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# TIMES

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 13

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Celebrating culture

## Garden and garage suite debate

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore council is revisiting its Garden and Garage suites bylaw, and debating whether to rescind regulations which were finalized in 2024.

Council had directed town staff, Feb. 19, to bring forward a report to the March 12 meeting a report on garden and garage suites. This was presented by Chuck Proctor, manager of development services with the town.

"A lot has changed between 2021 and 2025. We are on the cusp of massive growth; we have already seen some multi-unit housing on Centennial Avenue started; we have got at least three or four more multi-unit housing projects in different stages of development; we have the Ranch subdivision ready to do; Edgefield is working towards building permits and approvals on that; we have the north end of Strathmore Lakes," said Mayor Pat Fule. "To me, the housing environment has changed and I do not see the necessity that I once saw and I have paid attention to the petition that has gone around and I have paid attention to residents who have reached out to me personally."

The town's land use bylaw was amended in 2024, adding garden and garage suites as a discretionary use to several low-density residential districts within the borders of the Town of Strathmore.

Discussions regarding the implementation of regulations for garden and garage suites had originally begun in 2021.

Currently, approximately 20 per cent of properties qualify to be approved by the development authority to develop accessory dwellings.

The town has received no applications to develop garden suites on existing residential properties in the last 10 years.

Administration presented to council, among the barriers to constructing garden and garage suites in town is the cost to do so. Either retrofitting an existing structure or developing a new one entirely may be beyond what is financially viable for local residents.

The majority of similar structures and upgrades which were able to be located within the City of Calgary ranged between \$205,000 and \$350,000 to develop.

*Continued on Page 4*

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Fundraising for New Blood

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### Provincial celebration

Assistant captain Kamryn Hunter celebrates a goal during the opening game of the Wheatland Wranglers U18B Female Provincial Championship game versus the GHC Flash on March 20 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Wranglers, who won the game 10-0, went 1-1-1 in the round robin portion of the tournament. See Page 7 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

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# The Need.



# UPDATE

# The Build.



# The Cost.



Since Wheatland & Area Hospice Society (WAHS) started in 2015, we have dedicated our efforts to providing quality hospice palliative care in our rural communities. There is tremendous potential to transform end-of-life care, decrease costs and travel distances for families, and to impact patients in their most difficult moments.

WAHS's ongoing commitment to our families, friends, neighbours, and co-workers is to provide clear and accurate information, so our community can understand the benefits and challenges of our plan since our last update (June 2024).

## Is the Wheatland & Area Hospice Society (WAHS) the same as the Wheatland Housing Management Board (WHMB)?

No, these are entirely separate entities. While the hospice will share some costs and be located within the same building as the new lodge, it will operate independently with its own board and funding. Residential hospices provide an alternative to hospital-based end-of-life care, reducing pressure on the acute care system and improving patient choice. Lodges offer low-income housing to seniors.

## Why not build a stand-alone hospice?

Constructing a stand-alone hospice would significantly increase costs and resource usage. Partnering with WHMB allows us to share expenses, lessening the financial burden on our community and ensuring sustainable operations.

## What's the holdup?

Our hospice is one part of the detailed planning of an entire project, and WHMB is progressing towards these four milestones. We are currently waiting to hear that the WHMB project will proceed.

**1. The Grant: AHPP** (Alberta Housing Partnership Program) WHMB submitted a revised application Jan 31, 2025 with an updated Class B budget that reflects CMHC's change requirements, building code changes, and inflation.

**2. Class A Budget:** Once AHPP is approved, the Class A budget will be engineered to meet CMHC mortgage requirements and go to tender.

**3. The Mortgage: CHMC** (Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation). Interest rates have fallen since 12mos ago!

**4. Letters of Support from councils:**

All municipalities will have to sign the final mortgage, then the project can proceed.

Timing and commitment are crucial. A delay that occurs in any one of these steps results in disruption of project management and leads to increasing inflationary costs. Tariff threats are a new challenge. Giving weight to all our tools and leveraging all our resources together is the best approach.

## What is the cost of the hospice?

A future class A budget will finalize costs. As of today, WAHS's portion of the build is estimated at approximately \$6.5M, representing approximately 10% of total construction costs. This figure will continue to fluctuate due to market conditions, material costs, and potential delays.

To date, WAHS has not received any provincial government funding – this project has been entirely community funded. This is very favorable from governments' point of view, and we are extremely grateful that our project of this size and scope has now achieved its first fundraising goal. The overwhelming support sends a clear and firm message: our community prioritizes access to high-quality palliative care in our own rural communities.

## How will day-to-day operations be funded?

WAHS alongside other independent residential hospices in Alberta, is advocating to Alberta Health for predictable and sustainable operational funding. Currently, the provincial government provides limited funding, primarily covering nursing care, leaving a significant shortfall - approximately 50% of annual operating needs costs - to support the full spectrum of end-of-life hospice services and programming. We are working to change this. Universal hospice operational funding would align with the provincial government's commitment to shift care into our rural communities and would improve patient and family outcomes significantly. It also ensures hospital resources are available for those who need them most. We encourage the public to advocate to their MLAs about the urgent need for stable, long-term operational funding for hospice care. Your voice can help secure the future of compassionate end-of-life care in Alberta.

## What's available for us now?

The passion for Strathmore Hospital's palliative care room by Strathmore Ladies Auxiliary must be recognized and applauded. But its permanence is tentative, and the current health system's planning is to redirect many patients to Alternate Level of Care (ALC) spaces such as a long-term care facility, or to your home. All in, WAHS's six hospice beds in the Kinsmen Park location provides just one of many pieces to the rural health care puzzle.

We're proud of our locally led, community-based hospice project. It is fundamentally different than affordable housing spaces (The Lodge) or supportive living (SL or LTC). While the latter two may provide some degree of nursing care, either through contracted or in-house service providers, our hospice will have a level of medical care like a hospital, with increased staff-to-patient ratios, but in a more personalized, calmer, and home like setting.

## Why continue to fundraise?

Just like your own home, a hospice must be furnished and equipped. We estimate this will require \$1.5M. Did you know a hospice bed costs \$26,000? In fact, all hospices in Alberta rely significantly on philanthropy in the form of fundraising, in-memoriam tributes, or planned giving. Holistic, compassionate care in home-like patient rooms and sanctuary spaces, family areas such as dining and living rooms, as well as a hospice nursing station and med room, all contain expensive equipment and infection prevention materials. Spaces to provide grief counselling, spiritual care, day hospice support, illness navigation, and volunteer training will need to be furnished as well.

## How can you support?

You can support our hospice project by becoming fully fluent on the choices available and actively vocal about your endorsement of our vision. Reach out to your MLA and local councillors to express your support for advancing the collaborative WHMB and WAHS project. Stay informed and engaged by following us on our Facebook page for the timeliest news and check our website every so often for other updates and reports.

Support for our fundraising projects like Hype!! for Hospice (May) and Farming for Hospice (November) or ones that other groups put on in our name. Remember us when considering charitable giving. Your advocacy and involvement play a vital role in ensuring our community receives the compassionate care it deserves during times of need. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of many.



www.wheatlandhospice.ca  
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Advertisement paid for by Wheatland & Area Hospice Society

# Strathmore celebrates International Francophonie Day

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore Family and Community Support Services, in partnership with Canadian Parents for French, and the Strathmore Library, hosted an event, March 22, celebrating Francophonie month.

Officially, every March 20, is International Francophonie Day. Last year, the Town of Strathmore hosted the first local celebration of the occasion.

