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STRATHMORE

# TIMES

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1

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**KIC REALTY**

Page 5



Students shine

Page 6



Wonderful workshop

## Lions auction returns

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Lions Club has announced the return of their dinner and auction fundraiser, scheduled to take place Apr. 12.

Partnered with the Wheatland Leos, the event was announced on Dec. 19. Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the dinner and auction fundraiser was an annual event, and was among the Lions' largest events of the year.

"It happened usually around Easter every year and it is a nice dinner, a silent auction, a live auction, and (features) lots of ways to get involved to win prizes, bid on things, chat with your neighbours, (and) get to know people in the community," said Grace Schoute, who spoke on behalf of the Strathmore Lions Club. "It helps the Lions raise money for the projects that they target in the community. The last auction was two years ago, and before that, during COVID-19, they had gone online and done auctions."

Schoute explained the decision to host another auction in 2025 largely revolved around there being someone able to facilitate the hosting of the event.

As the Strathmore Lions Club has decreased in size and membership, remaining members who are getting older are less able to bring large events together.

"In 2024, there was a feeling that there just was not enough help to make it happen. In 2025, Brad Walls stepped up as auction chair, and we agreed to help, and he got some other support in the Lions Club and we are trying to put it together and make it happen for them," said Schoute. "It is a big deal. The Lions Club are instrumental in the community, building the outdoor rink, building the swimming pool, and helping the Handi-Bus; they had the first ambulance, they built the splash park, they built the skate park. All of the things happening in the community are usually by way of the Lions Club."

Throughout its history in the local community, the Strathmore Lions Club has donated approximately \$5.5 million to local programs and initiatives.

The goal of the 2025 Dinner and Auction fundraiser is to raise \$50,000 in net profit, which would then be filtered back into the local community.

All of the auction items will have been donated from across the community and from locally operating businesses.

Ticket sales will begin in mid-January. The Strathmore Lions Club is also actively seeking sponsors for the event.



## Enjoying the great outdoors

It was all smiles as the town's Lions Regional Outdoor Rink was officially opened on Dec. 28. The Strathmore Parks Department will flood the naturally iced rink for the community to use.

Joe Lepage Photo

### STRATHMORE TIMES

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**WHEATLAND COUNTY**

### Upcoming Meetings

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

**January 14: Municipal Planning Commission**  
**January 14: Council Meeting**  
**January 15: ASB Meeting**

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

**WHEATLAND COUNTY INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR 2025 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUNDING**

Wheatland County recognizes that its residents utilize various recreational, cultural and other community enhancement facilities and resources and has established the Community Enhancement Fund to provide financial support for such venues and activities.

The Community Enhancement Fund provides grant funding from Wheatland County to enhance, promote, and support groups and organizations that bring a broad range of enjoyment, benefit, beautification, recreation, entertainment, participation, and enhancement projects to Wheatland County. The program is intended to invest tax payer dollars annually to support recreational, cultural and other community activities, facilities, and resources that are utilized by Wheatland County residents.

- **How to Apply:** Applications and Guidelines for the Community Enhancement Fund are available at the Wheatland County Office and on the County website: [www.wheatlandcounty.ca/ceb](http://www.wheatlandcounty.ca/ceb)
- **Deadline:** Applications must be post marked on or before **January 31, 2025.**

*Please note that eligibility for 2025 funding is dependent on filing all previous funding reports with Wheatland County by January 31, 2025.*

For more information please contact Jessica Salmon at 403-361-2021 or at [ceb@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:ceb@wheatlandcounty.ca)

**Christmas Closure Dates**

The Wheatland County Administration Office, Agricultural Service Board, and Public Works Shop will be closed

**December 25, 2024, to January 1, 2025**

Normal operating hours will resume January 2, 2025.  
 Waste transfer sites will also be closed on December 25 and 26, and January 1

