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**Vol. 11 - Issue 47** | Tuesday, November 22, 2022



The Whitecourt Wolverines played a fast-paced game against the Camrose Kodiaks on the weekend and came out on top! The 528 fans in the seats were treated to fast feet, hot-potato stick-handling skills, and some rough stuff as they watched their hometown team take the win. See article and more photos on page 2.









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# Fantastic Saturday night Wolverines game at the Scott Safety Centre brings big cheers from fans



You can't have it! This puck is mine!

#### By Serena Lapointe

The Whitecourt Wolverines took on the Camrose Kodiaks on Saturday night at the Scott Safety Centre. The fourth home game of the month saw a larger crowd in the seats thanks to a Whitecourt Minor Hockey U9 Tournament in town that brought lots of young hockey players out to watch the game.

The Whitecourt Wolverines couldn't stay out of the penalty box in the first period, taking three, high sticking, boarding, and roughing. The Camrose Kodiaks didn't miss the opportunity and pocketed two goals on the man advantage, taking a twogoal lead after twenty minutes.

In the second period, things flipped for the hometown team as the

Wolverines players managed to keep themselves out of the penalty box and, instead, got four opportunities on the man advantage as the Kodiaks took penalties for holding (x2), goalie interference and a ten-minute misconduct. With four chances on the powerplay, the capitalized Wolverines on one, with Aiden Long grabbing his ninth of the year thirty-two seconds into the period.

Not to be outdone, the Whitecourt Wolverines continued their push, scoring an even-strength goal just over a minute later thanks to an unassisted marker by Kaiden Wiltsie, his sixth of the year. The Wolverines had successfully climbed out of the hole they found themselves in after the first period, tying things

up 2-2. But that wasn't it. Just before the half-way point of the second period, Graham Skinner, assisted by Jonah Bevington, scored his second of the year, giving his team their first lead of the game, 3-2.

The third period would be about staying out of the penalty box for both teams. The fast-paced game could change in the blink of an eye so staying away from penalties was key. Twenty-five seconds into the frame, the Whitecourt Wolverines increased their lead with a wicked shot by Colby Browne, unassisted, bringing the score to 4-2.

Things got a bit unhinged as the Wolverines took a penalty for hooking. Ten minutes later, the

continued on page 6



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\*\*Monthly meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19



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#### NOTE:

Interviews for these roles will be held on Thursday, December 22, 2022 ONLY.

We thank all students that apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

## Whitecourt Town Council updates

The Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its annual Santa Claus Parade on Friday, December 2 at 7pm in downtown Whitecourt. Town Council has approved street closures for the parade in downtown, and residents will be reminded of the closures closer to the event date. For more information on the event, visit the Whitecourt Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page.

The Protective Services Committee provided an update to Council on safety enhancements being made or suggested along the Highway 43 Corridor. As approved by Council in the summer, applications have been made to the Government of Alberta to place "Your Speed" signs along Highway 43 at both the east and west entrances to Whitecourt, as well as install a red light camera at the intersection of Highway 43 and Dahl Drive.

Whitecourt Town Council has supported the Summer Village of Sunset Point's request to join as a member of the Capital Regional Assessment Services Commission (CRASC). CRASC is an inter-municipal group that provides Whitecourt's Assessment Review Board services.

Whitecourt Town Council received a quarterly financial report at the November 14 Regular Meeting. Council also had the opportunity to review the 2022 Project List that is available for viewing on www. whitecourt.ca.

Whitecourt Town Council has scheduled its 2023 Planning Session for January 19-21, 2023.







## **HELP WANTED**

Tim Hortons in Whitecourt is looking to fill the following positions:

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#### continued from page 2

Wolverines took another penalty, this time for unsportsmanlike conduct. And, just two minutes further, they took another penalty, as Chase Broda was sent to the box

for goalie interference. Wolverines' goalie Ben Charette held firm for his team as he maneuvered shots and fought through three near back-to-back penalties, protecting the Wolverines' lead.

Thanks to their goal-

off in the crease, and players fighting off the Kodiaks advances to get back into the game, the Whitecourt Wolverines held strong and managed to increase their lead in a period where

tender working his butt they shouldn't have been able to, given the penalties against them. Kaiden Wiltsie pocketed his second of the game, bringing the Wolverines' total to five goals on the night.