“This is the second time the town has been running this under the Settlement, Integration and Language Projects (SILP) grant and it is a Little Taste of Francophonie,” said Tiffany Carlson. “The SILP grant’s purpose is to work with newcomers, community businesses, and social services to welcome newcomers into Strathmore.”

This year’s event was Quebecois oriented, featuring a sugar shack breakfast which was accessible via donation during the event, French stories and cultural insights, traditional French games, and maple toffee. All proceeds were donated to support Canadian Parents for French.

Carlson explained the donations aim to help create more French immersion programs within Strathmore.

For those who were interested, a resource table was laid out for parents who may desire for their children to learn French or attend a French immersion school. The library also maintains a collection of French books.

It was reported that last year, 24 people in total attended the event. No particular fundraising goal was established this year, only that the event be accessible to anyone who was interested.

“The Canadian Parents for French, they really want to increase the French speakers in Strathmore and so this is a way to advertise a little bit for Francophonie Day and also to get more people interested in the French immersion program,” said Carlson. “It possibly could become an annual celebration. That would be up to the library and the French parent board if they would like to continue running it. I do know that the French parent board wants to have other relationships with the library regarding maybe a French book buddy or teen French novel study kind of thing.”

Beyond the Francophonie Day celebration event, parents who are potentially interested or curious about French language and immersion are encouraged to speak directly with Brentwood school to learn more about the option available for their kids.

Additionally, Strathmore Adult Inclusive Learning and the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society both have staff in Strathmore able to provide help, direction and resources.

Each year, should it be allowed to continue, the goal is to feature a different branch of French culture, such that everyone may feel included in the local celebrations.



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

Erectile dysfunction is becoming commonplace among men over the age of 40. Here are some *non-drug* approaches that may help the problem.....increase physical activity, limit alcohol consumption and quit smoking. Some medications may contribute to the problem. These include antidepressants, blood pressure medications and opioids. Check with your doctor and pharmacist if this is a problem for you.

Eggs are nutritious. One large egg contains 80 calories, 6 grams of protein, 5 grams of total fat (1.5 grams of saturated fat; 1 gram polyunsaturated fat; 2 grams monounsaturated fat). The vitamin D in eggs is found in the yolks only.

It is estimated that 25% of Canadian women are not aware that taking folic acid before and during pregnancy is important to prevent neural tube defects in the newborn. The neural tube is the part of the developing baby that becomes the brain and spinal cord. Folic acid will prevent neural tube problems and avoid lifelong disability. Take folic acid even if you are thinking of becoming pregnant. Your doctor or pharmacist can advise.

Gelos, in Greek mythology, was the god of laughter. Laughter is very good medicine and as we age, it becomes more important than ever. George Bernard Shaw once opined: “You don’t stop laughing when you grow old, you grow old when you stop laughing”. Words to live by.

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Strathmore Family and Community Support Services, in partnership with Canadian Parents for French and the Strathmore Library, hosted a Little Taste of Francophonie on March 22 at the Strathmore Library.

Joe Lepage Photos

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## New Blood

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A Story of Reconciliation

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Each of the Blackfoot cast members shared why they choose to participate in this show, and each one reminded us that they and or their parents and or grandparents were victims of residential school. These are their stories. We are grateful for their generosity in sharing with us.

Featuring original poetry including “The Indian in the Child”, music by Peter Gabriel and Indigenous singers including contemporary and traditional dance.

Cocktails 5:30  
Dinner 6:15  
Performance 8:15  
followed by Q&A

Tickets \$50 per person  
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Thought for the Week  
~  
Perhaps we need love the most when we deserve it the least.

# SUDOKU

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# Town begins debate to rescind garden and garage suite bylaw

Continued from Page 3

Coun. Denise Peterson inquired into the feasibility about adding a contingency into the bylaw which would bar developers from purchasing pre-existing properties in Strathmore for purposes other than for residential.

Proctor explained added that sort of annotation to the bylaw would be challenging, as changes of land titles within Strathmore are often private affairs and are not known to the town until after the transaction has been completed.

Fule added it may be seen as potentially controversial and unwelcoming to future developments if the town waited to change the bylaw until interest was being expressed by developers to potentially construct suites on existing residential properties.

Currently, any low-density zoned property throughout Strathmore, not just within the downtown area, if it meets the criteria outlined in the bylaw, would be able to apply for approval to develop an accessory dwelling.

As garden and garage suites are considered a discretionary use, the town's development authority would review them to ensure they are not interfering with anyone else's property even if the lot already qualifies for development.

"Discretionary uses, we take on a case-by-case basis ... in staff's opinion, we would not approve a discretionary use which unduly would interfere with the amenities of the neighbourhood or materially interfere or affect the use, enjoyment, or value in neighbouring properties and land," said Proctor.

If the regulations are removed from the bylaw, anyone may still apply to develop. However, the decision would go through council as opposed to through the development authority.

The Town of Strathmore received a petition, August 2024, from Claude Brown, a local resident, containing approximately 600 signatures requesting the town explore repealing the bylaw.

Coun. Brent Wiley motioned for council to direct administration to prepare a land use bylaw amendment removing the garden and garage suite uses from the town's low-density residential districts and bring it to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

"I have realized that no amount of new multi-units will solve the housing affordability crisis in Strathmore. As long as Calgary is bringing in 100,000 new residents every year, our housing supply will not keep up with that demand," said Wiley. "We should not be altering the look and feel of this town to try and solve something that is just completely not able to be solved in that way."

Wiley's motion was carried by council in a vote of 4-3 in favour. Councillors Debbie Mitzner, Peterson, and Melissa Langmaid voted against.

## Pass the Salt

**GOD'S QUESTIONS**

To a people experiencing economic and political distress, God, through the prophet Isaiah, asks, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" While it's an ancient question, it is remarkably appropriate in our modern society, where we are inundated daily with promises that this or that product or experience is exactly what will satisfy our life's needs and desires. Except, of course, most of those promises never prove true, at least not in the long run. And yet, we still buy into those promises again and again - until circumstances change for the worse and we can no longer even hope to acquire the thing we've come to believe we need. The irony in God's original question is that it comes in the middle of God's invitation: "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have

no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price ... Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live."

God is laying out a great feast, a bounty that will last a lifetime and even longer. So why waste your life in unsatisfying pursuits when a feast of real food that truly satisfies is available for the asking?

The invitation to a great feast may seem out of place during Lent. But the true thrust of both Lent and God's invitation to the great banquet are the same - take the opportunity to return to God. "Seek the Lord while he may be found and call upon him while he is near."

Even with its focus on fasting and self-denial, Lent is still a most

*Rev. Malcolm Kern, Priest  
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**STRATHMORE TIMES**

# Town amends non-residential municipal tax incentive bylaw

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore amended the Non-Residential Municipal Tax Incentive Amendment bylaw, No. 25-10, during the March 19 regular meeting of council.

Presented to council by Jamie Dugdale, director of infrastructure, operations, and development services, the proposed amendment was prepared to better support local economic growth and encourage increased non-residential investment in the town.

He explained a business case was originally prepared in 2022 to develop a tax incentive bylaw to attract non-residential development, and to remain competitive in the region.

The amendment which was proposed before council was to remove the eligibility requirement that a business provide at least 25 employees on site, in order to include new business such as those in high tech and data processing industries which often have few employees working at an on-site location.

