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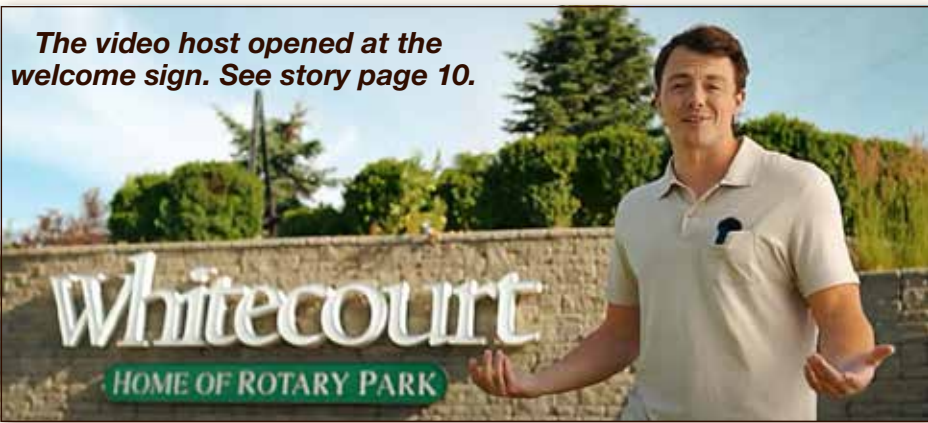


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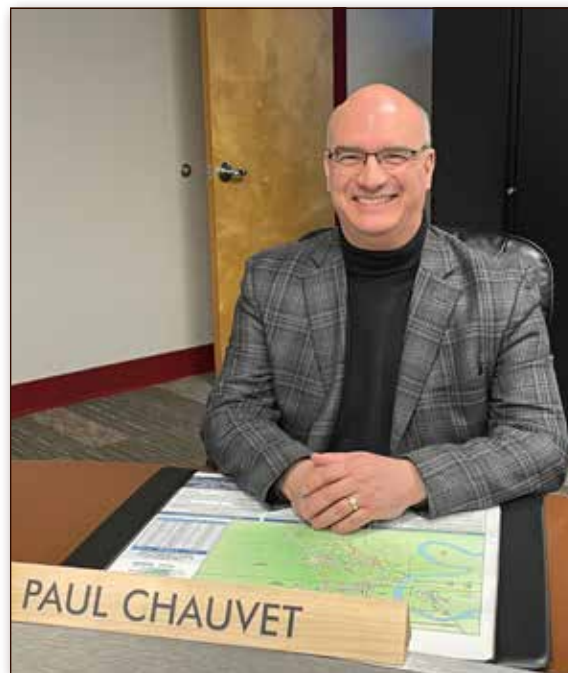
Vol. 12 - Issue 10 | Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Economic/tourism accomplishments from 2022 from the committees that spearhead Whitecourt's interests



The video host opened at the welcome sign. See story page 10.

Whitecourt-led resolution to support Canadian oil and gas producers reaches federal desk, big supporters behind it



A resolution to utilize Canadian oil and gas resources, and hold imported product producers to the same standards required of Canadian producers, continues to garner support. Originating from the Town of Whitecourt, the resolution made its way to the desk of the Minister of Natural Resources thanks to a massive push of support from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Councillor Paul Chauvet is excited to see the growing support. See story page 10.

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Amendment to cemetery bylaw, grant funding for a newly formed society at recent Council meeting

By Serena Lapointe

The Town of Whitecourt's cemetery bylaw saw a recent change. At the February 21 Policies and Priorities meeting, the committee (comprised of council members) reviewed the proposed amendment to Clause 7.5 of Cemetery Bylaw 1563. Chief Administrative Officer Peter Smyl explained that Administration occasionally receives requests to do something outside of what is set out in the bylaw.

One recent request concerned the number of remains allowed within a columbarium niche. "Administration was approached by the general public in regard to a request to allow three remains in a single columbarium niche," explained Smyl. He said that the current practice was that any request that fell outside of the bylaw had to

go through the Cemetery Superintendent, which is Smyl. "I would rather have some structure as to what's allowed and what's not allowed," he said.

The previous bylaw allowed for a maximum

of two urns per niche. Before bringing the proposed change to the Policies and Priorities meeting, Administration confirmed that the space within the niche would allow the three cremains to fit together and that the

inscription on the front of the niche, with all three names together, would conform to the Town's standard for the columbarium.