The Camrose Kodiaks

put up a brave fight and scored one final goal at the seven-minute mark of the third but fell short of tying things up. The final score from the Scott Safety Centre was 5-3 for the Wolverines. The next home game for

the Whitecourt Wolverines comes this Friday and Sunday. On Friday, the Wolverines welcome the Spruce Grove Saints, and on Sunday, for the matinee, they welcome the Grande Prairie Storm

# Focus remains on making Highway 43 safer, with ideas for drivers and pedestrians



The Transportation Advisory Committee is back in action following a long absence. Meant to be a place where issues involving safety in Whitecourt, for drivers and pedestrians, are brought forward, the committee helps support a safer community for all. Following the first meeting in September, issues/ideas were brought forward to the Protective Services Committee, and Whitecourt Town Council recently got to see their feedback.

#### By Serena Lapointe

The Town of Whitecourt is looking at ways to enhance safety along the Highway 43 corridor. The recent restart of the Transportation Advisory Committee is one of the initiatives. The Transportation Advisory Committee includes representatives from the trucking industry, community and

MLA Martin Long. On September 16, a community engagement evening was held to kickstart the committee and was attended by Mayor Tom Pickard and Whitecourt RCMP Staff Sargent Ted Zadderey.

The committee's purpose is to provide a place to discuss ways to make community

including how vehicles and pedestrians travel throughout Whitecourt. As one of the hosts for the community engagement evening, Mayor Pickard provided a summary to the Protective Services Committee meeting in

During the November 14 regular meeting, Whitecourt Town Council saw the comments back from the Protective Services Committee. Twelve topics were sent to the Protective Services Committee, and the group provided comments for each.

"There's a few that have been left with the MLA. There's a few that Administration is following up on and will bring those forward to Council

at appropriate times," explained CAO Peter Smyl. Mayor Pickard said that MLA Martin Long is "very much involved and very supportive" of the initiatives. "I've had conversations with our MLA, and he is meeting with Alberta Transportation people in the city to move these requests forward, and I expect to hear

from him shortly on any of the ones listed as MLA involved."

Items that include MLA Long's support included having better compliance with the current speed limits. The notes from the Protective Services Committee said, "the request has been submitted

continued on page 7

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## Staff Sargeant Ted Zadderey (left), MLA Martin Long, and Mayor Tom Pickard.

#### continued from page 6

to the Province for the "Your Speed" signs to be installed at the east and west entrance to Whitecourt along Highway 43." MLA Long is said to have forwarded the request to Alberta Transportation for consideration. As for the current speed, the committee discussed lowering it but felt that compliance would be improved with the installation of the "Your Speed" signs.

Another topic that MLA Long supported is the discussion around an additional set of lights. "This has been a discussion item for the Town of Whitecourt for several years, and the Town continues to advocate for a controlled traffic intersection at 33 Street and Highway 43," read the notes. Putting in lights, should it be completed, would be a shared cost between the Province and the Town of Whitecourt.

Other issues include the intersection of Pine Road/Caxton Street at Starbucks. Concerns were raised at the September engagement session about inconsistent traffic flow, large trucks crossing the intersection to access the side road, campers using the Sani dump site across from Dairy Queen, sightlines, and congestion during peak times. "We all agreed at that meeting that there are problems at that intersection. We want (the) Planning and Development Department to look at it first on possible solutions for us to consider," said Mayor Pickard.

The Sani dump was also one of the twelve issues raised. "It was suggested that the Sani dump station located on Caxton Street (across the street from Dairy Queen) be decommissioned and that RV traffic be encouraged to use other locations throughout White-court, including the Sani dump at the Forest Interpretive Centre. This has been passed on to the Infrastructure Services Department for consideration," the notes read.

Having wait sequences synchronized at traffic-controlled intersections for improved traffic flow was also brought forward. In the meeting, it was also mentioned that some lights on Highway 43 pause between the countdown light on the crosswalk reaching 0 and the lights changing to yellow and then red. At the same time, other intersections don't have a wait and the light switches to yellow immediately following the countdown on the crosswalk. Notes stated that Administration had reached out to Alberta Transportation regarding wait times in the countdown sequences.

Another topic raised is having separate traffic signals for left-turning traffic, similar to the lights at Mayerthorpe. "MLA Long is aware of the discussion surrounding this topic and will be discussing the suggestion with Alberta Transportation," read the notes. Other topics included better lighting around main intersections, support for red light cameras, a more consistent layout in intersections, and an update on the status of the Bypass Study released in 2014, which outlined the Province's plans for Highway 43 in Whitecourt.

Councillor Derek Schlosser asked about one of the points around more enforcement of traffic laws. "Were they specifically talking about RCMP enforcement



along Highway 43 in terms of speed and (having) more presence?" Mayor Pickard said it was a recommendation from the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting that there be more police presence on the highway. "The request was to the local detachment that when they had time and when duties permit it, to increase the enforcement of traffic laws."