“The requirement to increase total assessment by at least \$10 million and to include at least 2,800 square meters of area on one floor or level would remain,” said Dugdale. “This initiative makes Strathmore more attractive to large non-residential developments; the benefits are jobs, tax revenue increased, profile within the province, and major non-residential development is a key pillar of Strathmore’s economy as well as council’s strategic plan.”

From an organizational standpoint, the goal is

to increase assessment and employment in order to improve the overall viability of the local community long term, and support Strathmore as a key service node in the region.

Angela Groeneveld, senior manager of economic stability and investment, explained a lower threshold will open the incentive to a wider range of businesses, including startup and small business enterprises.

“In today’s economy, smaller businesses are less likely to hire large numbers of staff, versus lower and on contract. Those are types of businesses that I tracked last year that are coming in, and those are the current ones that we are working with investments,” she said.

Chief Administrative Officer, Kevin Scoble, explained new residential development is a net cost to the town and is subsidized by existing property owners.

Building houses for businesses in Strathmore helps the existing taxpayer base; business properties are taxed by the town differently than residential and nets profit for the municipality.

Coun. Jason Montgomery motioned that council give first and second readings to the bylaw. These were passed unanimously.

Dugdale clarified the tax incentive reduces from a 100 per cent incentive over five years down to zero, eventually evening out with other established non-residential taxation.

Coun. Denise Peterson motioned that council grant permission for third reading, followed by a motion by Coun. Melissa Langmaid to hold third reading. These motions were also carried unanimously.

# Town defeats second reading of land use amending bylaw regarding future childcare facility

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore Council voted to defeat second reading of Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw 24-23, regarding 416 and 417 80B Archie Klaiber Trail.

The bylaw was brought before council during the March 19 regular meeting, first for a public hearing, then later to be voted on.

Town of Strathmore staff had received an application to redesignate 416 and 417 80B Archie Klaiber Trail to facilitate the development of childcare services.

The properties are currently designated as Commercial Highway District according to the Land Use Bylaw and childcare services are not listed as a permitted use in the district.

Currently, the site is under development with plans for four buildings, one of which being the childcare facility in the corner unit on the northern side of the site.

The proposed childcare services include an enclosed playground. Per the land use bylaw, the service is to provide one parking space per staff member. Town development services have indicated the site will provide sufficient parking.

“I had some residents contact me about this and their concerns about the traffic. Even at that time, I did not think it was that big a deal but somewhere along the line, I missed the fact that there

was going to be 50 childcare spots in that building,” said Coun. Brent Wiley. “I am just picturing a drop off of 50 kids sometime between, most of them would be 7 a.m. to let’s say, 8:30, 9:00 a.m. 50 spots, we are thinking at least 25 cars and I am just trying to imagine people pulling into those spots in that time when the Starbucks lineup is already coming out of that parking lot.”

Wiley explained as much as he did not like the idea of voting against a business opportunity, he could not support what he described as a “traffic nightmare” in this particular location in town.

Inversely, Coun. Richard Wegener explained he would be voting in favour of the bylaw amendment, citing the need in Strathmore for more childcare services availability.

“There are people in town who are taking their children to other communities, Calgary, and that, for daycare. I do believe there is a number of daycares needed still. I have driven by some of the daycares that are already open, some of them are on busy streets for pickup and drop off,” he said. “I know safety is a huge important factor with the kids ... the big thing is I do think more are needed and I do not want to stymie any business from setting up shop here in town.”

As Mayor Pat Fule was absent, a 3-3 vote following the public hearing, discussion and debate resulted in a motion to pass second reading being defeated.

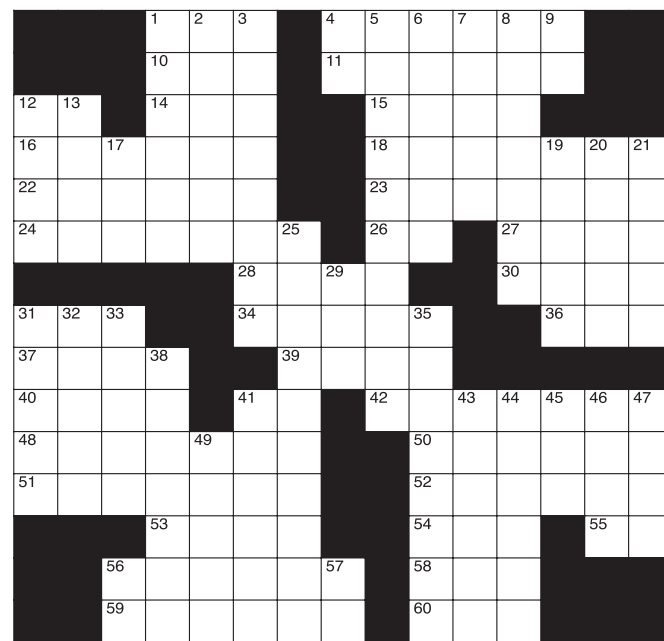


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### CLUES ACROSS

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. State in southwestern India     | 36. Where golfers begin               |
| 4. Pashto                          | 37. Negatives                         |
| 10. Corpuscle count (abbr.)        | 39. Wild goat                         |
| 11. Supervised release from prison | 40. Releasing hormone                 |
| 12. Greeting                       | 41. Makes up                          |
| 14. Type of drug                   | 42. Fastens                           |
| 15. ___ Sagan, astronomer          | 48. Exists in large numbers           |
| 16. Every year                     | 50. A connecting word                 |
| 18. Nasal cavities                 | 51. A phase of the heartbeat          |
| 22. Nova __, province              | 52. Northern Ireland county           |
| 23. In an inactive way             | 53. An independent ruler or chieftain |
| 24. Cream-colored root             | 54. Pacific sea bream                 |
| 26. Nervous system disease         | 55. Commercial                        |
| 27. Guitarist Clapton              | 56. Azure                             |
| 28. Three came to see Baby Jesus   | 58. Doctor of Education               |
| 30. Lebowsky’s nickname            | 59. Protected oneself against loss    |
| 31. Play a role                    | 60. Car mechanics group               |
| 34. Not fresh                      |                                       |

### CLUES DOWN

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Pastes for filling crevices             | 29. Talk incessantly              |
| 2. Acquire                                 | 31. Ethnic group of Nigeria       |
| 3. Heralds                                 | 32. Longtime NY Times film critic |
| 4. News group                              | 33. Beginners                     |
| 5. Exact copies                            | 35. Makes a trade                 |
| 6. Particles                               | 38. Sleep                         |
| 7. Noted 20th C. performer Lena            | 41. Not moving                    |
| 8. Tempted                                 | 43. Popular drink: Pina ___       |
| 9. Midway between north and east           | 44. Potential benefits            |
| 12. Slotted, hinged metal plate            | 45. A place you can get stuck in  |
| 13. South American hummingbird             | 46. Ancient Greek City            |
| 17. Neither                                | 47. Chalcedony                    |
| 19. Walk with confidence                   | 49. Rover                         |
| 20. Omit when speaking                     | 56. Digraph                       |
| 21. Imperial Chinese currency              | 57. Investment vehicle            |
| 25. A bakery specializing in French pastry |                                   |

**STRATHMORE TIMES**

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**John Watson** Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
**Kristina Bezic** Financial Manager    **Rose Hamrlík** Advertising    **Jody Schneider** Production

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**125 2nd Avenue, Strathmore, Alberta T1P 1K1 • 403.934.5589**

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Local Journalism Initiative. **Canada**



**STRATHMORE WHEATLAND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Making an impression

The 4-H Calgary Regional Communications Competition took place at the Strathmore Civic Centre on March 22. Competitors advanced to the regional level after earning top placements at their club, area, and district competitions. For Junior and Intermediate members, this event marked the highest level of competition, while Senior competitors aimed to secure their place at the Provincial Public Speaking Competition.