"What administration is proposing to Council is that if we get a request

that comes in, and the niche physically allows it in size, and the inscription meets the policy, that we will allow that request," said Smyl. He explained that the change is about working with residents. "There are some

unique situations that do arise that we would like to have some direction for. We wanted to make it known for people out there that if they had a situation where they saw a benefit of having three (urns), that we would allow them to do that."

To be approved to have more than two urns in one niche, three requirements must be met; a written request, confirmation that the urns will fit within the niche space, and that the inscription on the front conforms to the bylaw's requirements. As per the Town of Whitecourt website, the inscribed plate must be in a Modified Roman font and contain surname, given name(s), year of birth and year of death. Each niche and plate are uniform in size.

When asked if it would be possible for more than



Whitecourt cemetery.



Two current columbaria and a cement pad for the third on the way.

Whitecourt Town Council recently amended the Cemetery Bylaw to allow for more flexibility. Should they like to, families will now have the opportunity to place more than two urns within a columbarium niche, providing they fit. At the meeting, Council also provided grant funding to a newly formed society that will offer workshops to Whitecourt and area residents.

continued on page 4

Whitecourt Town Council updates

Christenson Group of Companies (CDL Homes) updated Council on the status of The Manor – the seniors living development being constructed in downtown Whitecourt. Construction is substantially complete and some final permitting is anticipated from Alberta Health Services. The facility has a combination of 50 SL4 and SL4D units, along with 18 independent units and two hospice suites. Staffing is in place and CDL Homes anticipates a grand opening later in the month.

The Community Ser-

vices Department presented their 2022 annual report to Council. The Department has been busy, having set a record number for both single daily admissions and single daily scanned visits in 2022. Facility maintenance completed the majority of their projects for last year and are continuing with the scheduled shutdown at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre pool. Transit ridership has returned to pre-COVID rates and the Food Bank continues to be busy.

Under the FCSS Grant Program, Council award-

ed \$3,028 in funding to Stepping Stones Early Learning Society to assist them with establishing a targeted parent support program.

Council will be holding a Special Meeting of Council in April to review amendments to the 2023 Interim Budget. The 2023 Budget is anticipated to be adopted at Council's regular meeting on April 11 following confirmation of provincial funding and requisitions.

Councillor Braden Lanctot was appointed to serve as Deputy Mayor from April 1 – August 31.

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Alberta

Economic/tourism accomplishments from 2022 from the committees that spearhead Whitecourt's interests

By **Serena Lapointe**

On a semi-annual basis, the Economic Development Committee provides a report to Whitecourt Town Council to keep them in the loop on the group's priorities, initiatives and completed activities. The Town's Economic Development Officer, Rhonda Woods, shared the report at a recent Council meeting.

One of the main objectives of the Economic Development Committee is to develop strategies to help support local businesses, investors, developers, organizations, and stakeholders. The committee focuses on business retention and attraction, growing and maintaining relationships, actively participating in events and initiatives with community organizations, supporting tourism development locally with deeply rooted collaboration efforts, and helping show why Whitecourt is a great place to be.

Looking back at 2022, the committee checked

off boxes for numerous action items, including updating the Business Directory and marketing the benefits of being part of it and launching "The Collective" co-working space pilot project, a partnership with Community Futures Yellowhead East. "The collective co-working space has been quite successful. There have been 12 new entrepreneurs or businesses using the space, so that's exciting. We are expecting it to pick up for this year," said Woods. She noted that repeat clients have booked in February and again this month.

Business visitations are another big part of their retention efforts. Visitations are done in collaboration with the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce and the Alberta Government or by the Economic Development team alone. "Throughout 2022, we had close to 20 joint visits and 127 independent visits. Those visits are site visits where we are going out to businesses but also when business-

es are coming to see us," explained Woods.

Website updates to www.whitecourt.ca include extensive support for businesses. Woods said they compiled business feedback to create it. "Any new businesses that are coming in, it's a quick, step-by-step platform for them to use to be able to develop those networks and resources that they need." The "Starting a Business" page on the Town's website provides a drop-down list of 14 steps for entrepreneurs. It starts

with creating a business plan and ends with hiring employees. By keeping the resources together in one neat, tidy package, those with dreams of starting a business are given what they need to get the ball rolling.

