operators in this area wanting to cut back on their surface leases.”

During the AGM meeting, Hilton said the topic of surface rights and leases to farmers will be discussed at length.

He added he is excited that Smith has indicated to the Surface Rights Society that she is in support of their dilemma.

“We are very fortunate, I think, to have a Premier who ... is a landowner advocate. We are very fortunate that we have the leader of our province who has that background and that understanding,” he said. “Obviously, it is going to take some really good communication and some hard work, but

we feel that there is an opportunity here where we can possibly sit down with energy companies ... and to sit down with the government ... and try to figure out what we can do to go forward.”

Ongoing concerns regarding surface rights, as Hilton described, are between oil and gas entities leasing land from farmers to extract material from the ground, and the farmers who own lands being operated on.

These disputes are largely in regards to compensation to the farmers for use of their lands, given the invasive nature of crude extraction, as well as the loss of farmable land due to the presence of extraction equipment.

“Typically, you renegotiate (every cycle) just like as if you’re leasing (to) somebody or you’re renting somebody’s house or typically you would anticipate that there would probably be an increase because nothing ever seems to go down,” said Hilton. “Landowners from all the people who we have talked to and all the experiences that we have had ... almost completely have been excellent to their tenants ... the farmers, what they have said is they have not asked for an increase (in compensation) over two to three cycles. And if a cycle is five years, that is 10 to 15 years.”

Hilton added as negotiations are ongoing, there is not yet a clear resolution date, nor conditions that have been set for resolving the dispute.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Golf scores
- 5. Shock therapy
- 8. Ballplayer's tool
- 11. Quench one's thirst
- 13. Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
- 14. Every one of two or more things
- 15. Member of Muslim people
- 16. Play
- 17. Type of cheese
- 18. Type of lounge chair
- 20. ___ King Cole, musician
- 21. Fellows
- 22. North, Central and South
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Georgia rockers
- 32. Cryptocurrency
- 33. Narrow path along a slope
- 38. Disallow
- 41. Joyousness
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Evoke emotions
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
- 50. Sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
- 63. Extremity
- 64. Post

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pacific Standard Time
- 2. Protruding ridge on nematodes
- 3. Indian king
- 4. Type of milk
- 5. One who brings home the bacon
- 6. More comprehensible
- 7. Connected with sense of touch
- 8. Red mineral
- 9. Breezed through
- 10. Therefore
- 12. Supplement with difficulty
- 14. Early kingdom of Syria
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Domesticated animal
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Snakelike fish
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Economically-minded aircraft
- 34. When you hope to get somewhere
- 35. Tease
- 36. Actress Gretchen
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Consume
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Improved something
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 47. Fix
- 48. Evergreen tree genus
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Major C. European river
- 54. Long, narrow strap
- 58. Male parent

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Great hosts

The Alberta 55 Plus hosted the Stirling Provincial Championship at the Strathmore Curling Club Feb. 16-18. Local players Josh Binns and Jim Adair won silver, while Gus Cammer and Fred Swedes took fourth place. Other local teams who competed were Ed Beaudin and Dick Frayn, along with Maryanne Pinchbeck and Arlene Wahl, who stepped in when a team couldn't attend.

Joe Lepage Photos



Hospice Society provides update to County PPC

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Joni McNeely, president of the Wheatland and Area Hospice Society, presented to the Wheatland County Public Presentation Committee, Feb. 13, regarding the progress of their ongoing build project.

The facility, which will be developed in partnership with the Wheatland Housing Management Body, aims to see construction in Strathmore, which will provide both a rural hospice and a congregate living space for seniors no longer able to live independently.

"Today was our first of many visits to councils to express to them our progress in the Hospice Society's build project," she said. "It is very exciting because we have raised a total

of \$4.1 million, so we are almost at the point where we are able to pay for our part of the building. The next phase of our fundraising will specifically address furniture, fixtures, and equipment in the hospice."

The objective of the Feb. 13 presentation before the committee was to inform council of the Hospice Society's progress on their capital build, as well as to address the anticipated operating costs of the facility.

McNeely explained the Hospice Society is looking towards Alberta Health and their new restructuring into continuing care to aid in their operations, as well as to create other avenues for financing staffing costs.

Anticipated costs to see the facility constructed are approximately \$53 million. Of this, 12 per cent will be paid for as capital down by the Hospice Society over 50 years. The remainder of the budget will be provided upfront through provincial and federal loans and grants.

"In the past, there have been four or five different models of operational funding for different hospices across the province, so rather than feeling sorry for ourselves, we are very excited because there are so many choices available," said

McNeely. "I will be presenting to all the town councils, as well as all the Lions Clubs, and then finally, once the Snowbirds come back, we are hoping to present to the communities to let them know where we are in our progress."

McNeely added the Hospice Society is precisely on target as far as where they intended to be regarding financing and project development at this time.