Photo Courtesy of Krista McInnis



Presentation JR Winners



Presentation INT Winners



Presentation SR Winners




Speeches INT Winners



Speeches JR Winners



Senior Speeches Group



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# WHEATLAND COUNTY

## 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.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>March 27, 2025   9 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>April 1, 2025   9 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>April 2, 2025   9 a.m.</b></p> | <p><b>Committee of the Whole</b></p> <p><b>Council Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Agricultural Service Board</b></p> |
|---|---|

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



## 2025 Municipal Election


Thinking About Running for Municipal Office?

Make a difference in Wheatland County by stepping up as a candidate in the 2025 municipal election!

- Why Run? To shape our future, advocate for your community, and bring fresh ideas to the table.
- Scan the QR code to learn about eligibility, key dates, and the nomination process.

Nomination Deadline: September 22, 2025, at 12:00 noon.

This is your chance to lead, inspire, and create change!



YOUR COUNTY YOUR VOTE

# JOIN OUR TEAM!

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

Minimum requirements:  
• 18 years of age • Valid class 5 drivers licence • No criminal record • Good physical health



If you're interested or have questions, please call or email Fire Services at 403-361-2182 or [fireservices@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:fireservices@wheatlandcounty.ca).

### Careers with Wheatland County

Available opportunities include:

**Fleet Coordinator** : Closes March 28, 2025

<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/careers/>

WE'RE HIRING!



## Community Facilities Funding Grant

Wheatland County is accepting applications for the Community Facilities Funding Grant Program, which provides operational and capital assistance to non-profit organizations managing community facilities, programs, or services that benefit County residents.

**Application Deadline: March 31!**

For more details or to apply, visit: <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/community-funding-opportunities/>

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.



**Tubing time**

The Crowfoot 4-H Multi Club went to Calgary's Winsport Tube Park for a fun night of snowtubing on March 14.

Photo Courtesy of Megan Black



The Wheatland Wranglers hosted the 2025 U18B Female Provincial Championship from March 20-23 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The team went 1-1-1 in the round robin, just missing out on a playoff spot and finished the tournament in fifth place, capping off a successful season.

Joe Lepage Photos

# Wheatland Wranglers U18 female hockey team finish fifth at provincial tournament

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland Wranglers U18 female hockey team placed fifth at the U18B Alberta Provincial Championship hosted in Strathmore March 20-23.

Jaden Vanderlaan, head coach of the Wheatland Wranglers, explained in their first game of the tournament, the girls demolished their opponent, with a final score of 11-0 on Thursday night.

Friday saw each participating team working through a skills comp, setting aside the competition for the day before resuming on Saturday.

"We had two games – one in the morning versus Lakeland, we lost 7-2, and then we played Beaver Lodge in the evening and we tied them 3-3," said Vanderlaan. "Unfortunately, it did not bring us into Sunday's games, so we did not make the championship games, but it was fun for the girls."

He added the tournament was an enjoyable experience for all those who participated and was good for the town to see so many people traveling in for the weekend.

The Wheatland Wranglers had been defeated in the second round of their playoffs coming out of the regular RMFHL season, however being the host team for provincials gave them a bye into the tournament.

"The girls maintained a very posi-

ve mindset – they all worked together, they battled hard throughout the whole weekend and played some good hockey," said Vanderlaan. "The girls are excited, they are upset – it is obviously not the outcome we wanted, but they are excited to get back on the ice and ready for next season."

Vanderlaan added largely speaking, the big thing for his team to be working on as they prepare for the next season is their focus and their mentality.

Among the 16 players currently on the roster, eight of them will be aging out of the league and will be moving on with their hockey careers.

Recruitment for the next season has already begun for the Wranglers and is welcoming all new players who wish to come out and participate. The goal is to attract as many new players as possible to the team.

Registration is scheduled to conclude as of June 30 for the U18 female Wheatland Wranglers team.

"RMFHL has hockey camps in and around the Strathmore area, so all the kids can go the camps throughout the summer. Hockey Alberta also puts on some camps throughout the summer as well," said Vanderlaan.

More information about the team and potential participation is available through the Wheatland Wranglers website, as well as the RMFHL Facebook page.

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**Upcoming Council Meetings**

**April 2, 2025 | 6 p.m.** Regular Meeting of Council  
**April 9, 2025 | 6 p.m.** Committee of the Whole  
**April 16, 2025 | 6 p.m.** Regular Meeting of Council

**Come Say Hi**

Hearing from the community is really important to us, so you're welcome at any Council or Committee of the Whole meeting. You do not need to call ahead or register to observe Strathmore Council in action. There is ample public seating and additional standing room if needed. You can also watch livestreamed meetings online as they happen, or catch up later on YouTube.

**A rapid fire list of things to remember. Garbage, drainage, and sweeping.**

The weather is warming up, which means its time for a spring cleaning list. For more information on all the below points, check out our website, [Strathmore.ca](http://Strathmore.ca)

Trash to Treasure (TTT) is a great time to let your unwanted items become someone else's beloved items. TTT will be from April 10-13 this year. Heavy Item Garbage (HIG) collection follows, lasting from April 14-18. Tagged items are to be placed out for collection by Monday, April 14, and picked up throughout the week. Tags can be picked up at the Municipal Building and the Library.

With spring well on its way, our overland storm drainage systems need your help. When drainage systems get blocked, we get impromptu ponds in our streets. Be sure to check your local catch basins for blockage and remove debris from the swales in your yard. You can report ditches and culverts that aren't draining by contacting us.

The weather is warming up and the streets, pathways, and boulevards are in need of a good sweeping, which is what we're doing (weather permitting). Keep an eye out for posted signs with dates and times in your area, and move your vehicle if needed. Follow our social media page for status updates and find more information on our website.

**Speedy wifi? Yes please. Fibre Optic Expansion.**

The Town of Strathmore has partnered with Fibre Connect to expand the fibre optic main network in residential and business right-of-ways. Starting in spring 2025, Leducor Technical Services will subcontract the work to bring high-speed fibre optic access to areas of Strathmore previously without coverage. Connection to the fibre optic will be at the discretion of property and business owners.

Installing fibre optics enables fast internet speeds, ensuring smooth streaming, seamless video calls, and quick downloads. They offer a reliable connection, even during peak usage time or bad weather. For businesses, fibre optics improve efficiency through faster uploads and seamless video conferencing. They also increase property value and support remote work and learning, making them a valuable addition for modern living and working.

Any installation on private property requires authorization by property owners. With permission, Fibre Connect will install a fibre optic line from the main network along the right-of-way to the home or business. Representatives from Leducor and Fibre Connect will be visiting homes and business to seek permission. There is no obligation to connect.

For more information about this project or future availability of services such as high-speed internet, contact Fibre Connect directly at [info@fibreconnect.com](mailto:info@fibreconnect.com) or **1-800-503-2731**. You can also visit our website, [Strathmore.ca/FibreOptics](http://Strathmore.ca/FibreOptics)



Alberta weather conditions from spring to fall can often be very dry, contributing to prime fire conditions. With the province recently announcing an early start to wildfire season, it's important for communities to have effective wildfire prevention practices in place.