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Bylaw 2024-07: Goldfinch Raw Water Line Borrowing Bylaw SECTION 258 - THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of Wheatland County, in the Province of Alberta, has given first reading to Borrowing Bylaw 2024-07 which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of Wheatland County to borrow \$7.75 million for a period not to exceed twenty (20) years, from the Province of Alberta or another authorized financial institution, by issuance of debentures and on the terms and conditions referred to in this bylaw, to construct a raw water line from wells diverting water from the Bow River to the Goldfinch Area Structure Plan (ASP). This project will improve water infrastructure and support future development in the Goldfinch area. Wheatland County shall repay the indebtedness according to the repayment structure in effect, namely semi-annual or annual payments of combined principal and interest installments not to exceed TWENTY (20) years calculated at a rate not exceeding the interest rate of 6.0%. There shall be levied and raised in each year of the debenture, hereby authorized, levies or fees towards users of the Goldfinch Raw Water Line to pay the principal and interest falling due each year. In the event of any deficiency, the Municipality shall levy and raise municipal taxes sufficient to pay the indebtedness.

NOW THEREFORE NOTICE is hereby given by Wheatland County Council that, unless a petition of the electors for a vote on Bylaw No 2024-07 known as the Goldfinch Raw Water Line Borrowing Bylaw is demanded as set out in the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA, 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, Council may pass the said Borrowing Bylaw. All persons interested are hereby notified and are required to govern themselves accordingly. Petitions for or against this bylaw can be submitted in writing or via email to [admin@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:admin@wheatlandcounty.ca), including your name, address, and comment with reference to Bylaw 2024-07. A public hearing for this bylaw is scheduled for February 4, 2025. Petitions submitted or comments related to the public hearing will be included in the public hearing package.

Dated at Wheatland County, in the Province of Alberta, January 1, 2025.  
 Wheatland County, per: Brian Henderson, Chief Administrative Officer.

The full bylaw can be found on <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/publicnotices/> or in the December 17, 2024, Council agenda package <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/agendasandminutes/>



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# County approves interim operating, capital budgets

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council approved the interim operating and capital budgets during the Dec. 17, regular meeting, both as presented by administration.

Council also directed administration to bring a report on the county's reserves back to a future meeting following the completion of an asset management review.

Drafts of the capital and operating budgets were initially presented to council during the Nov. 26 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The county completes its budget in a two-stage process, with the interim being decided and approved in December, and the final budget is usually established in April when property tax adjustments are determined.

Figures such as the school tax requisition are also provided during the spring deliberations.

County residents and businesses receive their tax notices shortly following third reading of the final budget.

The total operating expenses proposed during the Nov. 26 meeting were \$51.9 million. The draft of the interim budget had since increased that projection by \$286,766.

This change was to reflect several changes including an update to the digital transformation project, benefit changes related to salary adjustments, an updated estimate for annual contributions and invoicing for the Drumheller and District Solid Waste Management Association, an update to the council honorarium from prior estimates to actual cost of living adjustments, and salary changes for cost of living to individual positions.

Compared to its original presentation estimated at \$46.9 million, the interim capital budget was decreased by \$1.1 million.

These adjustments are reflected in changes outlined to the Muirfield Water Treatment Plant fence, the Goldfinch Raw Water Supply, Muirfield Wastewater Lagoon, Wheatland Shores Building repairs, four bridge file changes, and regarding year two of the summary for water division.

More information regarding the specifics of each change is outlined in the county's public agenda for the Dec. 17 council meeting.

Following the completion of the 2024 financial audit, any prior unfinished project budgets may be carried forward with the final budget adjustments during the April deliberations.

Following the presentation of the budget by administration, Coun. Glenn Koester motioned for council to approve the 2025-27 interim operating budget as presented. This motion was passed unanimously by council without discussion.

Coun. Donna Biggar motioned for council to approve the 2025-29 interim capital budget as presented. This was similarly carried unanimously by council.

Reeve Amber Link proposed a motion for council to consider reviewing the county's reserves following the completion of the asset management report being undertaken by administration.

"I think it is important that we start looking at a longer-term capital plan that extends beyond what we are required to address through the MGA by the provincial government and start addressing those significant asset management needs once we have complete information," she said.

Link's motion was subsequently also carried by council.