At this stage, the Hospice Society is waiting only on the resolution of grant application funding, which, following a delay, should be released within the next month. That will catapult the project to its final phase of mortgage application funding through the Canadian Housing Mortgage Corporation.

McNeely did not specify when exactly the Hospice Society aims to have shovels in the ground, though once started, the build is anticipated to take place over 20 to 24 months.

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Thought for the Week
~
Could it be that those who forget history are condemned to repeat the mistakes of the past, and knowing our history gives us the opportunity to make entirely new mistakes?

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The Strathmore and District Agricultural Society officially announced their capital campaign to finance the western events center intended for construction in Wheatland County. Local dignitaries, sponsors and members of the public were invited to the announcement, Feb. 15 to learn more about the project.

John Watson Photo

Ag Society launches ambitious capital campaign

Continued from Page 1

"Facilities like this ... that can attract large events are very few and far between, so we are talking about people coming from all over Canada, even the United States and around the world, to come and compete at this facility," said Schmidt.

The goal is to see shovels in the ground and construction to begin in early 2025, and to see the facility officially opened in late 2026.

More information about the project is available through the Strathmore and District Agricultural Society.



Sacred Heart Church hosted Mardi Gras at Holy Cross Collegiate on Feb. 13. Free pancakes, sausages and refreshments were offered to celebrate the night before Ash Wednesday. Traditional pinatas were also supplied for children to crack open.
John Watson Photos

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Sacred Heart Church celebrates Mardi Gras

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The night before Ash Wednesday, which marked the beginning of Lent for the Catholic faith, the Sacred Heart Church hosted a pancake dinner at Holy Cross Collegiate to celebrate Mardi Gras.

“It is a day characterized by the fact that we take ash from the burned palm branches that we used at a previous celebration earlier in the year and we put those ashes on our head in the shape of a cross as a sign of our devotion to Christ,” said Father Cristino Bouvette of Sacred Heart Church.

“It is also a symbol to us that we are sinners and that we are in need of repentance. These 40 days of Lent are how we mark that period of time that we are trying to undergo some conversion and repentance.”

Mardi Gras, from French, translates to “Fat Tuesday,” and refers to the idea of needing to get rid of stored meat and lard and fasting from those for 40 days.

Members of the parish also invited friends and peers from outside the church to also participate in the celebration, which featured activities for the kids, traditional pinatas, and a speech given by Bouvette.

“In the Catholic culture, the idea behind fasting is that by depriving oneself of something that is good in itself ... we are showing a sign of sacrifice ... that is motivated by an awareness of our sin,” said Bouvette. “Because we know we are sinners, and because we are in need of God’s mercy, by performing voluntarily this act of sacrifice, we are trying to enliven within ourselves a spirit of repentance and conversion.”

The conclusion of Lent comes with the celebration of Easter, at which point in the Catholic lore, is the time of Jesus Christ being resurrected from the dead.

Bouvette added hosting pancake breakfasts and similar events is nothing strange to the Sacred Heart Church parish, though this is the first occasion celebrating Mardi Gras in this fashion.

The goal, however, would be to see Mardi Gras celebrated annually in a similar fashion. Going forward, the Sacred

Heart Church will have the capacity to do so out of their own church building.

“I get the sense that this will be probably something everyone will look forward to doing on an annual basis,” said Bouvette. “Ash Wednesday moves every year because the date of Easter is not consistent, but (it) is always the night before Ash Wednesday. It doesn’t matter what day it falls, there will always be a Mardi Gras.”



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If you are traveling this year, become familiar with any diseases that might occur at your destination. Look into what immunization needs are required...typhoid, influenza, malaria, COVID-19, and hepatitis vaccines...based on the requirements of each country. Plan early because some vaccines may require multiple doses.

Here’s another “association is not causation” situation. A large study of adults with Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) suggested the disorder could be a risk factor for dementia. They found that those with RLS were significantly more likely to develop dementia over ten years compared to those without RLS. It’s the symptoms of RLS... poor sleep, depression, anxiety, poor diet and low oxygen levels...which are also risk factors for dementia. This information could allow for earlier diagnosis of dementia.

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Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman Foundation announced

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Melodie Ayoungman, who spearheaded the creation of the Lead By Example powwow in 2023, announced alongside a board of directors, the creation of the Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman Foundation.

The announcement of the organization, which boasts support from the Town of Strathmore and Siksika Nation, was made Feb. 16, at the Strathmore Civic Centre.

"Our family thought long and hard about continuing forward with the Lead By Example powwow. With so many people approaching our family from Strathmore, our community, and from all directions, we decided we need to do this. This is important," said Ayoungman. "We need to change the face of racism and bring our communities together in a positive light and continue on this path because it was such a huge success."

Kristian Ayoungman, to whom the foundation and powwow are dedicated, lost his life after being shot in 2019 following a dispute over cigarettes.

Four years following his death, the first annual Lead By Example powwow took place at the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre, with over 2,000 people attending from across Canada and the United States.

