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# TIMES

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 29

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Page 6



Playoff bound

## Concerns over WHMB

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Debbie Wakelam, who served as the member at large for Wheatland County on the Wheatland Housing Management Board, raised alarming concerns during the June 3 regular meeting of council.

She gave feedback to council regarding seven months of service in the position.

"I found it shocking to be at the center of mistrust, unfair prejudice, bullying, and intimidating attitude displayed towards myself, along with the accusations of deceitful intent and implications of unethical actions, almost like my presence was part of some nefarious plot against the board," she said. "I was told twice, 'you will do okay if you do not ask the board any questions.' New board members especially, need relevant information to succeed. They should be encouraged to ask questions in a safe atmosphere and receive answers without criticism and belittling for asking."

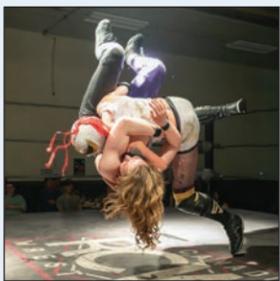
Following Wakelam's report, councillors Shannon Laprise, Donna Biggar, and Scott Klassen acknowledged her concerns and echoed having similar experiences during their respective tenures while seated on the WHMB.

During the meeting, it was suggested that the county provide a list of questions to be taken to the WHMB to be answered specifically in order to keep the county informed as deemed necessary regarding board spending and activity.

Wakelam, who resigned from the board later in June, stressed the need for greater transparency from the WHMB regarding the use of taxpayer money and the creation of a more suitable working environment.

*Continued on Page 4*

Page 7



Hitting the mat

### STRATHMORE TIMES

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### Magnificent mural

A team of eager artists work diligently on the new mural featured on the side of the King Eddy Pub in downtown Strathmore last week. The mural pays homage to history of the town and the original King Edward Hotel, which was located across the street at the current site of the connectFirst and Servus Credit Union LTD. See Page 2 for more coverage.

Melissa Piche Photo

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Artists were busy painting a new mural on the east side of the King Eddy Pub in downtown Strathmore last week.

Melissa Piche  
Photos

## Strathmore's King Eddy mural celebrates local history

MELISSA PICHE  
Times Contributor

A new mural is turning heads on the side of the King Eddy Pub in downtown Strathmore and it's more than just art. The large-scale project is part of Prospect Human Services' "Pathways to Success" program, which helps individuals gain confidence and employment skills. "Our program works with people who have been out of work for a while or are looking for their first job," said Shantelle Vermeylen, program facilitator with Prospect. "It's a 10-week program, with five weeks of in-office skill building like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork, followed by five weeks working out in the community."

The mural, which depicts historical scenes of Strathmore, was inspired by old photographs shared by the Strathmore and District Historical Society.

"The owners of the King Eddy actual-

ly contacted us," said Vermeylen. "They wanted something with historic representation. Our artists recreated the photos that meant something to them and turned it into a cohesive concept."

Vermeylen confirmed it's the group's biggest mural to date.

"We were so excited to have this big, beautiful wall to do this on," she said.

The Pathways to Success program has been running in Strathmore for four years and continues to grow. Another mural project is currently in the works, with more details coming soon.

Prospect is currently accepting new participants, with the next intake beginning July 18.

"There's no charge for clients to join the program or for businesses to participate," Vermeylen added.

For more information, visit Prospect's website [prospectnow.ca](http://prospectnow.ca) or stop by their office located in the Strathmore Centre, which is in old Co-op building in downtown Strathmore.



Clay Greenslade



Brody Hale



### Shining at the Stampede

Langdon's own Shelby Boisjoli-Meged captured the first-ever breakaway roping championship at the Calgary Stampede on July 13, claiming the \$50,000 grand prize. Meanwhile, local cowboys Brody Hale and Clay Greenslade took part in the novice saddle bronc events at the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth, while Greenslade also took part in the novice bareback event.

Photos Courtesy of the Calgary Stampede



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# Siksika challenges province in court over coal mining moratorium

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Siksika Nation is challenging the Province of Alberta in court over their decision to end a moratorium on coal development in the Rocky Mountains.

In May 2020, Siksika Nation filed a legal challenge against the province's decision to rescind the 1976 Coal Policy, which had protected approximately 14,000 square kilometers of land in the Rocky Mountains from coal development.

The lawsuit ended in May 2021 when the Coal Policy was reinstated. The province's Coal Policy Committee was to engage with the public and consult with First Nations about coal development in the Rockies.

"We are filing a judicial review on the decision to lift the coal moratorium on the eastern slopes specifically. Siksika, before they lifted that moratorium, was able to work with the advisory committee on that project and the recommendation from that board was to not lift the moratorium," said Samuel Crowfoot, member of Siksika Chief and Council. "Despite that recommendation, despite the consultations that we had and our ability to go in there and make that position known, they decided to lift the moratorium on the coal regardless."

Crowfoot explained Siksika Nation feels they have no other option but to litigate in order to protect the mountains from coal mining developments.

He referenced the effects coal mining has had on Elk Valley. A region once boasting significant elk and bighorn sheep populations, now is regarded as effectively dead in terms of biological sustainability.

"We are trying to protect that, we are trying to protect the rivers, we are trying to protect the water that we are all dependent on," said Crowfoot. "Honestly, it is more than that. When the cathedral of Notre Dame burned down, everybody was heartbroken over that. They were upset about it because it was such a loss to culture, there was such a loss to people's religion because that is a huge religious building for Catholics. These mountains are our cathedral of Notre Dame. We practice, we pray, we worship them, we go up there to live our way of life."