The Strathmore's Hazard Reduction Burn Plan aims to assess grassland fuels on the landscape within the community, identify locations of high fire risk based on predicted fire behaviour, and prioritize and prescribe these areas for hazard reduction burning. Selected regions within town will undergo hazard-reduction burning treatment in March, reducing the risk of wildfire, number of nuisance fires, and better prepare the community in the event of an approaching wildfire on the landscape.

**What is a hazard reduction burn?**

A hazard reduction burn is a planned, controlled burn of high hazard vegetation (such as dry grass) done by trained firefighters. Typically, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Wild and firefighters use these burns in the spring, around communities located near high-hazard areas (such as open grassy planes). Controlled burns reduce the risk of spring wildfires starting in the area later on.

**What's the benefit?**

- There's a couple reasons why we employ hazard reduction burns.
- Enhance community protection by removing high risk areas of grass.
  - Reinforce pre-planned wildfire containment lines around the town.
  - Burning of the landscape is a natural process that eliminates old growth and allows new regeneration of grasses. By utilising burning, we allow nutrients to re-enter the soils and grow new life.

**What's the timeline?**

The hazard reduction burn is scheduled for mid to late March. Ignition will only occur when weather conditions are conducive to burning and when it is safe to do so.

**Where is this happening?**

Each area was inspected for risk, practicality, and safety to reduce wildfire risk, nuisance fires, and better prepare the community. Areas are marked as "blocks" and prioritized based on community risk, difficulty, and fuel loading. Priority 1 areas have the highest fire risk. The initial plan includes 33 blocks, with private property burned only with owner approval. You can view the full map on our website.

All burns are at the Fire Chief's discretion. If your land poses a hazard or could benefit from the burn plan, contact the fire department at [firehall@strathmore.ca](mailto:firehall@strathmore.ca) or **403-934-3022**.

You can learn more about the plan at [Strathmore.ca/HazardReduction](http://Strathmore.ca/HazardReduction)

**It's property assessment season. Property Assessment Notices.**

Property Assessment Notices are mailed each year in February. In Alberta, property assessments are governed by regulations outlined in the Municipal Government Act, ensuring a fair system that promotes an equitable distribution of municipal taxes. Property assessments in Strathmore are based on the market value of each property as of **July 1, 2024**, and the property's physical condition as of **December 31, 2024**.

The Customer Review Period is an important time for property owners to check, compare and review their assessment for accuracy, fairness and equity. When you receive your notice, there's a few things you should do.

- **Review your assessment:** Once you receive your letter, take time to review the details carefully. This assessment will provide important information about your property value.
- **Contact information:** If you have any questions or concerns about your assessment, let us know! You can contact our Taxation Department at [tax@strathmore.ca](mailto:tax@strathmore.ca)
- **Appeal process:** If you believe there is an error in your assessment, you have the right to appeal. If you'd like to appeal your assessment you have until April 28, 2025 to do so. All complaints must be submitted using the Assessment Review Board Complaint form, available on our website. Detailed instructions on how to file an appeal will be included in your letter and you can find more information about the appeal process on our website, [Strathmore.ca/Assessment](http://Strathmore.ca/Assessment)
- **Payment deadlines:** Be aware of any deadlines for payments or appeals mentioned in your letter to avoid any penalties.

For more information, visit [Strathmore.ca/Assessment](http://Strathmore.ca/Assessment)



**Community Access Card.**

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



**Municipal tenders available.**

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





**2025 is an election year. While October is just over seven months away, now is a great time to start learning more.**

Municipal elections are where the decisions that impact your daily life are made—choices about the roads you drive on, the parks where your kids play, and the services that keep our community strong.

Ever wonder how those decisions come to life? They're made by people just like you—your neighbors, your friends, and maybe even you. Our town council is built on the voices of residents who care deeply about where we live, work, and grow.

Over the years, council chambers have welcomed grandfathers and their granddaughters, fathers and their sons, husbands and wives—all brought together by a shared commitment: helping Strathmore thrive.

There are four key ways you can be part of this election, and we'll be sharing more information as we get closer to election day:

- **Register to Vote** – Make sure you're ready to have your say when election day comes.
- **Nominate for Council** – If you're passionate about making a difference, consider running for office. You don't need to be a politician—just someone who wants to see our town flourish.
- **Work the election** – Elections don't run themselves. Join the team that helps make democracy happen by signing up for an election worker role.
- **Vote** – Every vote matters. Help choose the leaders who will represent your voice at the council table.

Here are a few dates you should keep on the calendar:

- **Nomination Day Deadline:** September 22, 2025 at noon
- **Election Day:** October 20, 2025

Stay informed and be part of the process. You can learn more by visiting [Strathmore.ca/Election](https://strathmore.ca/Election).

**Land Use Bylaw No. 25-06.**

**Notice of Public Hearing.**

**April 16, 2025 at 7:10 p.m.**  
**Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 25-06**  
**Edgefield Phase 3, Strathmore**

Staff received an application for a land use redesignation (Bylaw No. 25-06) of Edgefield Phase 3 (Lot 1, Block 3, Plan 071 1894 and Lot 1, Block 2, Plan 031 007) to facilitate the development of R1N – Single Detached Residential (Narrow Lot) District, R2 – Low Density Residential District, R3M – Medium Density Modest Residential District, P1 (MR) – Public Service District. These properties are currently designated as AG – Agriculture General District in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB).

**Public Hearing Process**

A copy of the proposed Bylaws may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website (<https://strathmore.ca/en/town-hall/public-hearings.aspx>). Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**, commencing at **7 p.m.** with procedures in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw #23-17 and amendments thereto. Any person or group of persons, or person acting on someone's behalf, who claims to be affected by any of the proposed bylaw may present suggestions or concerns by making a submission to the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services at [lsadmin@strathmore.ca](mailto:lsadmin@strathmore.ca) by noon on **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**, in order to register to present.

Written submissions to the Public Hearing or the name of any person wishing to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing must be received by the Planning and Development Department prior to noon on **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**, as outlined in Bylaw #23-17 and amendments thereto. If your written submission is not received by this time, please provide fifteen (15) copies for distribution at the Public Hearing. Each person wishing to address Council at the Public Hearing shall complete their verbal presentation within three minutes.

\*Please note that written submissions will become public documents once submitted to the Town, unless otherwise requested.

**Please contact Legislative Services at 403-934-3133 prior to attending a Public Hearing to determine the order of Bylaw presentations in the Council Agenda to ensure efficient use of time.**

**Notice of Appeal on Development Permit D24-114.**  
**Notice of Hearing.**

**Notice of Appeal on Development Permit D24-114**  
**for the**  
**Property Located at 4 Parklane Way, Strathmore AB**  
**Plan 9211782, Block 1, Lot 2 – Title Number 081 287 798**  
**Development Permit Regarding: Eagle Heights Development**

The Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) received a Notice of Appeal on March 3, 2025. The SDAB will hear the appeal on:

**Date(s): Thursday, March 27, 2025**

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**Location: Town of Strathmore Municipal Building, Council Chambers,**  
**1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB**

Adjacent landowners have the right to be heard by the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. Affected persons include people who speak in favour or against the decision being appealed.

Persons are asked to provide any written and/or visual presentations to the clerk no later than noon on **March 24, 2025**.

Please be aware that any submissions are collected for the purpose of a public hearing. By making a submission you are consenting that all information that it contains – including addresses, personal or other sensitive information – to be forwarded to the parties (e.g. municipality, appellant, applicant), the board/panel and any other person who requests to see the material.