Moving forward, the second annual Lead By Example powwow is scheduled to be hosted in June at the Strathmore and

District Agricultural Society grounds in order to expand its operational capacity.

"So many people had wanted to come last year and we were sold out," said Ayoungman. "The building capacity limited the amount of people who could come, so I said we need a bigger location and this way, everyone can come."

In addition to the competitive powwow dances, the event will also feature an Indian Relay, and use of the entertainment stage over the course of three days.

Prior to the start of the powwow, the Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman Foundation will be doing cultural sharing with surrounding local schools. Ayoungman said the invitation has been extended to Golden Hills School Division, and to all the Siksika Nation schools to bring students out to learn about First Nations history.

"Here is an opportunity for people to learn a little bit more about First Nations culture, the Blackfoots who are right beside them, (and) our Siksika community," she said. "We want to make it fun and exciting and this is something that has been a long time needed and we are looking forward to bringing our communities together because of Kristian and his legacy and how he lived his life."

During the announcement of the Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman Foundation, plaques were handed out to the sponsors as a way to thank them for their contributions.

The Lead By Example Powwow is scheduled to take place June 6-9.



The Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman Foundation announced their formation, as well as hosted their sponsors as a thanks for their support, Feb. 16, at the Strathmore Civic Centre. The foundation will be the keystone organization spearheading the continuation of the annual Lead By Example Powwow

John Watson Photos



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.

- March 5: Council Meeting**
- March 12: Municipal Planning Commission**
- March 28: Committee of the Whole**

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

2024 Wheatland Wind Community Benefit Grant

The application period for the 2024 Wheatland Wind Community Benefit Grant is now open!

The Community Benefit Grant is available to groups such as local registered charities, not-for-profit societies, organizations, associations, and schools.

Grant applications for up to \$10,000 are being accepted until March 1, 2024.

For more information, visit our website and APPLY TODAY!

<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/community-funding-opportunities/>

Drought Resilient Crop Production

Strathmore Municipal Library (85 Lakeside Blvd, Strathmore)

February 28th, 2024 (9:00am to 4:00pm)

Cost: \$25 (coffee breaks & lunch included)

Take part in this opportunity to learn about enduring extended drought conditions in our region.

Understanding Soil Moisture
Jack Payne, Ultimate Yield Management Institute

Soil Management for Drought Resiliency
Rob Dunn, Consultant, FarmWise Inc.

Drought Management Producer Panel
Practical solutions for managing drought conditions

Irrigation: maximizing the use of every inch
Len Hingley, Irrigation Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Crop Systems for Managing Drought Risk
Rob Dunn, Cropping System Specialist at FarmWise Inc. and Jack Payne

Building your Farm Resiliency
AFSC

Register here! cropdrought.eventbrite.com

2024 Farmer Pesticide Certificate Course

March 5th Wheatland County Administration Building

When: March 5th, 2024

Where: Wheatland County Administration Building

Cost: \$100 + tax (lunch included)

Instructors: Dr. Bill Hamman & Erin McIlwraith

Register at: <https://2024pest.eventbrite.com>

For more information contact: agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca

Note: Recertification is no longer an option. The course must be retaken every 5 years.

The Farmer Pesticide Certification Course is a tool intended to help farmers reduce risks associated with pesticide use. This course is recommended under the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan but is also mandatory for farmers who wish to use restricted pesticides that require certification, such as aluminum phosphide.

Engaging in online home study for the course would be beneficial. The online training is available at the following link, or you can simply search for "Farmer Pesticide Training" on the Alberta Agriculture & Forestry website. www.alberta.ca/farmer-pesticide-certification.aspx

The Certificate will be sent to you by Alberta Agriculture after successfully passing a closed book exam at end of day.

Dr. Bill Hamman and Erin McIlwraith are certified trainers who have been teaching pesticide application legislation, applicator, and environmental safety for many years.

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

Wheatland County Business Directory

Have you heard? Wheatland County now has an expansive online business directory!

If your business, regardless of size, is based within Wheatland County, don't miss out - explore our new investwc.ca website and join today!



Intro game

Strathmore Minor Hockey Association hosted a game for the Intro to Hockey program when they welcomed Drumheller for an exhibition game on Feb. 16 at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Joe Lepage Photos



Braves strike oil

The Wheatland Braves used an eight-goal second period to blitz the Okotoks Oilers 15-0 on Feb. 17 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The local U13AA team will now host the Airdrie Lightning on Feb. 24 (7:30 p.m.) at the Hussar Arena before the rubber match the following day in Airdrie.

Joe Lepage Photos



The Gordon Family is pleased and excited to announce our retirement from the Strathmore Dairy Queen on March 1 2024. Upon reflection, we have a great deal of pride and fond memories of all the staff that we have had over the past 32 years. It was an honor to see them grow up and move onto their own careers and have their own families. We have been lucky enough to have some second generation staff the past few years come though our doors. It was great getting to know them and making some new memories with them as well. We would like to say thank you to our current staff, some who have been with us for many years, and we wish them all the best in the future.