Mayor Pickard recounted a recent conversation in the meeting. "I think it should be noteworthy to council that there was a day where they (RCMP) had some extra members (out), and they had three complaints that there was too much enforcement. I'm not sure what too much enforcement is, but if you're following and in compliance with the law, it wouldn't really matter how much enforcement there was."

Whitecourt Town Council voted unanimously to recognize the update from the Protective Services Committee and accept it as information. Updates will be brought forward as feedback is received, and the Mayor and the Protective Services Committee will contact MLA Long to stay on top of the points raised.





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Have empty bottles hanging around the house? A quick stop at one of the Community Lunch Box blue bins in Whitecourt can clear you of your bottle clutter and help fund a worthwhile cause. Bottles donated to the Community Lunch Box not only help put food in the bellies of hungry school children but also give meaningful employment, in an inclusive, supportive environment, to community members with disabilities. Bins like this one up at the Roadhouse Pub and Grill can also be found at IGA, Starbucks, and the Bottle Depot. There are other similar bins at Staples, Home Hardware and the Curling Rink, and numerous gas stations.



#### **Application Location**

## Whitecourt United Church 5201 50 Street, Whitecourt

United Church is independent of the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper and cannot facilitate applications or answer questions.

#### **Financial Donations**

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Tax receipts available.

#### **Gift Donations**

We accept new, unwrapped toys, stuffies, arts and craft kits, family games, pre-teen books, toques, and mittens.

Please no food donations or toiletries.

#### **Application Dates**

Wednesday, November 30... 7pm to 9pm Thursday, December 1...... 7pm to 9pm Saturday, December 3...... 11am to 3pm Wednesday, December 7..... 7pm to 9pm Thursday, December 8..... 7pm to 9pm Saturday, December 10...... 11am to 3pm

- \* no date or time exceptions
- \* no phone applications

#### **Application Requirements**

- Only one individual per family to attend interviews, with knowledge of all information required
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Letter to the Editor policy

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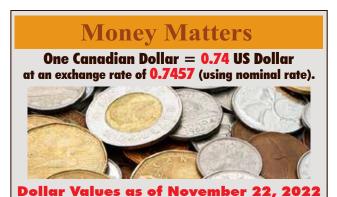
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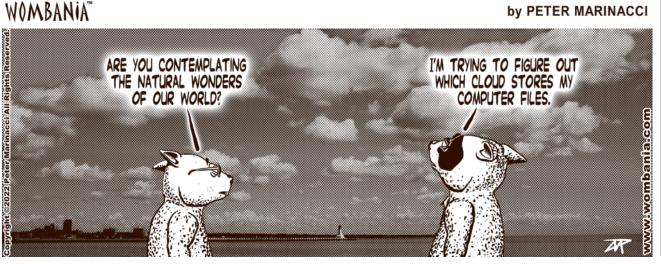
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Editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not

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by PETER MARINACCI





A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

**PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY** 

#### **Contact**

**Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858** Email: wctpress@telus.net

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#### A look at the local weather

P.O.P. High Low Wind 24-Hr Rain / Snow

**Tue., Nov. 22** Mix of sun and clouds

30% 6°C -1°C W 14 km/h

Wed., Nov. 23 Sunny 10% 5°C -3°C W 25 km/h

Thu., Nov. 24 Cloudy 30% 4°C 2°C SE 9 km/h

Fri., Nov. 25 Mainly cloudy

30% 5°C -1°C SE 9 km/h

**Sat., Nov. 26** Mix of sun and clouds 30% 1°C -4°C W 7 km/h

# SOCIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Woodlands County is conducting a social needs assessment to better understand the needs and challenges of County residents. Information gathered through the sessions and survey will contribute to the development of future Community Services projects and initiatives.

## **Senior Focus Groups**

Blue Ridge Community Hall Wednesday, November 30, 9 to 11:30 am Fort Assiniboine Legion Thursday, December 1, 9 to 11:30 am

## **Indigenous Focus Group**

Whitecourt Forest Interpretive Centre Wednesday, November 30, 5:30 to 8 pm

## **Online Survey**

Everyone can participate through the online survey on the Woodlands County website or scanning the QR code.

YOUTH! We really want to hear from you! All youth who complete the survey will be entered to win a \$20 Visa gift card.

\*A light meal is available at all focus group sessions for participants who register.