Creating and maintaining a database of available commercial land/buildings in Whitecourt is another "check off" item on the list, as was meeting with local commercial realtors to ensure that developments met zoning and bylaw requirements

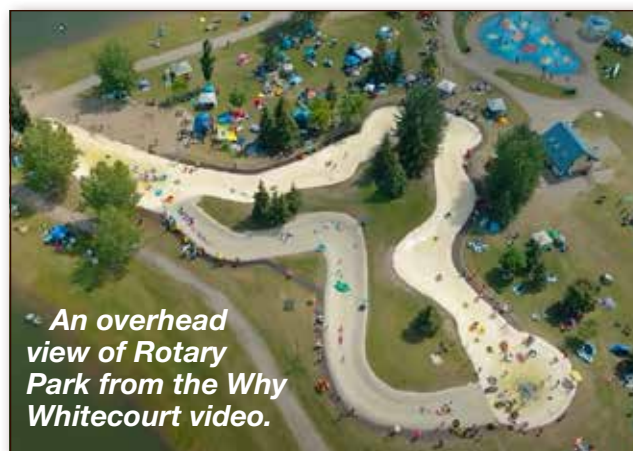
and making sure that pertinent information was shared. The committee also looked into business licensing and what that could look like in Whitecourt if initiated, along with any benefits.

Items on the list that are still ongoing include exploring opportunities with industry and post-secondary institutions. Woods explained that they created a working group which included members from industry, training support organizations, and post-secondary institutions to help identify synergies between a growing labour force and the skilled workforce it requires. She

said they are actively looking for post-secondary institutions that might be interested in moving to Whitecourt or finding opportunities to have training/trades offered locally, helping to create a home-grown workforce.

Another topic touched on in the report was the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program. Whitecourt is recognized as a designated community under the Rural Renewal Stream and Entrepreneur Steam. Both offer support for employers seeking to meet labour demands and attract entrepreneurs to

continued on page 12



The Whitecourt Economic Development Committee and Whitecourt Tourism Committee play a significant role in how relationships and synergies work between the Town and its businesses/industries/organizations. They also shape how those outside the municipality view Whitecourt and are integral to a community's success.

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Weekly grief support group starting February 7 through April 25, 2023, Tuesdays, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm., at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Avenue, Mayerthorpe. \$35 for 12 sessions includes your personal GriefShare Workbook. Pre-registration is required by calling Reverend Ruth Lotholz at 780-786-2695.



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The Whitecourt Food Bank is operated by the Town of Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator and dependent on volunteers to operate. The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food from individuals and organizations. Local grocery stores drop off baked goods including bread and pastries weekly. Other corporations and schools schedule food drives throughout the year.

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- Wednesdays 7:30pm

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

ZOOM ID: 818 413 483 PASSWORD: gratitude



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Providing timely and easily accessible financial support for Whitecourt patients and their families who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

This can include help with parking costs for hospital visits, living expenses and unforeseen medical expenses. Applications can be made through the Drs at both Whitecourt Medical Clinics or (office hours, can leave a message): **Willow McIntyre** (Community Cancer Navigation Nurse, McLeod River PCN) **780-779-0079**, **Kim Nendsa** (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) **780-778-0932**
wctcancerwellness@gmail.com

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

continued from page 2

three to be requested, Smyl said three was already stretching it. "In a single columbarium niche, three would be the max for sure, even just for the size of the nameplate on the outside. If you can fit three, then why not give the opportunity to allow it? It would just be an extra service," he added.

The Policies and Priorities Committee (P&P) unanimously voted to send the recommended changes to the next Council meeting for implementation. On February 27, Council's last regular meeting of the month, Administration brought forward the recommendation from P&P. Council passed all three readings unanimously, officially updating the Cemetery Bylaw (1563), giving residents flexibility should they need it.

There are currently two columbaria at the Whitecourt Cemetery. Each side holds 30 niches. One columbarium is completely filled, and the second has just over a dozen spots left. It was mentioned in the meeting

that a third columbarium has been ordered and is expected to arrive this summer.

Also, during the February 27 Council meeting, Stepping Stones—Early Learning Society received grant funding through the Town of Whitecourt's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS). Community organizations planning to provide preventive-ly-aimed social programs can apply for funding each year. The Town of Whitecourt sets aside \$50,000 in the operating budget to fund the grant program, giving lots of room for organizations to apply. The funding can support things like rent, utilities, and equipment, as well as supporting volunteer training and supervision.

FCSS mandates must be met to qualify for funding, including helping people become self-reliant, building resiliency, and promoting/helping people develop positive social relationships. Organizations must also support people to remain active participants in the community,

empower them to address social issues and influence change, and be preventive.