He noted if another religion's church was found to have valuable resources beneath it, it would not be demolished in order to reach them and questioned why that should not be the case in this instance.

Chief Ouray Crowfoot added the Rockies continue to be important traditional territory for Siksika and are among some of the last remaining areas where Treaty hunting and fishing is able to take place.

"We have tried to engage the Government of Alberta in good faith over the past several years on this issue. They made commitments to consult with First Nations in regional land use plans and other forums, but they just do not listen," he said. "Litigation was our only option at this point. Once coal mines are approved, the damage will be done, and it will be too late."

The originating application for judicial review describes the order by the province to be unlawful, being in breach of the duty to act honourably and consult Siksika Nation, particularly in light of the cumulative effects of development throughout the Eastern Slopes.

Additionally, it is beyond the presiding Minister's statutory authority which cannot be interpreted to

breach the Crown's duty to consult, it was issued in breach of the Minister's duty of procedural fairness, and the province has failed to demonstrate a justified, transparent, and intelligible rationale for making the order.

"Siksika is not a litigious First Nation. They do not run off to the courtroom as a first response to anything really, and for about six years, they have quietly, behind the scenes, been attempting to engage the province through the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Energy, discussions with the premier when they have had meetings with her to really get their concerns about local development in the Rockies and the Foothills understood," said Clayton Leonard, legal counsel for Siksika Nation. "They have been clear from the beginning, they have never been anti-mining; they would just want to ensure that the process that leads to decisions about where mining can occur and the environmental screening that these things have to go through, it takes into account the two realities."

These are that the Eastern Slopes are one of the last places the Blackfoot have to exercise their rights to pursue a traditional way of life as there is nowhere else in Southern Alberta, and that the Rockies are the source of everybody's water.

Leonard added typical results of litigation cases such as these result in the courts directing the Crown or the province to go back and do a better job of consulting with the litigating First Nation and create more conversation as opposed to firmly halting progress on developments indefinitely.

He estimated the litigation and process of court proceedings may take approximately two years to completely resolve. Alberta will be given several months, even potentially a year to produce documents in its possession relevant to the decision to lift the moratorium, which is filed with the court.

"Siksika has filed another legal action, which is called a Treaty Infringement Action. It is a much bigger lawsuit, so they did a three year study with a team of experts to (take a) very sophisticated look at cumulative effects, (on) the Blackfoot Treaty region, which is from the Red Deer River down to the American Border to look at what areas can still meaningfully support Treaty rights use in traditional land use," said Leonard. "The conclusion of that study found that only about four per cent of the entire treaty region remains available for the meaningful exercise of treaty rights. That is a big issue and Alberta has been served with that action. They are aware of what it means and that should have factored into decisions like 'do we take untouched areas or areas with less development and open them to something as devastating as open pit coal mining?'"

This reported four per cent takes into account intact habitats for species that are key for hunting use restrictions, the unavailability of private and developed land, and all forms of resource development. It has been a steady decline of available land since the signing of the Treaty in 1877.

Leonard added Siksika Nation is ultimately looking for an opportunity to resolve the situation outside of the courtroom, and want to have conversations about land management, and how to address their concerns about continuing to protect land use and water supplies.

"Alberta seems almost fearful of partnerships with First Nations or working with them. Quite often, there are not even attempts to do that," said Leonard. "That is something that has to change."

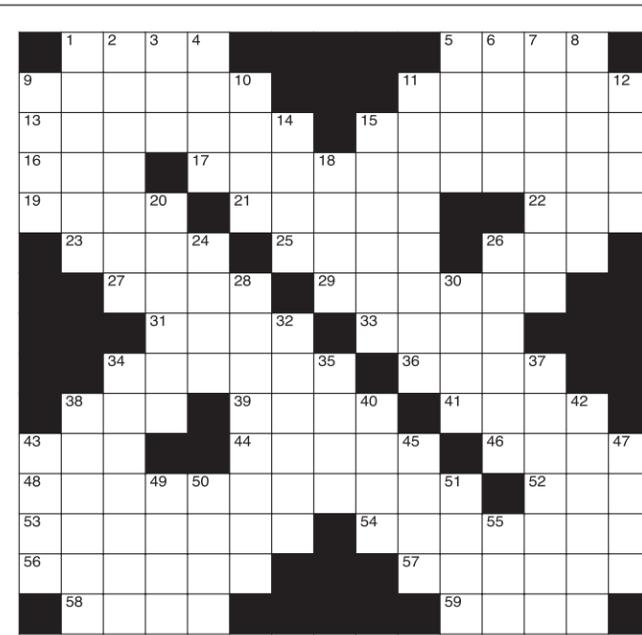


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### CLUES ACROSS

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Resorts                        | 33. Tampa ballclub                |
| 5. One point south of southwest   | 34. Semitic language              |
| 9. Musical performances           | 36. Sheltered sides               |
| 11. Matched                       | 38. Ocean                         |
| 13. Four-footed animal part       | 39. Electronic point of sale      |
| 15. Express severe disapproval of | 41. Thrust a knife into           |
| 16. Type of leaf                  | 43. 12th month (abbr.)            |
| 17. Preparatory                   | 44. Ringworm                      |
| 19. Walk heavily                  | 46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.) |
| 21. Succulent plants              | 48. Fighting back                 |
| 22. Rectangle of grass            | 52. Cease to exist                |
| 23. Lump in yarn                  | 53. Insects in adult stage        |
| 25. Too                           | 54. Freestanding sculpture        |
| 26. Foot (Latin)                  | 56. Caps                          |
| 27. Afflicts                      | 57. Repents                       |
| 29. Smoothed                      | 58. Brown and Wallace are two     |
| 31. Mind (Greek)                  | 59. Moved quickly                 |