The Development Permit Application, Notice of Decision and Notice of Appeal are available for review at the Strathmore Municipal Building, at 1 Parklane Drive during regular business hours, being 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at **403-934-3133** or [veronica.anderson@strathmore.ca](mailto:veronica.anderson@strathmore.ca).

**Land Use Bylaw No. 24-22.**

**Notice of Public Hearing.**

**April 16, 2025 at 7 p.m.**  
**Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 24-22**  
**712 3rd Street & Surrounding Properties**

Staff received an application for a land use redesignation (Bylaw No. 24-22) for those lands described as 710 Third Street, Plan 992HV, Block 28, Lot 2A; 712 Third Street, Plan 992HV, Block 28, Lot 2B, Civic Address NA, Area A, Plan 0313207, and 380 Ridge Road, Plan 8510985, Block 1, Lot 3, Strathmore to facilitate the development of apartment housing and redesignation to R3 – High Density Residential District with a Direct Control District Overlay.

These properties are currently designated as CHWY – Highway Commercial District in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB). At present, apartment housing is not a listed use in this district.

**Public Hearing Process**

A copy of the proposed Bylaws may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website (<https://strathmore.ca/en/town-hall/public-hearings.aspx>). Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**, commencing at **7 p.m.** with procedures in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw #23-17 and amendments thereto. Any person or group of persons, or person acting on someone's behalf, who claims to be affected by any of the proposed bylaw may present suggestions or concerns by making a submission to the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services at [lsadmin@strathmore.ca](mailto:lsadmin@strathmore.ca) by noon on **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**, in order to register to present.

Written submissions to the Public Hearing or the name of any person wishing to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing must be received by the Planning and Development Department prior to noon on **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**, as outlined in Bylaw #23-17 and amendments thereto. If your written submission is not received by this time, please provide fifteen (15) copies for distribution at the Public Hearing. Each person wishing to address Council at the Public Hearing shall complete their verbal presentation within three minutes.

\*Please note that written submissions will become public documents once submitted to the Town, unless otherwise requested.

**Please contact Legislative Services at 403-934-3133 prior to attending a Public Hearing to determine the order of Bylaw presentations in the Council Agenda to ensure efficient use of time.**



**24-22. 712 3rd Street**  
 (and surrounding properties)



**Proposed R3 High Density Residential District, District Overlay**



# Golden Hills School Division



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NATURE-BASED OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING



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# St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church to shut down after 116 years of worship

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After 116 years of operation, the St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church will be permanently shutting down in Strathmore.

“The parish has decided that it will cease holding public worship services. The last service will be on April 27,” said Reverend Malcolm Kern. “The parish has been becoming fewer in numbers gradually and the other thing that happens is that each year, everyone gets a year older, which in your thirties and forties it does not make much difference, but in your eighties and nineties, a year can severely reduce the amount of stuff you are physically able to do.”

Kern explained many of the activities the parish was previously able to do in the local community are simply no longer physically possible both due to a lack of numbers of people, as well as due to the ages of parishioners.

He added, even prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were not enough people remaining within the parish to host their annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper for the community, which had been a tradition for over 100 years.

As public health restrictions began to lift and people began to congregate in person again, the parish found itself migrating from location to location in order to remain financially viable.

Similarly in this case, worship had begun to be scheduled for Sunday afternoons, which saw its own string of

difficulties in attracting people to be in attendance.

“Eventually, the people here, the parish, decided that while we could keep going on and make the money work, maybe it was better to take what resources that the parish still had and use them to try and support others,” said Kern. “There are a number of agencies in town that the parish has supported over the years ... we are also going to be making some funds available to support the Indigenous parishes within our diocese, the closest one being St. John the Divine in Siksika.”

As of March 16, Kern reported the St. Michael and All Angels parish was down to approximately 10 people in attendance for worship.

Once the church officially closes its doors, individual parishioners, assuming health and ability to do so, will by their own volition find other congregations to worship with.

“What we are hoping is on the 27 of April, the service will have somewhat of a retrospective of that past 116 years, and in the service, some sort of celebration of that history as well, that business of symbolically passing on the light to those who are still actively engaged in in the gospel of Christ here in Strathmore,” said Kern. “There is not an awful lot of precedent, not an awful lot of predefined structure as to how to do this.”

As has been the case for the last approximately 30 months, the final service offered by St. Michael and All Angels will take place at the Lord of All Lutheran Church.

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by Larry Shue

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# CTR schools offering summer career training programs to students

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Christ the Redeemer schools is in partnership with The Educational Partnership Foundation to provide summer career training for interested students, which also provides credits towards their high school diplomas.

The program aims to provide real world training under the guidance of experienced journeyman instructors.

Each of the five available programs will take place at designated training centers in Calgary throughout the month of July. These programs include pipe trades, ironworkers, hair and esthetics, finishing trades, and boilermaker.

"This programming will allow (stu-

dents) to work with industry mentors in order to develop skills, including industry-recognized safety credentials, as well as explore a variety of different potential pathways in in-demand trades," said Jacqueline Yu, student services consultant with Christ the Redeemer schools. "They will also earn work experience credits towards their Alberta high school diploma ... the purpose of this programming is to allow students to get a taste of each one so that they can make informed choices as they move forward into the world of work."

Unlike the other four options, the boilermaker program has an 18 years of age requirement, as well as an additional screening process.

Yu explained the association union is involved in identifying students for the

boilermaker program.

"As part of it, we want (students) to have a chance to broadly expose themselves to different career pathways and to have hands-on learning opportunities so that they can make informed choices when pursuing their career pathways," she said.

In addition to allowing students to explore their interests, it may also allow them to discover something new.

This aims to aid in a student's decision-making process and better prepare them for potentially pursuing an internship or apprenticeship.

"I have also seen it as a confidence building experience for students because they are getting feedback on the other strengths and gifts that they bring to the table, and an opportunity to

work with a person that they admire," said Yu. "Each program has specific requirements and we have an information pamphlet for each one. For the boilermaker program you need to be 18 years of age ... and then for the other programs, 16 years old. There are also prerequisites, so for example, all of them require workplace safety, HCS 3000, and most of them require construction safety systems."

Each of the programs are free to sign up for to students with a deadline of May 9, save for the boilermaker program, for which there is an April 30 deadline.

More information is available through the school division as well as through the Educational Partnership Foundation website.

## Energy sector key to Canada's success

CHANTELLE DE JONGE  
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Canada's energy sector plays a significant role in the nation's economy, contributing to GDP, employment, and exports. In 2022, the oil and natural gas industry accounted for \$71.4 billion of Canada's overall GDP, which represents 3.2 per cent of the total. Energy exports make up 20 to 25 per cent of Canada's total international exports and support nearly 600,000 jobs across the country. These industries also generate critical revenue through federal and provincial taxes and royalties.

Overall, the energy sector constitutes approximately 5.5 per cent of all economic activity in Canada, with Alberta's oil sands alone contributing about three per cent of the national economic activity, totaling around \$54 billion per year.

Given the uncertainties surrounding international trade, Ottawa should look to our energy sector as a source of economic opportunity. However, the federal government has continued pushing its 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan which aims to restrict the oil and

gas sector, kneecapping one of Canada's most critical industries at the worst possible time.

The federal Emissions Reduction Plan hurts Canada's economy and kills jobs. The PBO projects that the required reduction in production would reduce nominal GDP by \$20.5 billion in 2032. It will reduce economy-wide employment in Canada by 40,300 jobs and full-time equivalents by 54,400 in 2032.