# Strathmore Handi-Bus Association to realign with original mandate

STRATHMORE HANDI-BUS ASSOCIATION

The Strathmore Handi-Bus Association has announced changes to its operations to ensure financial sustainability and better alignment with its original mission of providing transportation services for people experiencing mobility-issues.

Over the past three years, the association experienced a sharp increase in demand, with the number of registered clients more than doubling from 229 in 2021 to 537 by October 2024. This growth led to challenges, including an unsustainable rise in operating costs and an expansion of services beyond the association's original mandate.

In response, the board has implemented the following measures:

1. Increased Rates: Fare increases were introduced on Dec. 1.
2. Mandate Realignment: Services are now prioritized for clients experiencing mobility-issues only.

The association acknowledges the community concerns resulting from these changes and regrets any inconvenience caused.

"We unintentionally set expectations within the community that we are unable to meet," said Brian Grier, a spokesperson for the board. "The increase in demand over the past three years has

brought challenges our volunteer-based organization wasn't prepared to handle."

The cost of providing transportation has grown significantly, with the association reporting losses of approximately \$75 per trip. From 2021 to 2024, the number of trips increased by 140 per cent, further straining resources. The board emphasized that while more trips benefit the community, each trip increases the association's budget deficit, which is unsustainable without increased funding or operational changes. While the service offering has been scaled back, the Strathmore Hand-Bus Association remains committed to their community.

"Since 1986, the Strathmore Handi-Bus has been a trusted lifeline, delivering safe, dignified, and respectful transportation for residents of Strathmore and Wheatland County who experience mobility challenges," said board member Mark Gibeau. "Our association is as committed as ever to delivering the dependable service our clients trust and rely on every day."

The Strathmore Handi-Bus Association has been a vital service for residents experiencing mobility challenges, providing accessible transportation in Strathmore and Wheatland County since 1986. For more information or to support the Association, please visit our website ([www.handibus.ca](http://www.handibus.ca)).

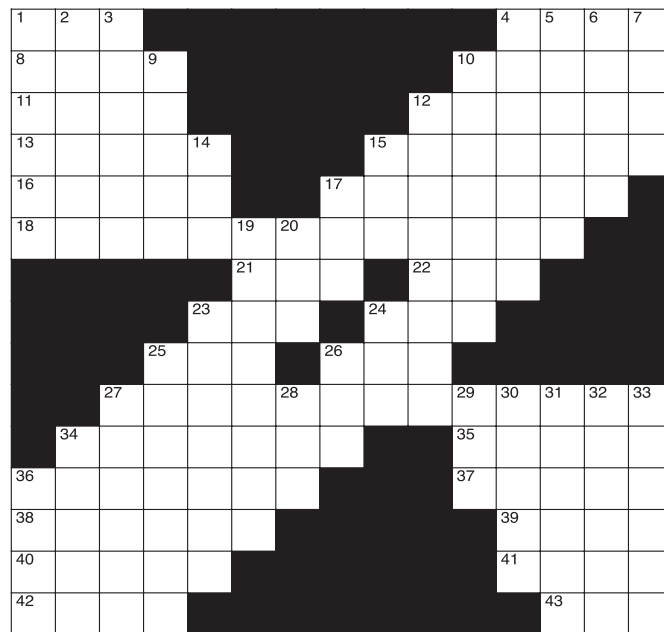


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### CLUES ACROSS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Americans' "uncle"                       | 24. Satisfaction                        |
| 4. Chair                                    | 25. A person's brother or sister        |
| 8. Ancient kingdom                          | 26. Folk singer DiFranco                |
| 10. Egyptian city                           | 27. The Blonde Bombshell                |
| 11. Alaskan glacier                         | 34. Kids' school project                |
| 12. One from Somalia                        | 35. Bluish greens                       |
| 13. Ancient alphabets                       | 36. Classifying                         |
| 15. Relating to vocabulary                  | 37. Cube-shaped                         |
| 16. Small mongrels                          | 38. Choo-choos                          |
| 17. Natural settings                        | 39. Indian religious god of dissolution |
| 18. Weekend entertainments                  | 40. French department                   |
| 21. Line from which light seemingly streams | 41. Leak into gradually                 |
| 22. Your own private code                   | 42. Foundation                          |
| 23. Swiss river                             | 43. Midway between south and southeast  |