We proudly built this location at the end of 1991, and opened March 9,1992. We will always be grateful for the loyal support, patronage and community spirit that was brought into our store every day and will not be forgotten. We have some great memories of all of our valued customers that we have had the pleasure to know over the many years, some we knew as toddlers, to teenagers and now adults with their own families. We will definitely miss seeing all of your friendly faces in the store.

We would also like to say thank you to the many trades and businesses who have helped keep us running throughout the years.

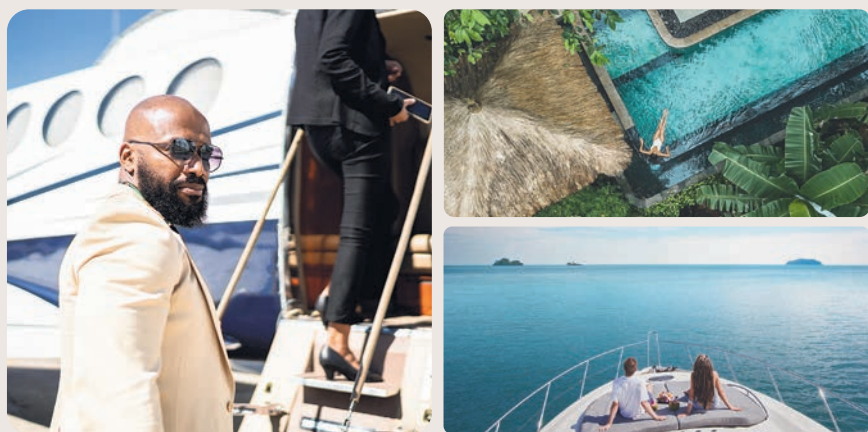
We are delighted to hand the store over to another long time Dairy Queen family, the Picton/Anaka Group.

We wish them all of the best with as many years of success and happiness that this store has brought to us and our family.

Sheila Gordon, the late Monte Gordon, Don Gordon, Rhonda Powell & Family



\$4.8 MILLION IN PRIZING!
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FEB 29, 2024

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Early Bird Draw: March 12, 2024. Main Draw: March 28, 2024. Licence 665859. Tickets must be purchased in Alberta. Must be 18+ to purchase. Please play responsibly.

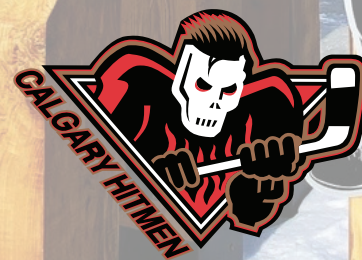


WINTERFEST

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2024, 3-6:30 PM

ATTEND THE EVENT FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

GIVEAWAY



GAME DAY:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024, 7:00PM



U7 Blue Gorillas



Storm U9B White



Storm U9A



U7 Wheatland Wranglers



U7 Wheatland Wranglers



U7 Blue Sharks



U9 Wheatland Wranglers

Great hosts

The Strathmore Minor Hockey Association hosted their U7/U9 tournament Feb. 18-19 at the Strathmore Family Centre and Standard Arena. The tournament featured three local U7 teams, five local U9 teams and a U9 team from Standard.

Joe Lepage Photos



U7 Blue Sharks



U7 Blue Gorillas



Storm U9A



Storm U9B Black



Storm U9B Black



Storm U9B White



Storm U9C



U9 Wheatland Wranglers



U9 Standard Coyotes



Storm U9C



U9 Standard Coyotes



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- Receive recipe guides & taste all the meals prepared.

Cost: Classes are FREE
Dates & Time: Feb. 28 & Mar. 06, 2024 / 5:30-7:00pm
Location: 112 Lakeside Blvd. Strathmore
Register interest or request information by emailing sdastrathmorechurch@gmail.com

Attendance by registration only. Limited space.





Supporting veterans

Melanie (l-r) and Lindsay Rohl, the owners of Tim Hortons – Shell location, were recognized by Kevin Armitage for their support of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 10. The local Tim Hortons supplies coffee and muffins for the Legion’s “Buddy Check” – a coffee and comradeship program operating the second and fourth Saturday of each month in Veterans Hall. Veterans gather for friendship and support among members and non-members of the Legion.

Photo Courtesy of Jennifer Franssen



Wheatland Kings assistant coach Derek Riley (l) and head coach Doug Raycroft (r) posed with overage players Ethan Van Egmond (l-r), Cole Walker and Kage Yellowfly after the team’s final game of the season on Feb. 17 in Red Deer.

Photo Courtesy of Cody Holdaway

Kings fail to make post season

MARIO PRUSINA
Times Editor

Despite finishing the regular season with a record of over .500, the Wheatland Kings failed to make the postseason for the first time in franchise history.

In a battle with the High River Flyers for the final playoff spot, the local Junior B team controlled their own destiny after an 8-4 win on Jan. 26 in High River.