Stepping Stones—Early Learning Society applied for \$3,028 to establish a targeted parent support program. The program aims to offer targeted workshops on topics like autism, speech and language development, anxiety, literacy foundations, and single fatherhood. Funds acquired through the FCSS funding will go towards providing take-home resources for parents, coordination of the program, and autism facilitation.

Whitecourt Town Council voted unanimously to award Stepping Stones—Early Learning Society with the full grant allotment they applied for. Those interested in learning more about the FCSS grant funding opportunity are encouraged to visit www.whitecourt.ca and type FCSS into the search bar. Resources that will pop up include the eight-page fillable application form that details what is and isn't allowed, letting organizations know if they qualify.



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Canada to access crisis support by phone, in French or English: toll-free **1-833-456-4566** Available 24/7
Crisis Text Line (Powered by Kids Help Phone) Canada Wide free, 24/7 texting service is accessible immediately to youth anywhere

in Canada by texting TALK to **686868** to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to **686868** to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/SMS enabled cell phone.
KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under

in Canada **1-800-668-6868** (Online or on the Phone). First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness 24/7 Help Line **1-855-242-3310**
Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line **1-866-925-4419**
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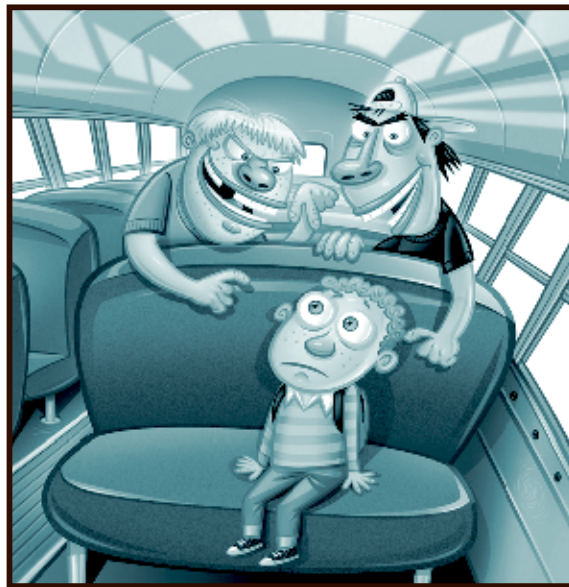


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.
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Putting a face on suicide



Jesse Gaige Western
Age 16

Every 40 seconds somewhere around the world someone dies by suicide, that's 99 people every 66 minutes. Every day, that's almost 100 people in the United States alone, and over 2160 worldwide. Putting a Face on Suicide (PAFOS) is a suicide awareness project that creates posters and videos to pay tribute to those we have lost to suicide with dignity and respect. PAFOS humanizes the daunting statistics; lovingly replacing numbers with faces.

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Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

Responsibilities:

- Greet customers
- Receive and process payments by cash, cheque, credit card, or automatic debit
- Provide information to customers
- Calculate foreign currency exchange
- Calculate total payments received at end of work shift and reconcile with total sales
- Verify the age of customers when selling lottery tickets, alcohol or tobacco products
- Operate cash register
- Process money, cheques, and credit/debit card payments
- Scan Items
- Tabulate total payment for goods or services required
- Receive payment for goods or services
- Calculate daily/shift payments received and reconcile them with total sales
- Suggestive selling
- Provide excellent customer service
- Assist customers with self-service items
- Participate in promotional activities

Qualifications:

- Some secondary school education is usually required. High school graduation may be required by some employers.
- Eligibility for bonding may be required.
- A casino gaming license may be required for cashiers working in gambling casinos.
- Must be able to complete Smart training courses
- Must be able to complete AML

Experience: 2 – 3 years, or we will train.

Education: Some post-secondary, high school may require.

Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 40-hour work week.

Language: English

Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

Wage: \$15.00 per hour.

Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.

Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.

Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3

Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca

How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax



Here's a look at the work that happened through mid-February and into early March at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. The Energy Transfer Canada Aquatic Centre remained closed through March 5 for a biennial shutdown to allow for repairs and preventative maintenance. Staff worked hard to complete the arduous tasks, putting many hours into the project. Residents who utilize the upstairs gym area of the AJMC or frequent the Fieldhouse could peek at the work happening through the windows and watch the progression day to day.



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Casino Shift Manager NOC 62022

Responsibilities:

- Co-ordinate, assign and review the work of casino workers
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition of supplies and materials
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate, assign and review work
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition materials and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports.

Qualifications:

- Completion of secondary school is usually required.
- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- AGLC casino gaming license will be required.
- Must be able complete Smart training courses
- AML certificate

Experience: 3 – 5 years.