### CLUES DOWN

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Counterbalancing debt      | 20. Type of gibbon            |
| 2. In slow tempo              | 23. Delta is one              |
| 3. Glamorous city             | 24. NE Massachusetts cape     |
| 4. Japanese lute              | 25. Soup cracker              |
| 5. Makes law                  | 26. Yes vote                  |
| 6. Informative book           | 27. Muddy ground              |
| 7. Animal's body part         | 28. Physics apparatus (abbr.) |
| 9. American playwright        | 29. Type of drug              |
| 10. Blood poisoning           | 30. German city               |
| 12. Angels                    | 31. Animal disease            |
| 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.) | 32. Martini ingredients       |
| 15. Written account           | 33. Get away                  |
| 17. Unwelcome pest            | 34. Spanish municipality      |
| 19. Saddle horses             | 36. Thrust a knife into       |

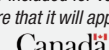
**STRATHMORE TIMES**

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### Christmas celebration

The Strathmore Filipino Canadian Association hosted their annual Christmas party on Dec. 21 at the Strathmore Civic Centre. Chestermere-Strathmore MLA Chantelle de Jonge was among the almost 150 people in attendance.

Photos Courtesy of Christine Nagrampa



*Merry Christmas*

Wishing you and your family a joyous Christmas season filled with warmth and blessings

**CHANTELLE DE JONGE**  
MLA Chestermere-Strathmore

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## Youth exchange program now open

MELISSA PICHE  
Times Contributor

The Strathmore Lions Youth Exchange program is now accepting applications from youth between the ages of 15-22 for their international exchange program, and also their youth camps.

Brad Walls, program chair, said that anyone who is interested in new cultures or learning new language skills, and looking for personal and professional growth is encouraged to apply.

"Anyone from the ages of 15 and 22 can apply," said Walls

He said that if a student is a little younger and interested in the program, they should apply and then they can be earmarked for upcoming years when they are the acceptable age.

"Jamie Smith, in 2003 she went over to Germany for three weeks and it completely changed her life," said Walls of the experience.

Walls said that places like China and Japan are extremely difficult to get into.

"We need that ample time to make sure we get Visas and passports all the rest of that," said Walls.

Along with the international exchange program, the Youth Lions also offer local camps where youth can participate in leadership activities while learning about local cultures.

"If you're just thinking about it and they're not sure, but they have a couple destinations (in mind), send that to us as well so we can reserve spots as camps are filling up fast," he said.

Sonja Bloom is the new Youth Exchange chair for Strathmore in 2025.

To apply please email [YECstrathmore@outlook.com](mailto:YECstrathmore@outlook.com) and a link to the handbook and application will be emailed to you. Applicants are reminded that the deadline is April 2025 and early submission is encouraged as space is limited.

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### Beauty of Brentwood

École Brentwood Elementary hosted their annual Christmas concert, Dec. 19, in their school gymnasium. Parents, guardians, and families were presented with a variety of Christmas songs performed by the students in their respective classes for a show lasting just shy of an hour.

John Watson Photos



### Festive time

Wheatland Elementary hosted their Christmas concert on Dec. 19 in the school gymnasium.

Melissa Piche Photos



### NEXT HOME GAMES

Saturday, January 11

• 8 pm VS Okotoks

Sunday, January 19

• 4:30 pm VS High River

Strathmore Family Centre - Gold Arena



Two-thirds of sailors in the 18th century used to die on their long voyages. They were dying of scurvy. The cure for this disease was discovered by Dr. James Lind who found that feeding the crew citrus fruits reduced the deaths drastically. It wasn't until 1928, vitamin C was discovered to be the anti-scurvy factor in citrus fruits.

A negative use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) was brought to light recently when actor Tom Hanks told fans not to be lured in to buy "wonder drug" products that used his image to promote. He does not endorse any such products.