However, since that pivotal game, the Kings went 2-2-1 the rest of the season, which included a crushing 6-2 loss to the Flyers on home ice on Feb. 3.

Meanwhile, the Flyers soared after their Jan. 26 loss, closing out the season with a 7-0 record, finishing the season with 43 points, and locking the final playoff spot in the very tough South Division.

The Kings, who posted an 18-17-3 record, finished in last place in the division.

“We just let it slip away from us – it’s kind of a disappointing end for sure because we really felt we had a contender of a team,” said head coach Doug Raycroft. “You gotta give your hats off to High River – they got on a run at the right time and got really good goaltending at the end of the year. They’re a solid team and any team in the South can beat any other team in the South (on any given night).”

To show the discrepancy between the North and

South Divisions, the Kings finished one point less than Mountainview, the second-place team in the North Division, who earned a first-round bye to start the post season.

The Kings, who were already eliminated from the playoffs, closed out their regular season with a 6-5 overtime road loss to Red Deer on Feb. 17. It also marked the final junior game for three overage players; Kage Yellowfly, Ethan Van Egmond, and Cole Walker. All three players will leave a void on the team going forward.

Yellowfly finished the season with 13 goals and 15 assists for 28 points in 30 games, while Van Egmond closed out the season with eight goals and eight assists in 33 games.

Walker, a stable all-round player, finished the season with four goals and nine assists in 36 games.

“Individually, they are all different,” said Raycroft. “Kage Yellowfly is one of the top players in the league ... he’s a goal scorer, a penalty killer and an all-round good defender too.”

“Cole Walker was a guy we played on defence and was in and out of the lineup last year, but we moved him to forward this year and he was just a solid player for us.”

“Ethan was a solid contributor for us ... he scored some goals, has a great shot and (was) a good leader in the dressing room.”

“We’re going to miss all three of those guys for sure.”

Carbon tax making life harder

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Last week, the federal government announced that it is rebranding the carbon tax to the “Canada Carbon Rebate” with an increase set once again on April 1, 2024. For five years, the carbon tax has been making life harder and more expensive for Albertans and Canadians, essentially increasing the cost of everything. In 2023, the Parliamentary Budget Officer determined that many Canadian families are paying more in carbon tax costs than they are getting back in rebates. Recent polling from Angus Reid highlighted that only 15 per cent of Canadians support the continuation of the carbon tax, with 42 per cent of Canadians “strongly opposed” to it. A further 17 per cent of Canadians, meanwhile, agreed the carbon tax should be cut for at least the next three years. As the carbon tax and the cost of living continue to weigh on the minds of Albertans, our government will continue advocating to keep life affordable and taxes low for all Albertans.

The President of the Treasury Board and Minis-

ter of Finance Nate Horner provided an update recently on a potential Alberta Pension Plan and stated that “throughout the first phase of engagement sessions, our government has heard loud and clear that Albertans want more information on the assets Alberta would be entitled to if the province withdrew from the Canada Pension Plan. Late last year, the federal government committed to asking the chief actuary of Canada to provide an opinion on Alberta’s share of CPP assets based on an interpretation of CPP legislation. Alberta’s government has been informed that the chief actuary will launch a panel to interpret the asset transfer formula in the Canada Pension Plan Act to inform the chief actuary’s calculation. The federal government has indicated this panel’s interpretation will be available this spring, and the final calculation from the chief actuary will be given to Alberta this fall.”

We continue to encourage all Albertans to submit their thoughts on a potential Alberta Pension Plan through the online workbook before the end of February.

Continued on Page 10

Library hosts assorted activities for reading week

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Municipal Library hosted a variety of activities geared towards students during the annual Reading Week.

The timing of Reading Week also coincided with Freedom to Read Week, which encouraged library patrons to check out banned and challenged books, aiming to promote discussion and access to information.

“We are doing a kind of passive program called Get Caught Reading a Banned Book, and that is just a fun (incentive) to come in and brag that you were reading one of these banned books,” said Laura Henderson, public services manager with the Strathmore Municipal Library. “That is also the focus of the event on Friday (Feb. 23) as well. It will focus on that freedom to read idea and access to information.”

Feb. 20, being the first day of scheduled programming after the library closed for Family Day, featured an activity to create a mixed media art piece, as well as to write a story to pair with it.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, students and attendees were given an intro to Dungeons and Dragons, and Magic the Gathering. The event aimed to introduce students to the games, hosted by veteran local players.

“What we love about those adventure games is their basis in literacy. We had a couple of local dads in the community doing an intro to Magic and D&D ... definitely those games are geared towards ages nine and older ... but we wanted to give kids an opportunity to explore those games with no expectations,” said Henderson. “Some of it is just going into a more organized Magic the Gathering event (which) is great, but maybe if you are young, you do not have a chance to just look at the cards and the game without playing it. This is just going to give (kids) an opportunity to listen and see and ask questions and have no expectations whatsoever.”

Objectively, the library’s programming through the week took on a theme of storytelling and engaging students in several different exercises related to that idea.