Alberta will not stand for this extreme ideological cap or the unjustified attack on our constitutional jurisdiction, economy, and the prosperity that it represents. Alberta's government will take this fight to the courts if these regulations become law.

Recently, China imposed retaliatory tariffs on a catalog of Canadian exports, including canola – a vital cash crop that many Albertan farmers rely on to make ends meet. This latest trade dispute demonstrates the risks of Canada's reliance on unpredictable global markets and the need for Ottawa to prioritize economic stability for all regions, including Alberta.

Now the federal government continues to flaunt their Emissions Reduction Plan in blatant disregard for the future of Canadians. We are prepared to go

the distance to fight these unconstitutional, self-sabotaging policies. By protecting our oil industry from federal overreach, we are taking a "Team Canada Approach." We are making sure that the lifeblood of Canada's economy operates effectively for Albertans, but also for the greater good of Canada during these uncertain times.

As Alberta faces uncertain economic times and tariff threats, our government is introducing a new eight per cent personal tax bracket on income up to \$60,000, meaning individual taxpayers will save up to \$750 in 2025 while two-income families will see savings of up to \$1,500. Overall, this personal income tax cut is expected to save Albertans \$1.2 billion in 2025, with savings rising to \$1.4 billion in 2028, helping to strengthen our economy and ensuring that you can keep more of your hard-earned dollars.

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)



## Strathmore Performing Arts Festival 2025

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Band: April 3-4

Final Concert: April 9

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TIMES

## Economic development - growing the local economy

MAYOR PAT FULE  
Town of Strathmore

A strong local economy doesn't happen by chance – it's built by a community that welcomes investment, supports businesses, and plans ahead. Strathmore's economy is growing, and that's good news for everyone. When businesses succeed, they create jobs, bring in customers for local shops, and help keep life in town affordable by strengthening the tax base. That means well-maintained roads, great recreational spaces, and the essential services residents rely on, supported by a growing and diverse tax base.

Strathmore is seeing real momentum. In 2024 alone, \$27 million in building value was added to the community, with 37 new industrial, commercial, and institutional permits issued. That's a sign of confidence – businesses see Strathmore as a great place to set up shop, and families see it as a great place to call home. With 1,446 active business licenses, local businesses are growing, offering more jobs and services for residents.

But smart economic growth isn't just about adding new businesses – it's about making sure development is planned, sustainable, and benefits the entire community. That's why Strathmore is working with regional partners to coordinate growth in a way that makes sense for everyone. The Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework and Intermunicipal Development Plan with Wheatland County help ensure well-managed growth and development strengthens the region.

Strathmore's approach to economic development is adaptable and strives to support the community through uncertainty. By investing in responsible growth, ensuring infrastructure keeps up with demand, and working with regional partners, the town is building an economy that can adapt to challenges while continuing to support residents. Smart planning today helps ensure that Strathmore remains resilient and well-positioned for whatever lies ahead.

Major investments in the region are also shaping Strathmore's future. De Havilland's new aircraft manufacturing facility and Phyto Organix's pulse protein facility will bring long-term economic benefits to the area.

Continued on Page 13

# New Blood fundraiser

MELISSA PICHE  
Times Contributor

Strathmore High School students are gearing up for a special performance of New Blood at the Carseland Community Centre on March 29, aiming to raise funds for their upcoming trip to Ottawa where they will perform at a national event in May.

The production New Blood blends contemporary dance with traditional Blackfoot music and storytelling. The students have been invited to perform at the Canadian Museum of History and the National Drama Festival in Ottawa. However, with travel costs estimated at \$1,500 per student and an estimated 30 students going, fundraising has become a crucial part of the journey.

The Carseland fundraiser came to life thanks to the efforts of a dedicated parent, Mr. Ledger, who took charge of organizing the event.

“He just kind of took it under his wing,” said director Deanne Bertsch. “They got all the food donated, which is amazing.”

The fundraiser has already sold over 50 tickets with hopes to sell many more. Students are working hard to spread the word, encouraging friends, family, and community members to attend.

For the students, this trip is not only an opportunity to showcase their talents, but also a chance to represent their culture on a national stage.

Trinity Pretty Youngman, one of the performers, expressed her excitement.

“I think it’s an amazing experience that we get to go on, especially because we’re (mostly) all from Siksika (and) you don’t really get the opportunity as an Indigenous kid to go across Canada to perform something so special,” she said, sharing that she is excited to represent her parents and grandparents who experienced the horrors of the residential schools. “I’m proud to be where I come from, I’m proud to speak my language, and I’m excited to show that part of Canada that nobody gets to see because we don’t get many opportunities like this.”

The production’s significance goes beyond performance. Student Ella Peterson, 16, emphasized the pride they feel knowing the community is behind them.



Drama students from Strathmore High School will take centre stage for a special performance of New Blood on March 29 in Carseland. The special show is a fundraiser to help send their production to Ottawa for a national competition in May. The show promises to be an unforgettable experience for the audience showcasing the student’s dedication, talent and passion for this production. **Melissa Piche Photo**

“It’s nice to know our community supports what we’re doing,” she said.

Bertsch highlighted the unique challenge of adapting New Blood for Ottawa. The full-length show runs 75 minutes, but for the festival the students will perform a condensed 45-minute version.

“We’ve done the shorter version before, but we’ll have to start practicing it again.” Bertsch said.

While the trip is a thrilling opportunity, it’s also a bittersweet one for some students. For seniors like Sarah Taylor, 18, this will be their final opportunity to perform with the group.

“I’m excited to perform in Ottawa because I think the show needs to be seen by as many people as possible,” she said.

The fundraiser in Carseland is more than just a night of entertainment – it’s a community effort to ensure these talented students can proudly represent their school, their culture and their stories on a national platform.

Tickets for the March 29 performance are \$50 for a dinner and a show with a question and answer to follow. Tickets can be purchased in person at The Vault ([thevaultonline.ca](http://thevaultonline.ca)) with proceeds directly supporting the students’ trip to Ottawa. Community members are encouraged to attend and show their support for this meaningful cause.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Full support of the premier

To the Editor

On March 20, in one of his first domestic acts as prime minister, Mark Carney traveled to his home province of Alberta: first, to announce \$187 million in federal funding to aid in rebuilding Jasper after last year’s devastating wildfires and then, to meet personally with Premier Danielle Smith.

I want to applaud the premier’s response to Mr. Carney’s unprovoked act of diplomacy.

“(I) gave him an earful,” the premier told reporters following the meeting. “I provided a specific list of demands the next prime minister must address within

the first six months of their term to avoid an unprecedented national unity crisis.”

Premier Smith went on to conclude, after Carney’s sixth day on the job, “I think there is a real danger that the new prime minister is worse than the old prime minister.”

I believe reasonable people will agree that Premier Smith’s approach to dealing with the new prime minister is the right one. While I have no political experience myself, I have on occasion sat on boards and committees and still belong to a local service club. And if there is one thing I have discovered through that experience, it is that there is no better way to engender

cooperation than through hostility, belligerence and threats. It brings people together.

Common courtesy, good faith and acting with an open heart is simply a lot of woke nonsense that I cannot abide.

So, Godspeed to you, Madame Premier, in your continued quest to see that this province gets the respect it deserves. This Albertan is right behind you.

Peter Lauridsen  
Rosebud

### Strathmore making strides in economic development

Continued from Page 12

These projects not only create jobs but also attract skilled workers, spur additional investment, and boost local businesses.