When taking your blood pressure at home, be sure you rest your arm on a table in front of you about chest height. Also use the same arm each time, Thirty minutes before measuring, do not smoke or drink caffeinated beverages and use the washroom ahead of time. And try to take your blood pressure when not in pain or distress. Keep a record of your results and bring them to your next doctor appointment.

Starting the day off right with a good breakfast is a good thing. If that breakfast contains at least 30 grams of protein, it's even better. A high-protein breakfast is thought to prevent the release of *ghrelin*, an appetite-stimulating hormone so you will feel less hungry through the morning. Now that's a good resolution to start as this new year begins.

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# Kings close 2024 with best start in franchise history

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings closed out 2024 sitting second in the Southern Division, riding another three-win streak under their belts.

Having played 25 games so far this season, the Kings boast 39 points consisting from 19 wins, five losses, and one overtime loss.

"We are over half for sure – I think we have 12 or 13 games left. We have already beat our franchise record for points ... so with a whole bunch of games remaining, we are doing pretty well," said Doug Raycroft, head coach for the Wheatland Kings. "We still have some things to work on, so we are still hoping to get just a little better before playoffs, but we believe that we can go a long way in the playoffs."

Raycroft added among the defining factors contributing to the team's success this season is player health and not suffering nearly as many injuries as last year.

"Last year, we were decimated by injuries," he said. "This year, we have had a few injuries for sure, but we are a little bit deeper of a team so (despite) those injuries we have been able to continue to win."

The hope, Raycroft said, is to have at least a month or two being able to field a full team to the ice with no injuries.

Off the ice, he described his team as a tightknit group who have played together for multiple years. Those who are in leadership positions are capably able to maintain morale and encourage their fellow teammates.

Raycroft suggested rival teams such as Medicine Hat, Okotoks, and Sylvan Lake will be among their greatest competitors leading up to, as well as going into playoffs.

"When we are playing our best hockey, we are moving the puck a lot. We want to work on making sure that we are playing fast, moving the puck a lot, and then also just really taking care of our own end and defensively playing strong," he said. "We are definitely better this year at playing full games. We still have some games where we start a little slow – our best periods are the second and third for sure, but we are much better this year."

The first games of the new year will take place Jan. 3 and 4, both of which are scheduled as away games. These will be against the Cochrane Generals, and the Red Deer Vipers, respectively.

The Wheatland Kings will not play at home again until Jan. 11, when they will square off against the Okotoks Bisons.

"Two weeks with no games is a good way to heal and make sure your team is healthy ... we will get a couple of practices in before the weekend and hopefully we can shake the rust off faster than everybody else," said Raycroft.

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# SANTA'S Workshop

Students and staff from Strathmore High School celebrated the last day of classes with a Christmas-themed assembly and Santa's Workshop on Dec. 20. The workshop stations included gingerbread house making, cookie decorating, pictures with Santa himself, plenty of food and drink stations and various games.

Melissa Piche Photos



## Spreading Christmas cheer

The Crowfoot 4-H Multi Club was busy spreading Christmas cheer on Dec. 13 when they hosted a community service project at the Strathmore Hospital. The club decorated the acute care desk and a Christmas tree.

Photo Courtesy of Justina Sherstabetoff

## Wonderful volunteers

The Crowfoot 4-H Multi Club volunteered at the Celebration of Lights on Dec. 20 at the Ag Society. They had lots of fun, giving out hot chocolate and helping stock the fire throughout the night.

Photo Courtesy of Gwen Cyr

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# Alberta's year-end economic highlights

CHANTELLE DE JONGE  
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Over the course of the year, Alberta has continued to cement its position as the economic engine of Canada due to our highly skilled workforce, business-friendly environment, low taxes, and diversified economy.

It is clear, our government has set the foundation for Alberta's economic success for years to come. Our province remains a national leader in job growth, with significant contributions from the private sector, fueling Canada's overall employment expansion.

Alberta's proactive investment strategies, through programs like the Investment and Growth Fund, are bringing high-quality projects to Alberta, contributing to local economic development and job opportunities across the province.