### CLUES DOWN

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Goes bad                          | 26. Monetary unit of Spain  |
| 2. Yard structure                    | 28. Guarantees              |
| 3. They ___                          | 30. Coloring materials      |
| 4. Marine invertebrate               | 32. Reddish browns          |
| 5. European river                    | 34. Square measure          |
| 6. Office supplies firm              | 35. Will not                |
| 7. Physically abused                 | 37. Canned fish             |
| 8. Service stations in Australia     | 38. Appeared                |
| 9. Kills                             | 40. Six (Spanish)           |
| 10. Liquid body substances           | 42. Took off                |
| 11. Particular to a given individual | 43. Negligible amount       |
| 12. Brave or noble act               | 45. Posts in a Greek temple |
| 14. Sicilian city                    | 47. Witnesses               |
| 15. Conqueror                        | 49. Phil __, former CIA     |
| 18. Elected officials                | 50. Places to park          |
| 20. Type of "pig"                    | 51. Guns                    |
| 24. Drop of viscous substance        | 55. Dance to pop music      |

**STRATHMORE TIMES**

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Funded by the Government of Canada | **Canada**

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Strathmore Times is published every Wednesday by Strathmore Times Inc. and our coverage area is Strathmore, Carseland, Cheadle, Cluny, Gleichen, Hussar, Lyalta, Namaka, Nightingale, Rockyford, Rosebud, Speargrass and Standard. We also have various pickup locations throughout our coverage area. We are printed by Star Press Inc., Wainwright, Alberta. The content in the Strathmore Times is copyright and reproduction without the proper written consent of the Strathmore Times is strictly prohibited.

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# RCMP provides tips to reduce auto-related theft

## ALBERTA RCMP

This summer, your Alberta RCMP is reminding community members of tips to help prevent theft of, and from, vehicles during summer activities.

Whether at a campsite or a trailhead, keep the following in mind when it comes to securing your vehicle:

- **Keep your vehicle locked:** While relaxing at your campsite, or taking a walk by the water, keep your vehicle locked. It only takes one moment of inattention for a thief to take your belongings.
- **Never leave your vehicle running unattended:** Opportunistic thieves can strike anywhere; a quick pop into the convenience store for a Slurpee, or just running into the bank, is all the time someone needs to steal a running vehicle.
- **Keep keys safe:** Never leave keys, garage door openers, or important documents with personal identifying information in your vehicle.

Keys can be used to steal your vehicle, or may be used, along with personal identifying information, to enter your home.

- **Hide or lockup valuables:** Keep your campsite clean and ensure valuables are hidden out of sight as they can entice opportunistic thieves. Keep off-highway vehicles (OHV), bikes, and kayaks secured and consider using window covers to conceal the interior of your vehicle.
- **Close windows:** When leaving your vehicle, always close the windows, even when it's hot outside. A locked screen door to a recreational vehicle can provide added security while allowing airflow.
- **Use hitch lock:** Secure your trailer's hitch with a hitch lock to prevent towing theft.

• **Motion sensor lights:** Install motion sensor lights outside your recreational vehicle.

Don't let theft get in the way of your activities this summer. Practice auto-theft safety to help prevent becoming a victim.

For more information on preventing theft of, and from, vehicles, please follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta, X @RCMPAlberta, and on YouTube @RCMP-GRC Alberta.

If you see something suspicious, report it to your local police service. If you see a crime in progress, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at [www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com) or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

# RCMP warning residents of scam involving STARS

## ALBERTA RCMP

RCMP is warning residents of a phone scam involving the STARS Lottery. Recently, there have been reports of unknown callers saying they are calling on behalf of the STARS Lottery. The caller tells the intended victims that they have won a prize and must send a payment to claim the prize. The caller ID even displayed "STARS Lottery" to add legitimacy to the call.

RCMP and STARS is ensuring the public that this is a scam and STARS would like to stress the following:

- STARS is aware of ongoing scam attempts involving lottery tickets and actively works to inform the public, especially during campaign periods.
- Lottery ticket purchasers will never be asked to send money to claim a STARS Lottery prize. If you are being asked

to send a cheque, money order, or payment of any kind to claim your lottery prize, it is a scam. Hang up the phone or delete the email.

• Check with STARS directly to verify if you are a winner. Winners are listed on our official lottery websites. Always use our official phone numbers and websites, shown below, and not the ones a

scammer may provide. Our official contacts are: 1-844-782-7775, [info@stars.ca](mailto:info@stars.ca), and [www.starslottery.ca](http://www.starslottery.ca)

• In addition to notifying us, ticket purchasers can also call the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 and share the information you collected.

# Governance behaviours of WHMB under scrutiny by county

Continued from Page 1

"It is their responsibility to report back to the county and it is their lack of communication (that) has caused a lot of the problems ... they requisition funds, and when they come back and the county asks what they used the money for, they (argue), 'We do not have to tell you,'" she said. "The county requesting the information, that is their due diligence. It is taxpayer's money ... whatever the requisition is, these board

members say, 'We are autonomous, we do not have to answer to you, just give us the money.'"

She suggested a public audit of the WHMB, as well as the disbanding of all current members in order to bring in an entirely new board.

Wakelam attended the Alberta Seniors and Community Housing Association conference in Edmonton as a representative of the county, March 31 to April 2. This action had been approved by the county. Mileage and per diems had been paid for by the county, but not the registration fee.

Prior to receiving the county's approval to attend, Wakelam had been instructed by the WHMB she was not to attend representing the board.