Henderson added the library aimed to be able to both offer activities that the community would be familiar with, as well as to take an opportunity to introduce patrons to new things.

“These are also activities that we wanted to put together in hopes of attracting like-minded people so that they can create relationships with others at these events and possibly take it somewhere else,” she said.

At the conclusion of the week, on Feb. 24, the Library launched its new teen book club, Book Dragons, which aims to increase teen programming, as well as to create an environment to encourage like-minded readers to meet. The first book being engaged with by the club is Daughter of the Deep, by Rick Riordan. The club aims to meet every two weeks for interested teens.

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Alberta launches new provincial tourism strategy

Continued from Page 9

Last week, Alberta's government launched a new long-term provincial tourism strategy that will help Alberta's visitor economy reach \$25 billion in yearly visitor expenditures by 2035. Each of the new strategy's five pillars will sustainably grow and diversify the economy, support good-paying jobs, and offer pathways for Indigenous peoples to share their heritage, stories and wisdom with Albertans and the world. By implementing the long-term provincial tourism strategy, Alberta's visitor economy will see a cumulative economic impact of \$203 billion in visitor expenditures, a \$159-billion impact to the province's GDP and 190,000 full-time equivalent jobs by 2035.

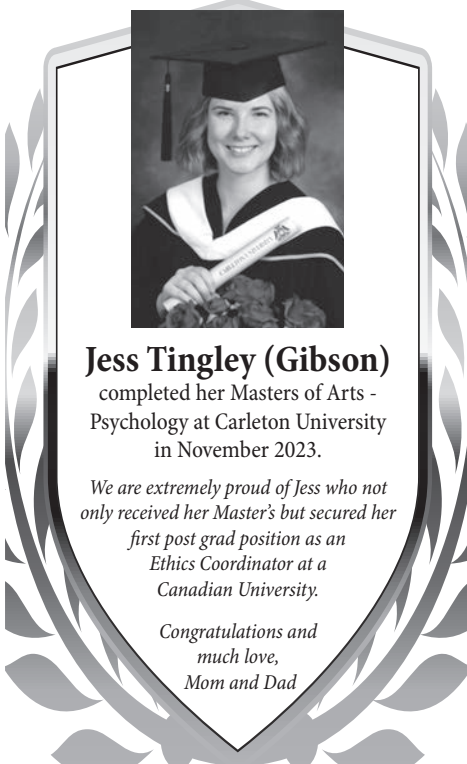
(Chantelle de Jonge is the MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore and the Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities)

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mark & Sherri Skibsted of Rosebud are excited to announce the engagement of their daughter, **TeddiAnn** to **Dayl Poulsen** son of Harvey & Della Poulsen, Dalum
Wedding to take place June 2024

TeddiAnn & Dayl



Jess Tingley (Gibson) completed her Masters of Arts - Psychology at Carleton University in November 2023.

We are extremely proud of Jess who not only received her Master's but secured her first post grad position as an Ethics Coordinator at a Canadian University.

Congratulations and much love, Mom and Dad

THANK YOU



Strathmore Musical Arts Society
A big thank you to

Sponsors: Alberta Foundation for the Arts
Corporate Sponsors: Dr. Procehshyn, Strathmore Home Hardware
Venue: Travelodge
Meal: Strathmore Station
Door Prizes: Strathmore Musical Arts Society, Starbucks, Strathmore Station, Pistil and Stems
Ticket Outlets: Assist Business Centre, Strathmore Home Hardware, connectFirst Credit Union, Pro Water Strathmore, The Vault Cultural Collective
Advertisers: More Country 104.5, Strathmore Times



The Strathmore Musical Arts Society would like to acknowledge with gratitude the generosity of the late Terry Procehshyn in support of our live musical events.

Check out our website for more upcoming shows!
Strathmorearts.com

COMING EVENTS

EDMONTON COIN SHOW & SALE - March 9/10 2024, 10 am - 4:30 pm. Lions Centre 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton. Free market evaluations. Dealers from across Canada * Auctions * Displays * WATCHES * Family friendly! www.edmontoncoinclub.com/shows.

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2024 AUCTION PROGRAM: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, Email Us at sales@switzersauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzersauction.com.

ANNOUNCEMENT

EGG FARMERS OF ALBERTA is pleased to announce that our New Entrant Program will be running in 2024! *FEBRUARY 22, 2024 - webinar information session #1; *MAY 1, 2024 - application window opens; *MAY 2, 2024 - webinar information session #2; *JUNE 25, 2024 - deadline for applications. For more information and to register for the town-hall webinars, please visit <https://eggs.ab.ca/healthy-farms/new-entrant-program/>

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to Creditors and Claimants

Estate of ELVIERA GERTRUDE SIMS who died on the December 15, 2022.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by March 29, 2024.

with STRATHMORE LAW
Attention: DAMAN K. GILL
at #101 318 3rd Avenue,
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.