Education: Completion of secondary school is required, casino gaming license.

Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.

Language: English

Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

Wage: \$23.08 per hour.

Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, and Health after a 90-day probation period.

Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.

Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3.

Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

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Public health inspection reports for public pools now online

Reports for personal services, childcare facilities will be available online soon

Albertans are now able to search and view public health inspection reports for public pools on ahs.ca/inspections, and will soon be able to do the same for personal services and childcare facilities.

This additional information will support Albertans in making health and wellness decisions for themselves and their families.

Albertans have had access to food facility inspection reports online since 2008. While pool, personal service and childcare facilities have always been inspected and reports available upon request, AHS has not previously posted the reports online. New pool facility inspection reports are being posted and accessible online starting today; personal services facility inspection reports on April 3; childcare facility inspection reports on May 1.

"AHS works with all restaurant, pool, personal service and childcare operators to ensure the facilities are safe and support the health of Albertans," says Mark Fehr, Executive Director for Safe Healthy Environments with Alberta Health Services (AHS). "By enhancing online access to a broader range of public health inspection reports, this initiative will help Albertans make additional informed choices for themselves and their families."

Posting of the reports is happening in stages to align with capacity to conduct internal audits of information system and to respond to questions that might come from industry representatives.

"AHS has been working with these businesses to ensure they have the resources and information they need before we start posting reports publicly online," says Dr. Kathryn Koliaska, Medical Officer of Health, Safe and Health Environments, AHS. "This includes online engagement sessions with impacted businesses and associations, as well as educational resources and access to inspectors for discussions."

Visit ahs.ca/eph for more information on the environmental health teams supporting our communities. Albertans are also encouraged to visit ahs.ca/inspections to ensure they have information they need before choosing or visiting a service provider.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Our mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans. Our current focus is on reducing emergency department wait-times, improving EMS response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Now Hiring Executive Chef NOC 6321

Responsibilities:

- Plan and direct food preparation and cooking banquets and specialty functions.
- Plan menus and ensure food meets quality standards
- Estimate food requirements and may estimate food and labour costs
- Supervise activities of sous-chefs, specialist chefs, cooks
- Arrange for equipment purchases and repairs
- Recruit and hire staff
- May prepare and cook food on a regular basis or for special guests or functions.
- Demonstrate new cooking techniques for and new equipment to the cooking staff
- Prepare and cook complete meals or specialty food, such as pastries, sauces, soups, salads, vegetables, meats, poultry, and fish dishes. Create and decorate food displays for special events such as banquets.
- Instruct cooks in the preparation, cooking garnishing, and presentation of food.
- Maintain records of food costs, consumption, sales, and inventory
- Analyze operating costs and other data

Qualification:

- Post Secondary diploma in Business Management, Culinary Arts, or Hospitality
- 3-5 years of supervisory or management experience in the Hospitality or Restaurant industry.
- Ability to provide leadership and communicate with all staff members.
- Ability to compute basic mathematical calculations.
- Knowledge of proper sanitation procedures and food safety guidelines.
- Understanding of food handling and sanitation standards.
- Understanding of restaurant operational procedures.
- Effective decision-making skills.
- Ability to acquire and maintain relationships e.g., associates, customers, and vendors.
- Positive communication and interpersonal skills.
- Positive attitude and a consistent display of professionalism.
- Innovative, detail-oriented, and quality conscious.
- Ability to endure abundant physical movements in carrying out job duties.
- Demonstrated ability to lead and direct a team.
- Ability to respond quickly in a dynamic and changing environment
- Knowledge of cost analysis, fiscal management, and budgeting techniques as an asset

Education: Post-secondary in business management, Culinary Arts or Hospitality

Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time, 44-hour work week

Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, and Health, After a 90-day probation period

Location: Twp.Rd, 602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, Alberta

Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta T7S 1N3

Contact: 780-779-2727 or fax 780-706-7451 **Visit our website:** www.eaglerivercasino.ca

How to apply: Send your resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax.

Experience: 5 years or more

Language: English

Wage: \$70,000 per year.



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Now Hiring Security Guard Supervisor NOC 62029

Responsibilities:

- Co-ordinate, assign and review the work of security guards and other service workers not elsewhere classified
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition of supplies and materials
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Monitor quality and production levels
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised.
- Arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Ensure smooth operation of computer equipment and machinery
- Establish work schedules and procedures
- Handle emergency situations
- Monitor quality and production levels
- Prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Requisition or order materials, equipment, and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems
- Supervise the operation of mechanical equipment and machinery
- Supervise, co-ordinate and schedule (and possibly review) activities of workers
- Train staff/workers in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies.