Coun. Rick Laursen disputed Wakelam's report, stating he believed many of her points to be false. He also questioned her attendance at the conference, indicating she was instructed by the WHMB to not attend.

Reeve Amber Link asked for a clarification regarding why there was concern regarding whether Wakelam had attended the conference with indicated representation of the WHMB.

"There was certainly majority support from our council for our member at large to attend a conference that could help equip her to best serve on this board. I can't speak to the board's decision to change their support," said Link.

She added an expressed regret for Wakelam's experience with the WHMB, stating a belief that good governance demands better of public organizations and an encouragement of variety in opinions.

"Several of us have experienced very similar behaviours and a lack of respect for diverse perspectives on the WHMB. I strongly believe that good governance really hinges on the courage to ask good questions, and on that respect for diverse perspectives," said Link. "It is disappointing to hear that that continues. It really can erode public trust and accountability and transparency within an organization when questions are met with that type of brute resistance as somebody had already indicated."

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**Thought for the Week**

~

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The CGC hosted their third annual Stampede Fundraiser in Calgary, July 9, in partnership with the Home Depot Foundation. The event raised over \$31,000 for the Trellis Society in Strathmore through a silent auction. Local dignitaries and business relations had been invited to participate in the event.  
Photo Courtesy of CGC

## CGC raises over \$31,000 for Trellis Society

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The CGC hosted their third annual Cowboy Corral in Calgary, ultimately raising \$31,595 for the Trellis Society to benefit families in need.

Bringing together community and business leaders, as well as elected officials, the fundraiser took place July 9, in partnership with the Home Depot Foundation.

“Generally [we raise] above the \$20,000 mark. Last year, I think we were at \$24,500 ... I would say every year we have been able to generate more and more funding,” said Yulia Retunskaya, senior manager of marketing and communications for CGC. “This year, we probably have the biggest turnout ever. We had more than 100 people RSVP to the event, so it is a full house.”

Steve Youngblut, Plant Manager for CGC’s Wheatland County facility, said it is exciting to see the heartfelt annual response from the local community towards the fundraiser and supporting the local Trellis Society in Strathmore.

“Over the last three years, and especially as we get closer to the completion of our plant which is in about 10 months’ time ... the excitement has definitely grown from both our dealers that we sell to, the retailers like the Home Depot, and the contractors and developers around the area,” said Youngblut. “Alberta is booming right now, there is a lot of residential activity and there is a shortage of drywall – so we have a solution for that, not just for the western Canada markets, but for all of Canada.”

Youngblut explained the journey to developing a plant in western Canada has taken the greater part of the last 30 years to bring together. As the project began to cement and take shape more concretely, discussions began as to how to benefit greater communities.

“We thought it was important that we do something like

this to try to start to bring people together, not just for our benefit, but for other people around our industry. It has been a great experience over the last three years,” he said.

The CGC maintains significant relations with The Home Depot throughout Canada, being solely responsible for their drywall, ceiling, cement board, and drywall accessories. Youngblut is also seated on the advisory board for the Home Depot Foundation.

The Home Depot Foundation works to end and prevent youth homelessness in Canada, and break down systemic barriers that youth face to get out of homelessness. Youth make up approximately 20 per cent of the homeless population in Canada, with an estimated national population of between 35,000 and 40,000 people.

“We see us as a community-building industry where we are looking to provide infrastructure that helps employ people [and] build communities,” said Retunskaya. “Our partnership with the Home Depot Foundation and Trellis Society is really pivotal for helping make that happen because they really have all the connections on the ground, they know all the people, they have all of the outposts set up, and they know people, know where to call. We do not, that is why we work with them to make that happen.”

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**YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE**  
Gord Morck Pharmacist  
**Capsule Comments**

Transdermal medication patches are designed to release medication into the body at a constant rate over time. For this reason, they should never be cut in half. An example is the *Nicoderm* patches to help smokers quit. This is a reservoir patch and cutting it may cause the drug (nicotine) to release too fast, which could lead to overdose.

Evidently, about 8% of women refuse chemotherapy for fear of losing their hair. In Quebec, a study was done to see if “cooling helmets” were useful in preventing hair loss in chemotherapy patients. The study found that these helmets “appear to reduce the risk of chemotherapy-induced alopecia” (hair loss). The Quebec government is considering making these helmets available throughout the province.

People often neglect their feet when showering or bathing. The soles of the foot contain 600 sweat glands per square centimetre, more than any other area of the body. The feet are breeding grounds for microbes, especially between the toes. However often you shower, don’t neglect your feet. Diabetics should wash and dry their feet every day.

Surgeons are beginning to use robotics in surgeries to enhance precision, dexterity and visualization during procedures. This can lead to less invasive surgery, reduced pain, lower risk of infection and shorter recovery times. It’s being used in gall bladder removal, prostate cancers, hysterectomies and many other types of surgery.

Hours: M-F: 9-7 pm  
Sat: 9-6 pm • Sun & Holidays: 11-5 pm

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**Ready for playoffs**

The Strathmore Venom Jr. B lacrosse team capped of the regular season with a 16-6 win over the Mountain View Stingers on July 13 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Venom, who finished fifth in the league standings, will now take on fourth-ranked Foot-hill Spurs in the opening round of the playoffs.