COMING EVENTS



Come Help CELEBRATE **Ken Van Bavel's 90th Birthday!!!**

OPEN HOUSE
from 1:00 to 4:00pm
Saturday, February 24th
at the Strathmore Legion
(No gifts please)



Strathmore United Church

VINTAGE & TREASURES SALE
Plus Bake Sale & Quilting Table

Friday, April 26 - 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday, April 27 - 10 am - 4 pm

QUALITY DONATIONS WELCOME UNTIL APRIL 20
Soup or Chili & a Bun Available 11 am - 1 pm

FALL THRIFT SALE
September 26-28, 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary

ROSMUS, Brian Paul

January 18, 1954 - February 11, 2024

Brian Rosmus of Calgary, AB, passed away on Sunday, February 11, 2024, at the age of 70 years.

Brian was born in Kenora, ON, on January 18, 1954. He attended George Brown college to become a pipefitter and millwright. After 25 years, he retired from Algoma Steel.

Brian was an avid golfer, skier, and animal lover who spent a lot of time volunteering for animal rescue charities. He loved to travel, explore, and meet new people. Brian was a family-oriented man and a devoted caregiver for each of his parents before they passed. He will be most remembered for his giving nature, love of animals, and care for his family.

Brian is survived by his brothers, Joe of Vancouver, BC, and Hugh (Lynda) of Calgary, AB; numerous proud nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; and his loyal companion Ellie, a black lab mix. Brian was predeceased by his parents, Cecelia, and Leonard Rosmus.

The family would like to express their gratitude and send a special thank you to the staff at Chinook Intercare Hospice for their care and compassion. Condolences, memories, and photos may be shared and viewed with Brian's family at www.MHFH.com.

In living memory of Brian Rosmus, a tree will be planted in the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area by McInnis & Holloway Funeral Homes.



Obituary



KROON, Gordon Franklin

Born August 10, 1922. Died February 11, 2024

We are sad to announce the passing of our father, grandfather and great grandfather Gordon Kroon. He left us suddenly on Sunday evening February 11th in his residence at the Prince of Peace Retirement Village. He was surrounded by many members of his family. Gordon was 101 years old.

Gordon was born in Standard, the second child of Frank and Hannah (Schmutte) Kroon. He is predeceased by his parents, his two brothers, Jean, and Babe (Harris) Kroon, his sister Wilda (Pashak), and his wife Thelma. He is survived by his children Gerry, (Ruth) Kroon, Gail (Bryan) McKenzie and Gwen (Arthur) Tellier, his grandchildren, Sebastian, Cai'lin, Kimberly, Pamela, Chelsey, and Pascale, and great grandchildren, Isla, Daphne, Cody, Sarah, Riley, and Gage.

Gordon left home at age sixteen and worked at various jobs across the prairies over the next 16 years. It was during this time that he met his future wife Thelma Long, in Winnipeg. They were married in 1952 and had a wonderful marriage of 64 years until mum's death in 2015. Dad moved his family back to Standard in 1954 after buying the Massey Harris dealership in town. This was the first of many successful businesses he started over the next 50 years. He was also a real pioneer and an early proponent of continuous cropping in the area. He was very instrumental in introducing liquid fertilizer to Alberta agriculture through his company, Cascade Fertilizers. He loved cattle and the land and was able to live his dream of ranching and farming.

Gordon was also very community minded and served as town councillor and mayor for many years. He was a charter member of the Standard Lions Club as well as the Big Horns Club. Hunting and fishing were his main hobbies and he continued to do both into his nineties. He also loved golf and was able to "shoot his age" many times. Pretty good for a guy with only one eye!!! Thus his nickname "Weakeyes!" Dad was a great family man and he spent a lot of time with all of us at his cabin in Hidden Valley as well as the home at Speargrass. He made friends easily and was always greeted with familiarity wherever he went.

The family will be having a Celebration of Life on April 6, 2024 at the Standard Community Hall from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. All are welcome.

Anyone caring to make a donation in honor of Gordon can contribute to the Wheatland Area Hospice Society at Wheatlandhospice.ca



WHEATLAND KINGS

Strathmore Times **PLAYER OF THE GAME**

Feb 17
Cole Walker



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TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

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FORM 1
Irrigation Districts Act
(Section 45(2) (b))

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

TAKE NOTE that the annual meeting of the irrigators of the Western Irrigation District will be held at the WID/MLS Community Room, 1000 Pine Street, Strathmore, Alberta, on the 10th day of April 2024, beginning at 1:30pm.

(a) present annual reports of:
(i) the chair on behalf of the Board,
(ii) the manager,
(iii) the auditor of the district, and
(iv) the maintenance of irrigation works of the district, and
(b) conduct any other business.

Dated at the Town of Strathmore, this 17th day of January 2024

Troy Tangedal,
General Manager
Returning Officer

PLEASE BRING YOUR ANNUAL REPORT WITH YOU TO THE MEETING.