Qualifications:

- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- Certification or licensing AGLC.
- Must be able to complete Smart training course
- Must have a valid driver's license class 5
- Must be able to complete AML.

Experience: 2 – 3 years.

Education: Completion of secondary school an asset.

Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.

Language: English

Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

Wage: \$20.77 per hour.

Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.

Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.

Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3

Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

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How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax

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If you enjoy a fast-paced, progressive work environment and you have a passion for serving the local community- then this may be the opportunity for you! We believe that our values of diversity, collaboration, innovation and mutual respect bring out the best in our team, and we are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- **Job#:** 23-012, Arena Operator, Permanent, Part-time Position.

Please visit www.whitecourt.ca for all employment opportunities and details on how to apply.

Please visit www.whitecourt.ca for all employment opportunities and details on how to apply.





As we approach the spring and summer seasons and spend more time outdoors, let's not forget to follow our sun smart guidelines: protect your skin by covering up, avoid peak hours of sun exposure, and apply sunscreen.

For all open career opportunities, please check out our website at albertanewsprint.com → Careers.

WOODLANDS COUNTY RFPS AND TENDERS AVAILABLE

MPE Engineering Ltd. (MPE), on behalf of Woodlands County, is soliciting tenders from qualified contractors for the following projects:

- Township Road 594 (Old Blue Ridge Road) and TWP RD 602A (ANC Road) road reconstruction
- Horse Creek Road milling and overlay and Fort Assiniboine Public Works Yard asphalt pad

Tenders will be accepted on MPE's Bidding System until **2:00:00 pm local time, Thursday, March 30, 2023**. For full project details and to create a Vender Account, visit <https://mpe.bidsandtenders.ca>.

Woodlands County reserves the right to waive informalities in, or reject any or all tenders, or accept the Tender deemed most favourable in the interest of the County.

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following development permits have been conditionally approved under the provisions of the Land Use Bylaw

PERMIT	LOCATION	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	DATE OF DECISION	APPEAL DEADLINE
15-005-23	PT SW 24-58-12-W5M	Dwelling: addition to existing home	2-Mar-23	23-Mar-23

Any person affected by this decision may appeal to the Secretary of the Development Appeal Board by forwarding a written appeal along with a \$500.00 fee, to the address listed below, prior to **4:30 p.m. of the appeal date noted above.**

Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer
 Woodlands County
 Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3
 Telephone: 780-778-8400
 Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring at the address noted.

WOODLANDS COUNTY BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL DEMOLITION

MPE Engineering Ltd. (MPE), on behalf of Woodlands County, is soliciting tenders from qualified contractors to complete the **demolition of the old Blue Ridge School.**

Tenders will be accepted on MPE's Bidding System until **2:00:00 pm local time, Thursday, March 16, 2023**. For full project details and to create a Vender Account, visit <https://mpe.bidsandtenders.ca>.

Woodlands County reserves the right to waive informalities in, or reject any or all tenders, or accept the Tender deemed most favourable in the interest of the County.

2023 ANNUAL ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

Woodlands County is seeking interested volunteer groups to conduct roadside clean-up Saturday, May 6, 2023, with Saturday, May 13, 2023, being the alternate date. The roadways within Woodlands County are as follows:

Provincial Roads	County Managed Roads
Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park Road	Flats/Trestle Road
Secondary 661 - Esso to Gravel	Horse Creek Road
Secondary 661 - Gravel to Ferry	Pride Valley Road
Secondary 658 - Goose Lake to Hwy 33	
Secondary 658 - Christmas Creek to Goose Lake	Timeu (RR45)
Secondary 658 - Christmas Creek to Hwy 43	West Mountain Road
Secondary 751 - Hwy 43 to Secondary 647	East Mountain, Tower and Cutacross Road
Secondary 647 - RR100 and Secondary 751 south to TWP560A	Old Ferry Road
Hwy 32 South to TWP 580	Old Blue Ridge Highway Pavement
Hwy 32 North for 35 KM	Westridge
	Bison
	Robison
	Schuman Lake Campground

Woodlands County will donate \$100 per kilometer (includes both sides) of roadway cleaned.

Volunteer groups will be covered under Woodlands County general liability insurance policy.