Joe Lepage Photos

**Frist place showing**

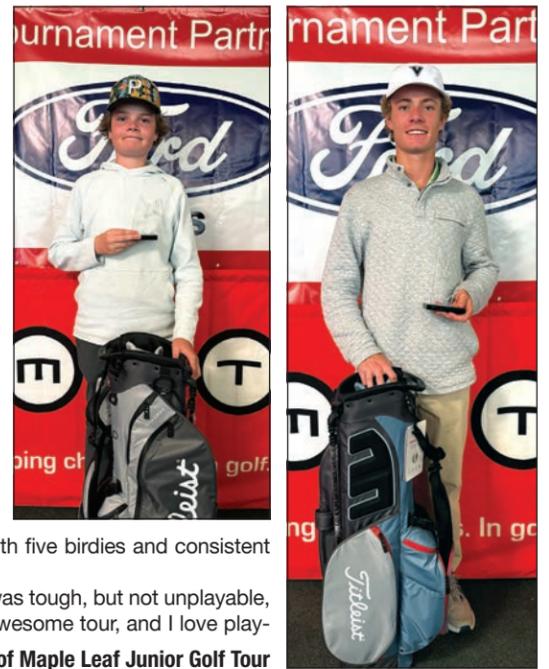
A pair of Strathmore golfers took part in the Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour (MJT) at Tor Hill Golf Course in Regina, Sask. on June 28-29.

Parker Riou of Strathmore posted rounds of 73 and 72 (145) to claim the MJT Junior Boys title. The 18-year-old built a strong lead in Round 1 and stayed steady through changing conditions in Round 2. "I am relieved to be able to battle out the elements with two solid scores," said Riou. When asked about his closing strategy, he added, "Just keep hitting fairways by conservative plays off the tees and playing for pars."

Fifteen-year-old Connor Riou, also from Strathmore, earned the MJT Juvenile Boys title with rounds of 76 and 74 (150), overcoming rainy and windy conditions with five birdies and consistent play.

"Feels very good," he said. "The weather was tough, but not unplayable, and the course was beautiful. MJT is an awesome tour, and I love playing on it."

Photos Courtesy of Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour



**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.

**July 16, 2025 - August 11, 2025, Summer Recess**  
**August 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Regular Council Meeting**

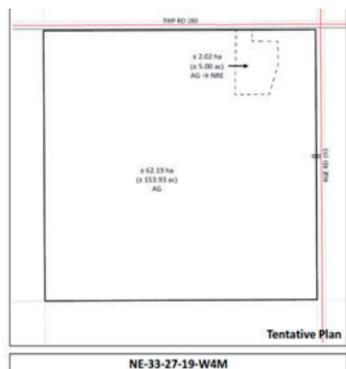
To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted. Agenda packages can be found on our website.

**Public Hearings**  
**Wheatland County Council Chambers August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 9 a.m.**

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The following public hearings begin at 9 a.m. and proceed until all applications have been heard:

**Bylaw #: 2025-15 (LU2025-006)**  
**Legal Description: NE-33-27-19-W4M**  
**Proposal:** To redesignate a ± 2.02 hectare (± 5.00 acre) portion of NE-33-27-19-W4M from AG to NRE in order to facilitate the development of an aggregate extraction operation.



Comments may be forwarded in writing to Wheatland County or in person at the above meeting. The application files may be reviewed in the County Office during regular office hours – Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any comments provided will become part of the public record in accordance with Section 40 (1) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act. Any personal information on submissions made regarding applications is collected under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 33 (c) and subsequent versions of the Act.

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



**Register to Vote!**  
**YOUR COUNTY YOUR VOTE**

**New for 2025 – Wheatland County Voter Registration**

As of 2025, Wheatland County is required to maintain a Permanent Electors Register under the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act*.  
Voter information will be securely shared between Elections Alberta and Wheatland County, as outlined in the *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) section 49*, to help verify voter identity during municipal elections.

- To vote, you must be registered. Voter cards will no longer be mailed—you'll confirm your eligibility by signing the elector register at the polls.
- Register, update, or check your info at [voterlink.ab.ca](http://voterlink.ab.ca) before September 2025.

**Updated Division Boundaries**  
**YOUR COUNTY YOUR VOTE**

New electoral division boundaries will be in effect for the upcoming 2025 Municipal Election.

Residents are encouraged to review the updated map and confirm their division before heading to the polls.

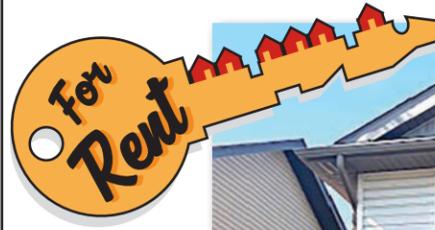
To view the new boundaries and learn more, visit:  
[wheatlandcounty.ca/2025-municipal-election](http://wheatlandcounty.ca/2025-municipal-election)



### Tag Wars

Real Canadian Wrestling held another night of professional wrestling on July 11 when they hosted "Tag Wars" at the Strathmore Ag Pavilion. The wrestling promotion is now preparing to host their inaugural Stampede Smackdown on August 3, as part of the Strathmore Stampede. The top RCW stars, including Strathmore's own Steve Wilde, will be the evening entertainment after the chuckwagon races at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Joe Lepage Photos



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**Otipemisiwak**  
Métis Government

## NOTICE TO CITIZENS

### Notice of Meeting

### Otipemisiwak Métis Government Annual Citizens' Gathering

August 22 & 23, 2025

Métis Crossing, Alberta

In accordance with the Constitution and Laws of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Métis Nation within Alberta will gather for the 97th time at the annual Citizens' Gathering of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to be held on August 22 & 23, 2025 at Métis Crossing, Alberta

In accordance with the Constitution and Self-Government Act, Citizens of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government who attend the Citizens' Gathering shall have the opportunity to present and vote on Citizens' Proposals.

In accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and the Citizens' Gathering Rules of Procedure Notice and copies of proposed Special Resolutions must be provided by email to the Chair of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government via Chair@metis.org no later than 3:00PM on July 25, 2025

Learn more about the Citizens' Proposal & Special Resolution processes here:

<https://albertamemis.com/events/citizens-gathering/>

Dated this 2nd day of July, 2025 at Edmonton, Alberta

Garrett Tomlinson, Chair Otipemisiwak Métis Government



# Local fire department seeking paid-on-call recruits

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Fire Department is looking to the local community for recruits to be paid-on-call firefighters.

The Town of Strathmore indicated that recruitment had begun for the open positions on June 30. The opportunity is meant to be open to a wide range of residents with backgrounds of most sorts and schedules.

Fire Chief David Sturgeon explained the recruitment, interview, and selection processes are largely about attitude as opposed to background.

“The biggest thing we are looking for is somebody who has got some mechanical aptitude, or wants to learn that side, but really, we are hiring for attitude. We want somebody who is willing to learn, they have a good attitude, they can work as a team, and we can train the rest,” he said. “It is really just about hiring the right attitudes that fit within our current makeup, and we will train the rest.”

No prior training or certifications are required to apply, as the Strathmore Fire Department will offer any necessary training throughout the onboarding process.

The fire department is looking to onboard approximately 12 new recruits, which Sturgeon added is one of their larger recruitment campaigns.

Paid-on-call firefighters respond to fires, medical emergencies, and support the department’s regular full-time staff when multiple incidents occur simultaneously.

They are also compensated for every hour they

spend responding to emergencies, attending training sessions, and participating in other approved activities.

“The initial first year training is pretty heavy. You are given full certification as a firefighter ... we provide that training, so if you were to go anywhere like a trades college for that you would be looking at anywhere from \$15,000 to \$25,000 to do that on your own,” said Sturgeon. “That is something we do in house with full certification at the end of it through the province of Alberta ... from there, you blend in with our regular members where we have kind of an ongoing requirement for minimum training standards, but it is nothing like the first year.”

Paid-on-call members are also not required to resign from their regular full-time jobs in order to join the team. Sturgeon explained schedule expectations may be roughly similar to that of a part-time job.

Part of recruiting large numbers of new members is to account for the contingency of losing recruits during the first-year training process. Sturgeon added he anticipates losing upwards of 20 per cent of new members due to life changes, inability to fulfill commitments, or other assorted reasons.

Interviews will take place at the end of August, and hiring will commence within the first two weeks of September. Training will begin shortly after hiring is formalized.

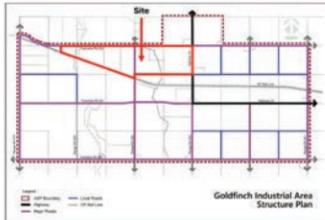
Information about how to apply can be found through the Town of Strathmore’s website, or by contacting the fire department directly at 403-934-3022.



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE GOLDFINCH TECHNOLOGY PARK DEVELOPMENT

Diode Ventures is proposing to develop a data centre within the Goldfinch Area Structure Plan in Wheatland County.

Data centres store, manage, and process the vast quantities of data and information we have come to rely on in a connected world.



The project site is bounded by Township Road 222 on the north and Highway 24 to the east.

### HOW TO LEARN MORE

Diode is hosting an Open House event for community members to meet the Diode team and learn more about the proposed project at the following time and location:

**July 31st, 2025 from 5 - 8 p.m.**  
**Carseland Community Hall**  
**Railway Ave, Carseland, AB T1P 0X8, Canada**

For more questions, please contact us at [GoldfinchTechPark@DiodeVentures.com](mailto:GoldfinchTechPark@DiodeVentures.com) or visit: [www.diodeventures.com/goldfinch-project-updates](http://www.diodeventures.com/goldfinch-project-updates)



# What Next Alberta? You Decide.

The Alberta Government is launching a province-wide consultation to chart our path, defend our economy, and assert our sovereignty within a united Canada.

Ottawa’s continued attacks against our economy and future cannot continue.

**We want to hear from you!**

In-Person Town Halls / Online Town Halls  
/ Take the Survey Online

Visit [alberta.ca/next](http://alberta.ca/next)

Many of the ideas discussed will form questions for a provincial referendum in 2026.

**Get informed. Get involved.** Help protect Alberta and build our prosperous future.



# Alberta helping Canada prosper

**CHANTELLE DE JONGE**  
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

The need to improve trade within Canada and get Alberta goods to new markets has never been greater. Tariff threats, protectionism, and a lack of predictability in American trade policy require different ways of thinking about trade and building a more self-reliant Canada. This is why Alberta's government continues to push for new oil and gas pipelines, economic corridors, and other energy and trade infrastructure to help grow Alberta's – and Canada's – economic competitiveness.

During his recent trip to the Calgary Stampede, Ontario Premier Doug Ford met with Premier Danielle Smith to sign two agreements that support better trade and cooperation between our two provinces. The first agreement commits Alberta and Ontario to developing new ways to move oil, gas, and other critical minerals to global markets, and working together on nuclear energy development to meet growing electricity demands.

A second agreement commits to prioritizing the purchase of made-in-Canada government fleet vehicles and improving the trade of liquor products. These agreements demonstrate Alberta's and Ontario's leadership to strengthen interprovincial trade, drive major infrastructure development, and support Canadian industry.