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NOTICES



IRRIGATION ACRES

The Western Irrigation District currently accepting applications for Irrigation Acres. Current Distribution available is: 3,810 Acres.


The following factors apply:

- Limit of 150 acres per application(s). Multiple Applications may be submitted for future consideration/distribution rounds.
- A single application fee of \$400.00 will apply for the primary application(s) (additional applications will be taken for tracking purposes at the same time as the primary application).
- A 10% deposit of the total acre purchase due at the time of primary application(s) as a refundable deposit.
- The Capital Assets fee for the 2024 year is \$1,450.00 per acre and is due 60 days prior to irrigating, with a maximum deadline of March 31, 2025
- Members of an economic unit will be considered as a single application.
- All applications must meet the requirements of the Irrigation Districts Act and WID Bylaws.

We encourage all Irrigators who are expanding or planning to expand to apply to indicate your needs, so we can adequately plan for future demand.

Deadline for all applications to be received by is March 11th at 4:30pm.

Please go to our website www.wid.net or stop by the office for an application form. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact us at 403-934-3542.



NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

Irrigation Districts Act (Sections 54, 58, 59)
Local Authorities Election Act (Section 26)

Western Irrigation District in the Province of Alberta

Notice is hereby given that nominations are open from the date of this publication until 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 20th, 2024, for the election of candidates for the following offices and will be received at the location of the office of the Western Irrigation District set out below:

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Division Number
Director	1	3

Electoral Division 3 comprises Townships 21, 22 and 23 in Ranges 25, 26, 27 and 28 and Township 23 in Range 29.

Nominations must be in the form prescribed by the Irrigation Districts Act and can be obtained from the Western Irrigation District; location being A-1000 Pine Street, Strathmore.

DATED at the Town of Strathmore in the Province of Alberta, this 1st day of February 2024.

Troy Tangedal
General Manager
Returning Officer

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



Upcoming Council Meetings

February 21, 2024 | 6 P.M.

March 6, 2024 | 6 P.M.

March 13, 2024 | 6 P.M.

Regular Meeting of Council
Regular Meeting of Council
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. 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.

2023 Assessment Notices

The 2023 property assessment notices for 2024 property taxes were mailed February 15, 2024. Please review your notice carefully, as it contains specific information and notice of important deadlines. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your assessment, please contact the Town's assessor, Wildrose Assessment Services at 403-343-3357. The deadline to appeal your 2023 property assessment is April 23, 2024. Please note that property tax notices will be sent separately at a later date.

Please note: tax notices are mailed no later than May 31 of each year.



Understanding how property assessments relate to property taxes

Property taxes play a vital role in funding the essential services Strathmore residents count on, but they can be a complex subject, leaving many people puzzled about how they are determined. This guide aims to demystify the process and shed light on why a significant change in assessed property value does not always translate into a substantial change in property taxes.

Assessing property value: Property assessment involves the estimation of the market value of your property, which is used to determine your portion of municipal taxes and external requisitions. Residents' property taxes are directly tied to the assessed value of their properties. In Strathmore, property values are determined by the assessor who takes into account factors such as location, size, amenities, and recent comparable sales. Market value represents the likely price at which your property could be sold in a competitive and transparent market, as stipulated by provincial laws. Assessments and tax notifications are founded on property valuations as of July 1 of the preceding year and reflect the property's physical condition as of December 31. Market value, established by provincial legislation, serves as the standard for property valuation throughout Alberta.

Understanding tax rates: Once property values are assessed, Town Council sets a tax rate expressed as a percentage of the assessed value. This tax rate is determined by considering various budgetary needs and anticipated revenue requirements necessary for providing essential services to the community. The resulting tax rate, when combined with the assessed value, determines a resident's property tax bill.



Your property tax bill is comprised of two processes: preparing the assessments and setting the tax rate. The assessor's job is to prepare assessments. Town Council is responsible for setting the tax rate. Together, these values determine your tax bill.

How property taxes are calculated

ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE* **X** **PROPERTY TAX RATE** **=** **PROPERTY TAX BILL**

* Strathmore follows the Alberta model for property assessment and taxation. Your property assessment is based on the market value as of July 1 of the previous year. Since the Town values all properties every year in Strathmore, we use a mass appraisal method which means valuing similar groups of properties as of a specific date.

It may seem intuitive that a big change in your assessed value will result in a big change in your property taxes. For example, if your assessment goes up 20%, your taxes will go up 20%. However, this isn't always the case. The most important factor is not how much your assessed value has changed, but how your assessed value has changed relative to the average change for all properties in Strathmore.

How does the change in my assessment affect my property taxes?

How your residential property assessment changed from the previous year compared to the average assessment change of all residential properties in Strathmore determines the change in the share you'll pay of the Town's property tax requirement.

Lower than average change
Taxes increase **LESS THAN AVERAGE**

Similar to the average change
Taxes increase **BY THE AVERAGE**

Higher than average change
Taxes increase **MORE THAN AVERAGE**