Strathmore has also been recognized for its efforts. The town recently earned two Economic Developers Alberta Awards of Excellence – one for regional collaboration in recognition of the Lead by Example Powwow, and another naming Angela Groeneveld, Senior Manager of Economic Development, as Economic Developer of the Year. These awards highlight the dedication and hard work being done to support growth and opportunity in Strathmore.

Looking ahead, council is taking steps to make sure growth remains responsible and balanced. In 2025, the Municipal Development Plan will be finalized to help shape future land use and community planning. As the town expands, the focus remains on ensuring new developments

add value and contribute to a thriving, connected community.

Strathmore’s economy is moving in the right direction, and with careful planning, we can keep that momentum going. By supporting businesses, working with regional partners, and making smart decisions about growth, we’re building a strong foundation for the future. A thriving economy means a resilient, connected, and prosperous Strathmore, where families, businesses, and the community can grow together.

*(At the beginning of each term, council sets the course for the future by adopting a Strategic Plan – a guiding blueprint that charts priorities and directs resources. This plan outlines six key strategic priorities that influence decision-making throughout the term. In the coming weeks, Mayor Pat Fule will provide insights into each of Strathmore’s strategic priorities, reflecting on both achievements and challenges along the way.)*



## Obituary



**ELIAS, Carole Rosina**  
November 30, 1945  
- March 21, 2025

We are heartbroken to announce the passing of Carole Rosina Elias on March 21, 2025 at the age of 79.

Carole was born in Peace River on November 30, 1945. She spent her early years in Dixonville and moved first to Cluny then Standard with her parents, Marshall and Evelyn Bye. It was in Standard that she met and later married John Elias.

Carole was very active in the community from the beginning. She was one of the founding members of the Standard Lionettes, a 4-H leader, and sat on the boards of the new Standard Municipal Library when it was being built and the Standard Community Hall when it was being built. Along the way Carole made many friends. She was very good at connecting with people and was always willing to help others. Her positive attitude also helped her enjoy the most out of life.

Carole spent a great deal of time playing and following sports and was also very supportive of her children and grandchildren’s sports and activities. She was always cheering loudly at events and offering emotional support to all the team members and participants. On the farm Carole worked tirelessly to create a wonderful home for her family. She was known throughout the community for her excellent cooking and baking and had a large vegetable garden for over 50 years.

One of Carole’s favourite activities was travelling. Just before learning she had fourth stage breast cancer she was planning a trip to the Antarctic, the only continent she had not visited, and another trip to England with her daughter and granddaughter. She felt lucky to travel with her family, special friends and even on her own. Some of the people she met on her travels remained friends until the end. She still enjoyed seeing photos and hearing about other people’s adventures as well as sharing stories about her own experiences. Her generosity, laughter, compassion and strength will be missed by all.

Carole was predeceased by her brother Gerald in 1962, father-in-law John in 1985, mother-in-law Rose in 1991, sister Joanne in 1993, mother Evelyn in 2014, father Marshall in 2018 and brother-in-law Jerry in 2020. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, John, daughter Jolayne, son Scott, granddaughter Rosina and grandson Mateo.

A private celebration of her life for family and close friends will take place at a later date. In lieu of cards and/or flowers please consider making a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Wheatland & Area Hospice Society. A special thank you to all the people who helped her along her cancer journey. The staff at the Tom Baker and Arthur Child centres at Foothills hospital as well as the Standard First Responders and staff at the Strathmore Hospital.

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

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*Obituary*



**KNIGHT, Brenda Ann**  
October 21, 1966  
~ March 4, 2025

It is with profound sadness, we announce the passing of Brenda Ann Knight, who passed away suddenly on March 4, 2025, at age 58. She is survived by her partner Boyd, mother Gail, sister Karen, brother Murray, and many relatives and friends. Brenda was predeceased by her father, Fred.

Brenda was a loving partner, a cherished friend, and an inspiration to all who knew her. She always enjoyed her Timmy's ice cap in hand and extended visits with friends. She was known for her incredible kind nature, love of Halloween, cows and farming, decorating events, and extensive volunteer work in the community.

Throughout her life, Brenda achieved many milestones, including serving as Wheatland County Councillor for two terms, serving on the Chestermere-Strathmore UCP Constituency Association Board, receiving The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta), receiving the Limousin Leader's Junior Leadership Award, and serving as the Alberta Limousin Association Limousin Princess and Queen. She served as a Board of Director at Strathmore & District Agriculture Society and Secretary of Strathmore and District Rural Fire Fighters Associations. Brenda was a dedicated Calgary Stampede volunteer for Aggie Days and First Nations Committee, decorating the wagons for the parade. She attended Olds College for the Agriculture Mechanical program and was a member and leader with Crowfoot Beef & Heifer Club 4H. She deeply valued her involvement with the Canadian Legion and Ladies Auxiliary.

Her passion for helping others and her generous spirit will be dearly missed.

A memorial service celebrating Brenda's life will be held on **Sunday, April 13, 2025 at Strathmore Civic Centre (120 Brent Blvd.) at 2:00 p.m.**

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Brenda's honour directly to Strathmore District Health Foundation.

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

*Obituary*



**MAGUIRE, Marlene**  
September 26, 1951  
- February 6, 2025

Marlene died peacefully February 6th with her children beside her at her home. Born in Victoria to Chuck and Frieda Syrett, her and her older sister Lorna were raised there and in Burnaby. She made her way to Alberta in 1974 whereupon she would meet Brian Maguire, marry (1975) and have both Kelly (1976) and Michael (1981), residing in Bassano for most of her life. Unofficially the boss of the RCMP detachment, she kept things in order and the Mounties in line until retirement in 2011.

Involved in numerous community organizations, volunteer and school events, she gained friends everywhere she went with her positive attitude, her wicked sense of humour and zest for life. She was hardworking, fiercely independent and loved her children with every ounce of her being. She had many artistic talents, from decorating her home to putting together the best outfit from Value Village. Her expertise with gold spray paint remains unparalleled!

In 2021 a move to Strathmore added to her coterie of friends and where she resided until her passing.

Wine, golf, travelling (especially in her well appointed holiday trailer in Yuma, AZ) and entertaining, provided countless memories for her and her friends, which surely will be recounted at a celebration of her life occurring on Saturday, April 5th, at the Bassano Community Hall. Doors open at 2 pm with a small program beginning at 3 pm.

Donations in her memory can be sent in support of the Bassano & District Health Foundation (and choosing Long Term Care, Palliative Care, or Greatest Needs) where our grandpa, Boppee, received such great care. Mom also suggested the Salvation Army. A sensibly priced glass of red wine can be raised in her honour, at anytime.

You'll be missed Mumsy.

www.StrathmoreTimes.com

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**Notice to Creditors and Claimants**

Estate of ROBIN JAMES LOWRIE who died on the October 16, 2024.

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**NOTICE**



**NOTICE OF ELECTION**

Irrigation Districts Act (Sections 53)  
Local Authorities Election Act (Section 35, 46)

**Western Irrigation District in the Province of Alberta**

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| Office(s)       | Number of Vacancies | Division Number |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
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Voting will take place on the 9th day of April 2025 between the hours of 10:00 am and 8:00 pm. The voting station will be located at the Western Irrigation District office at A-1000 Pine Street, Strathmore, Alberta.

DATED at the Town of Strathmore in the Province of Alberta, this 19th day of March, 2025.

Troy Tangedal,  
General Manager/Returning Officer

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Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



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