A mandatory training session for "Road Managers" of participating organizations will be held at the Woodlands County Municipal Office in Whitecourt and at the Woodlands County Regional Municipal Office in Fort Assiniboine on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Woodlands County reserves the right to assign roadway sections.

Deadline for letter of application: **Friday, April 14, 2023**

Please send an email or letter of interest, which includes your contact phone number, to:

Wilma Harris, Infrastructure Services Secretary
 Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane
 Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3
 Telephone: 780-778-8400, Facsimile: 780-778-8402
 e-mail: wilma.harris@woodlands.ab.ca



JOHN BURROWS
 Councillor for Whitecourt West
 Division 2
 E-Mail: john.burrows@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-706-4747



BRUCE PRESTIDGE
 Councillor for Blue Ridge
 Division 5
 E-Mail: bruce.prestidge@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-779-3917



DEVIN WILLIAMS
 Councillor for Fort Assiniboine/
 Timeu Division 7
 E-Mail: devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-305-1825



JEREMY WILHELM
 Councillor for
 Whitecourt East Division 4
 E-Mail: jeremy.wilhelm@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-779-6594



DAVE KUSCH
 Councillor for Anselmo
 Division 1
 E-Mail: dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-778-9337



ALAN DEANE
 Councillor for Whitecourt
 Central Division 3
 E-Mail: alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-778-0594



PETER KUELKEN
 Councillor for Goose Lake/
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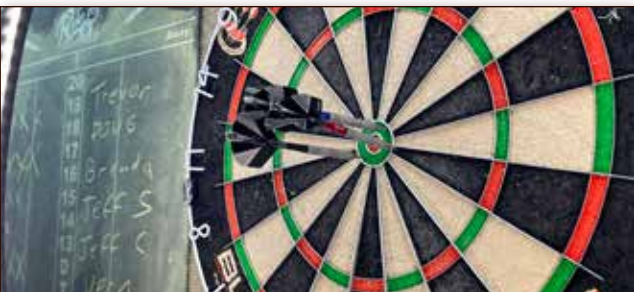
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Whitecourt Double 22's Dart League members were having fun on Friday night. The club holds drop-in play every Friday evening downstairs at the Whitecourt Legion. Registration happens between 7-7:45 pm, with play to follow. The always friendly crowd welcomes new members to join at any time. This month, the Double 22's will hold the 8th Annual Memorial Mixed Team Dart Tournament on March 18. As of this paper's printing, there was still room for more teams to join, and they could grow the roster if needed. Teams must include four players, mixed (701 Fly-In and Double Out). A membership to the legion is not necessary to play or hang out. The bar at the Whitecourt Legion is open to everyone, veterans and non-veterans alike, and is a great hang-out spot in downtown Whitecourt.



Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.73 US Dollar at an exchange rate of **0.7339** (using nominal rate).

Dollar Values as of March 7, 2023

Letter to the Editor policy

The Press welcomes readers to write letters to the Editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not necessary. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. Please email letters to wctpress@telus.net.

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The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY

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

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The Press is printed on high quality newsprint using vegetable based ink. We encourage you to share, save, reuse, rehash & recycle.

A look at the local weather	Tue., March 7	Wed., March 8	Thu., March 9	Fri., March 10	Sat., March 11
	A few flurries	Scattered flurries	Cloudy with sunny breaks	Scattered flurries	Scattered flurries
P.O.P.	40%	40%	30%	40%	40%
High	-11°C	-8°C	-7°C	-7°C	-6°C
Low	-14°C	-13°C	-13°C	-13°C	-13°C
Wind	E 13 km/h	E 19 km/h	E 16 km/h	E 21 km/h	SE 17 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	~1cm	~1cm	-	<1cm	<1cm

Whitecourt-led resolution to support Canadian oil and gas producers reaches federal desk, big supporters behind it

By Serena Lapointe

Since 1901, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has been a national advocate for municipal governments. More than ninety percent of Canadians are represented through FCM's advocacy, making sure the needs of municipalities are reflected in the policies and programs created at the federal level. Each year, actionable ideas, called resolutions, are brought forward from municipal councils, and are put to the vote by members; some pass, some don't.

Recently, a resolution from Whitecourt jumped the line. Rather than be voted on, FCM's Board of Directors felt compelled to support it. The resolution titled "Federal Support for Canadian Consumption of Canadian Oil and Gas Resources as Canada Transitions towards Carbon Neutrality by 2050" aims to encourage the federal government to consume Canadian oil and gas while ensuring that all imported oil and gas products meet the same standards that Canadian oil and gas producers adhere to.