Alberta and Ontario agree on the urgent need for the federal government to address the policies and conditions that have harmed the energy sector across Canada. Both provinces have called on Prime Minister Carney to repeal the no new pipelines law, the oil tanker ban, the net zero electricity regulations, the oil and gas emissions cap, the net zero vehicle mandate, and all federal initiatives that unreasonably harm the energy sector, as well as other critical sectors like mining and manufacturing.

Creating the right conditions for growth will help Alberta and Ontario attract job-creating investments and grow the

industries that support families and communities across our provinces. These agreements with Ontario build on Alberta's track record of removing internal trade and labour mobility barriers. Through inter-provincial agreements like the New West Partnership, Alberta has led the way in opening Canada's economy, breaking down outdated regulations, and unlocking opportunities for workers, businesses, and investors.

These efforts matter. Internal trade barriers cost the Canadian economy as much as \$200 billion every year. Alberta has already taken steps to eliminate most of its own exceptions under the Canada Free Trade Agreement and that work is ongoing. We are also encouraged by the federal government's recently passed Bill C-5, which will advance nation-building projects and further remove barriers to trade and labour mobility. We remain open to working with the federal government to strengthen Alberta's economy within a united Canada.

Alberta's government is proving that Canada can lead the way in building infrastructure in the national interest and creating conditions for prosperity. Alberta will continue pushing Ottawa to remove red tape, while working with our partners in industry and other jurisdictions to grow our economy and strengthen Canada's future.

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)*

## Obituary



**FULTON, Alexander**  
August 27, 1941 – July 10, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Alex Fulton.

Alex was born in Neilston, Scotland in 1941 under the kitchen table during a blackout during WWII. He met his wife of 61 years, June, and they were married on April 1, 1964 and moved to Canada in 1967.

While living in Ontario and later in Calgary Alex coached soccer, a sport he loved. He was also a bowling coach for the YBC in Calgary. He passed this love of bowling on to his children and grandchildren. Later he took up horseshoes and loved going dancing with his wife.

Alex had always been a lover of dogs and there was always at least one in the house. The Standard Poodle became a fixture at home with one always following him around.

Alex is survived by his wife June, daughters Yvonne (Gord) and Tracey. Grandchildren Kari (Brenda), Michael (Katrina) and Kayla (Dan) and 4 great grandsons.

We would like to thank Dr. Allison Clarke and the staff at Agecare Sagewood for their kindness and caring for Alex for the past 5 years.

No funeral services will be held at this time. The family is planning to get together during the summer to celebrate his life and raise a glass of the finest single malt in his honour.

**Wheatland Funeral Home**  
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

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Company Name on Tournament	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prominent display of company name and logo on all marketing materials	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Company name and logo on all marketing materials	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tournament welcome and opportunity to speak at dinner reception	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition at dinner reception	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tournament banner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logo on tournament	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Company name on golf carts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complimentary team of four	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complimentary table of eight at the Mental Health Dinner in November	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

For more information or to register call 403-934-5335 or 403-934-9090 or visit [www.wfcss.org](http://www.wfcss.org)

*Obituary*



**MCCORMACK, Debra Louise**  
September 30, 1953 – June 17, 2025

It is with great sadness that Debbie's family announce her passing at Rockyford, Alberta, at the age of 71 years. She is survived by four siblings and their families, Brenda Kiemele, Miles & Whitney (Cooper & Logan), Kyle & Ashley (Kade, Charlotte, Mya); Kathryn McEwan, Lucas & Chelsea McEwan (Nathan, Capri, Lily & Norah), Kimberley and Bas Surewaard (Nina & Lara); Grant McCormack, Garrett & Melissa McCormack (Jack), Eden McCormack; Douglas McCormack (Julie), Piper, Jayden, Quinn. She was predeceased by her parents, Teresa & William McCormack. Debbie was born in Calgary, Alberta, on September 30, 1953, to Teresa and William McCormack. She was raised in Carseland, Alberta, where she spent many hours outdoors playing with her sisters and neighborhood children, exploring the countryside on horseback. Debbie never shied away from work. As a teen, she worked as a store clerk in Carseland and Banff for a summer. She graduated from high school in Strathmore in 1971, then moved to Calgary where she was employed in a wide variety of positions from autobody supply technician to ballroom dance instructor to name a few. Debbie continued to work in Calgary after moving back to Strathmore and subsequently to Rockyford where she purchased her house. She enjoyed her yard, flowers and garden and liked to BBQ or just enjoy the fire pit. Debbie loved animals, many stray, rescue cats and dogs found a safe home with her. In later years she found employment closer to home. She was employed at Eagle Lake Turf Farm and Walmart until retirement. Debbie had an independent spirit and lived life her way. We will miss her. Donations may be made in Debbie's memory to an animal rescue of your choice. Her family is planning a Private Celebration of Debbie's Life. To view or share photos, condolences, and stories of Debbie with the family, please visit [www.choicememorial.com](http://www.choicememorial.com)

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[www.StrathmoreTimes.com](http://www.StrathmoreTimes.com)

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- Make all corrections on transfer forms and documents

**To be successful in this role you must:**

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- Be detail oriented
- Have excellent communication/documenting skills
- Have sound decision making skills
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**Essential Qualifications:**

- Minimum Level 2 insurance license
- Ability to use computers and other office equipment

**How to Apply**

If you are interested in applying for this position, please forward your resume including cover letter to [colleenb@coldwellinsurance.ca](mailto:colleenb@coldwellinsurance.ca) or drop off in office at 133 2nd Ave, Strathmore, AB.

[www.StrathmoreTimes.com](http://www.StrathmoreTimes.com)

*Obituary*



**GIROUX, Todd Clifford**  
June 2, 1974 – July 4, 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Todd Clifford Giroux, born on June 2, 1974, in Calgary, Alberta. Raised in Strathmore, Todd graduated from Strathmore High School and went on to study Culinary Arts at SAIT, following his early passion for food.