Alberta is increasing its international trade partnerships, with successful trade missions across key international markets, expanding Alberta's presence in sectors like agri-food, energy, and technology.

Our private sector added 69,600 jobs in the last 12 months, accounting for 40 per cent of Canada's total private sector employment growth. Alberta secured significant projects, including Linde's \$2 billion clean hydrogen facility, which will supply Dow's \$11.6 billion net-zero petrochemical project.

In 2024, the province closed deals on three major investments through the Investment Growth Fund, including Fortinet's cybersecurity facility in Calgary, Logistik Unicorp's hemp processing facility in Elk Point, and NewCold's food storage facility in Coaldale.

The Film and Television Tax Credit supported 34 productions in 2024 which is estimated to spend \$129.1 million in Alberta that will generate \$72.32 million in GDP.

As we wrap up 2024, Alberta's economy is finishing the year strong, setting the stage for even bigger opportunities in 2025.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy New Year!

If you have any questions or feedback, please reach out to my office (Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca).

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

## SUDOKU

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

## TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

### Obituary



#### HEUVER, Antonius (Tony)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Antonius (Tony) Heuver on December 27, 2024 at the age of 89. Tony was a devoted husband, father, Opa, and visionary entrepreneur whose impact on his family, community, and industry will be cherished forever. Born on June 1, 1935, Tony emigrated from the Netherlands to Canada in 1958 as a farm worker with dreams of starting a new life rooted in hard work, determination, and integrity. His wife, Johanna (Anne) Heuver, followed in 1964 and together they built a home, a family and a business that would impact the lives of many.

Tony's life was defined by his deep love for family. He came from a family of twelve children and was preceded in death by his parents, Geradina and Herman Heuver, and brothers Gerard and Wim. His brothers John, Henry (Joan, deceased), and Arnold (Annie) live nearby in Alberta. Tony shared sixty wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Anne. Together they raised four children: Eric Heuver (Sandy), Marcel Heuver (Sue), Anita Heuver, and Patricia Archambault (Peter). He was also a proud Opa to ten grandchildren: Nathan, Grace, Claire, Ethan, Emily (Joel), Teresa, Maria (Eric), Rachel, John, and Kaitlyn (Oscar), and his first great-grandchild, Olivia. All of them brought him immense joy.

A man of deep faith, Tony was dedicated to his church. He was so pleased to participate in the opening Mass for the new Catholic church in Strathmore, the result of the commitment and sacrifice exhibited by the entire parish community over many years. He was known for his kindness, generosity, and gentle spirit.

In the early 1960s, Tony and his brother Henry started Foothills Landscaping. In 1970, they divided the company, and Tony founded Eagle Lake Nurseries. Today, these two businesses have grown into five separate companies, which form a cornerstone of the horticulture industry in Alberta. Tony was always ready to lend a hand or share his expertise, as he took on the leadership of many industry initiatives, in addition to serving as President of Landscape Alberta. Through his vision and passion, Tony not only cultivated plants, but he also nurtured a culture of professionalism, innovation, and community spirit.

Tony's legacy will continue to flourish in the lives he touched and the seeds he planted. Though he is no longer with us, his memory will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and the many people who were inspired by his example.

Tony's family would like to thank the all the health care professionals at the Strathmore Hospital and Peter Lougheed Center and especially our amazing caregivers Linda, Tracy, Kyla, Gina, and Helena for the compassion and dignity you provided to Dad every day.

A prayer service will be held on Friday, January 3, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church (221- 4th Ave, Strathmore, AB). A Funeral Mass to celebrate Tony's life will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. also at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

If desired, donations may be made to the local charity of your choice, in honour of Tony's generous spirit and love for his community.

To send condolences to the family, please visit Tony's obituary at [www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca](http://www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca)

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**Upcoming Council Meetings**

January 15, 2025 | 6 p.m.

January 22, 2025 | 6 p.m.

February 5, 2025 | 6 p.m.

Committee of the Whole  
Regular Meeting of Council  
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.



**Wishing you a very**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**