If you have a disability, need assistance in participating or to register for the focus group session meal, contact Woodlands County Community Services 1-888-870-6315



# The Christmas season can be challenging for those facing illness or loss; an event on Thursday aims to help

By Serena Lapointe

On Thursday, November 24, at 7 pm at the Whitecourt United Church, the Whitecourt Cancer and Wellness Society is holding its annual An Evening of Music event, bringing a message of hope and peace to community members. The musical evening has been a yearly event since about 2008 but hasn't run through the pandemic for the last few years. Current society president Kim Nendsa is happy to see it return.

"It's beautiful to come together as a community to celebrate and be supported. It's important to recognize that the holidays can be difficult for those with a serious illness like cancer or those who have lost someone in their life, especially when everyone (around them) is celebrating it as a happy time. For a lot of people, it might not be such a happy time, and this evening recognizes that."

Nendsa said there would be performers from the community playing for attendees and that there would also be readings and poems shared, which would touch on how difficult the season can be. "We hope this event helps recognize the beauty in the season and that it's ok to be sad. We are here for each other, and you are supported."

She explained that a few years after the society was formed (2002), founders Cheryl Duncan-Molloy and Gail Bablitz recognized the heaviness that the holidays could bring and decided to hold the first of many musical evenings. Each year, the free event brings out a large

audience. With local talent sharing their gifts, the event is just like the Whitecourt Cancer and Wellness Society in that it's community members supporting community members.

"We expect our show to be just over an hour, maybe an hour and fifteen minutes. We have everything from piano to the Community Choir and Indigenous performers. It will be wonderful," said Nendsa. She said that before restrictions put the yearly event on pause, music teachers would recommend pupils for the show. Through the delay, Nendsa said that teachers stayed in touch. "We really appreciate that those people have stayed in touch with us as we haven't been able to hold this event for the last few years. It's really nice to host it again and have them be part of it." Nendsa said her favourite part of the event was listening to the readings shared. "I really like the readings. I like that we've had a really great group of volunteers come together for it, and I like seeing them again and hearing them."

This year's event will also be a "passing of the torch," so to speak, as the founders take a step back, allowing new faces to come in and take a more prominent role in the society. "Gail Bablitz has been the president of the Cancer and Wellness Society, and she always organized this event. She has retired from her job with Alberta Health Services and is taking a step away from her responsibilities in the community. However, she is still available to us as an advisor. We've got a new group of people organizing this event, so it's a bit of the old and the new together, which is nice to see that passing of the torch happening."

Nendsa said she is grateful to Bablitz and Duncan-Molloy for starting things and helping support so many. "Since 2002, they have helped hundreds of people in our community, not just financially but with support through these events where people can come together and meet others going through the same things. The society has also supported education for healthcare providers in our community, and they've had conferences for people in the community who have cancer. They have facilitated so much and have brought local knowledge and talents together. The impact they have brought to the community through the Whitecourt Cancer and Wellness Society is immeasurable, and that's a tough act to follow. They've set great ground-

Donations provided to the society through corporations, and individual people stay in the community one hundred percent. Besides the minimal cost of stamps and cards, every penny raised in Whitecourt stays in Whitecourt. "Anyone in Whitecourt, with a doctor in the community, that receives a cancer diagnosis can contact the society or talk to their healthcare provider and be connected to us to receive funding assistance." Nendsa explained that they provide grocery vouchers and gas



The Whitecourt Cancer and Wellness Society is hosting An Evening of Music this Thursday. The evening event will feature numerous musical acts and readings that recognize how hard the holiday season can be for those living with serious illness and those who have lost loved ones.

Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society President Kim Nendsa (right) graciously accepted a \$10,000 check from Friends of Whitecourt Society President Trudy Dorward last month. All funds donated to the society stay in the community.

cards to those diagnosed with cancer to help cover travelling costs for treatments outside of the community, which add up.

The volunteer-run society provides support through multiple avenues to help alleviate some of the burdens those battling cancer face. "We will also ensure you are connected with the Cancer Navigator at the Primary Care Network and other provincial resources available to you."

An Evening of Music takes place on Thursday, November 24, at 7 pm downtown at the Whitecourt United Church. There will be refreshments following the mu-

sical portion of the evening. "It's nice to have that time afterwards to be together to talk, especially after not being able to gather for a few years. It'll be a nice free Christmassy seasonal appreciation, recognizing that it is not an easy time for everybody. All are welcome to attend."



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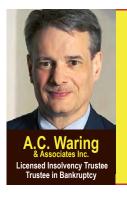


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