Todd began his culinary career with Earls Restaurant in Calgary, which eventually led him to Vancouver, BC. There, he thrived as a chef at both Earls and Milestones. Always curious and driven, Todd pursued a second passion—media and television—by studying Broadcast Communications at BCIT. It was there he not only found a new calling but also became a respected instructor, sharing his knowledge and creativity with students and colleagues.

While attending BCIT in 1999, Todd met the love of his life, Sheila, through her cousin. They married in 2000 and shared a deep bond, especially through their love of television and film production. Together, they collaborated on many projects.

Todd was a gifted post producer, supervisor, and producer. Humble about his many accomplishments, he founded his own business, Robot Post Media Services Inc., where he quietly built an impressive body of work. His talent earned him 11 nominations and 11 wins across the industry. He worked on major productions for Netflix, Showcase, and Amazon. While there are too many to name, a few of his notable productions include Continuum, House of David, Animal Control, and Murder in a Small Town.

Beyond his professional achievements, Todd was a man of many passions. He excelled at woodworking, home renovations, working on cars, camping, collector of t-shirts, and being a devoted "animal dad." He was a wonderful son, brother, friend, and—above all—an incredible husband to Sheila, which he considered his greatest role.

Todd was predeceased by his father, Brian Giroux, and his grandparents. He is survived by his loving wife, Sheila, and their cherished cat, Finn. Though they had no children, their pets were beloved family members.

Todd is also survived by his mother, Carol Giroux; brothers Doug (Mary and daughter Ashleigh) and Kevin (Abbie and son Kodie); as well as Shelia's family: her mother Carol Maciver (Rob Simpson), her father Bruce Maciver, brothers Leroy Haynes (Nathanda and children Milo and Jonas) and Mark Maciver (Melanie and children Aiden and Arlo), and sister Kasey Simpson (Michael).

Todd will be remembered for his warmth, creativity, dry wit, and his unwavering love for family, animals, the many students, coworkers, and friends whose lives he touched. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered always.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Vancouver – Todd's home for more than half his life on August 16th. In lieu of flowers, donations in Todd's memory can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Link below. <https://www.heartandstroke.ca>

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**Notice to Creditors and Claimants**

Estate of JULIA MYRTLE CARLESS (AKA JULIE MYRTLE CARLESS), who died on 2025-05-19.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by 2025-08-14.

with CLINT LAWRENCE  
at #216, 1005B Westmount Drive,  
Strathmore, Alberta, T1P 0C3

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

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

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**Don't get measles.**

**Get immunized.**

Measles outbreaks are occurring in Canada, including Alberta. Measles is an extremely contagious disease that is spread easily through the air. The best way to protect yourself, your family and your community is to ensure you are up to date with your immunizations.

Visit [alberta.ca/measles](http://alberta.ca/measles)

to find out if you're up to date and what to do if you're not.





**Upcoming Council Meetings**

July 23, 2025 | 6 p.m.  
 Sept 3, 2025 | 6 p.m.  
 Sept 17, 2025 | 6 p.m.

Regular Meeting of Council  
 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.

**Strathmore Stampede Parade.**

9 to 12 a.m.  
 Saturday, August 2, 2025

Strathmore Municipal Building

Come on down to the Strathmore Stampede Parade for a wild western celebration with horses, floats, and good ol' fashioned fun! MOO-vie theme.

Learn more at Eventbrite.  
<https://shorturl.at/OQv9L>

**That seat's still waiting for you.**

Now recruiting paid-on-call firefighters

**You remember it, don't you?**

That moment when a firetruck pulled up at the parade. The blast of the horn, the weight of the helmet, the thrill of climbing into that seat and thinking, "One day..."

Well, why not today?

The Strathmore Fire Department needs more paid-on-call firefighters, and they are just like you. They are regular people who step up when it counts. You don't need to be a superhero. You don't have to quit your job. You just need heart, courage, and a willingness to learn. We'll take care of the rest.

So go ahead. Make your younger self proud. That seat's still waiting.

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- 📞 403-934-3022
- ✉ firehall@strathmore.ca
- 🌐 Strathmore.ca/paid-on-call



**Upcoming Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) events.**

Event	Date
Planting the Foundation to Mental Health	July 2, 2025
Paint, Connect, Reflect: A Relaxing Night for Mothers	July 11, 2025
Chalk Your Walk	July 24, 2025
Community Bingo	All month, August
International Day for World's Indigenous Peoples	August 9, 2025
Fraud Prevention Workshop	August 28, 2025

Learn more about all of FCSS' events at [Strathmore.ca/FCSS](http://Strathmore.ca/FCSS) or call 403-934-9090.



**Bored? Join a board. Library Board Vacancy.**

Did you hear? The Library Board has one position available!

Boards and committees have always played an important role in our community. If you're looking for a way to make an impact, this is your chance to get involved. For more information or to apply, visit our website, [Strathmore.ca/Boards](http://Strathmore.ca/Boards)

**Municipal tenders available.**

Visit [Strathmore.ca/infrastructure](http://Strathmore.ca/infrastructure) for more info.

**Run. Walk. Gallop.**

Join the race.  
[Strathmore.ca/StompingRace](http://Strathmore.ca/StompingRace)

**STATHMORE VOTES**

**Register to vote in the Municipal Election**

Vote for Mayor and Town Councillors

Election Day **October 20, 2025**

Register to vote at [voterlink.ab.ca](http://voterlink.ab.ca)