Councillor Paul Chauvet was the one who brought up the idea for the resolution at a Whitecourt Town Council meeting shortly after the last municipal election, which

passed unanimously. He said the way FCM handled it spoke volumes. "The fact that they accepted it at the board level, with a small change, on the basis that we are still working towards net zero, is amazing. It didn't even go to the floor to be voted on by the membership. They stamped it at the board level and sent it off. That's huge. I hope somebody in Ottawa will listen and say yes, let's do this."

In a letter dated January 20, 2023, the president of FCM, Taneen Rudyk (Town of Vegreville Councillor), stated that FCM "continues to encourage the federal government to put local communities in oil and gas producing regions at the very heart of energy and climate policies." The letter, and attached resolution, was then signed and sent to the Minister of Natural Resources, The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson.

Chauvet said he was ecstatic. "We produce a fantastic product. It doesn't matter if it's oil, gas, forestry, or agriculture, and we have laws that protect people. So, why aren't we tooting our own horn and supplying the world? That doesn't make sense to me. We are an export country. We only have 38 million people. We can't consume everything we make," he explained.

Chauvet said he had been mulling it over since 2008, as he started learning about the standards set in Canada versus the ones in other countries. He started talking about it with his colleagues when he was first elected to the Whitecourt council in 2013. A previous motion he made several years ago to send a resolution didn't manifest, but Chauvet conceded that it needed more time to ferment.

"We are globe-setting when it comes to environmental standards. We are doing fantastic work with our environment and social conscience because we have women's rights, human rights, labour laws, and environmental laws. Any oil and gas consumed in Canada should at least meet the same regulatory requirements that Canadian producers have to adhere to, and it's not just about the environment. We also make a great product," said Chauvet.

He said that allowing out-of-country businesses to sell products in Canada without adhering to the same regulatory standards is nonsensical at the highest level. "If we use Canada as the benchmark and say, this is what we do, and you're a country that wants to import your oil to us, then we should be asking, how are you on child labour laws or human rights? Oh, not

good? Well, then, here's your 100 percent tariff. Their oil should be \$1500 bucks a barrel when we start putting everything on a level playing field and looking at what we do to produce a barrel and what they do. Oil that doesn't adhere to our standards should be costly. Ours would be cheap in comparison."

After some fine-tuning of the resolution, it was ready for backers. Chauvet said he helped get on the phone, calling municipalities. It didn't take long for support to start trickling in, with communities like Lloydminster, Drayton Valley, Wood Buffalo, Vegreville, Fort St. John, Kitimat, Petrolia (ON), and Estevan, among others, joining the movement.

Mayor Tom Pickard called the resolution non-political. "I think this concept resonated with Canadians of all political stripes and reflects well on us as a community. This is a statement of Canadians saying let's think about where we are buying from. I don't think Canadians would be upset with oil from countries that have the same standards as ours. Our producers are held to a standard that no one else in the world is held to."

He credited Council and Administration for following the steps necessary to get the resolution moving. "Our Council worked with the Administration to create a resolution that made sense

for the area we live in, the communities we represent, and the men and women in this area that work in the oil field. I'm very proud of the town and our Council for going ahead with this."

He said the resolution made sense from coast to coast and wasn't overly surprised that FCM's board approved it. "This is a resolution that makes sense for Canadians, that we use our own oil first or we use oil that is produced in the same manner, to the same environmental and ethical standards that we hold our own companies to. This reminds our federal leaders that we produce ethical oil and that we would like all the oil we consume to be held to that same standard."

The Whitecourt District Chamber of Commerce recently joined the conversation, providing a letter of support shared at the February 27 Council meeting. President Louise Meier said allowing things to continue as they are is a glaring double standard. "We meet the standard, and everybody else should meet the standard to be imported. Why do we need to diminish our standards by allowing something that doesn't meet them to be sold here?"

She said when the resolution was shared with the Chamber's board of directors, they fully supported it. Meier said continued advocacy needs to happen. "Does the populace of Whitecourt and area,

do those industries that are impacted by this, do they need to stand up and write those same letters of support? I can only think that the more voices behind something like this, the stronger that tide will get. If you have a personal opinion on this and support it, by all means, put pen to paper. It's not difficult to say you're behind this."

Meier said the dollars from industries like oil and gas are largely responsible for positive impacts countrywide. "Those dollars support our facilities. Those dollars support our programs and our recreation areas. If we looked at the dollars donated to the different causes and clubs and see how much of that comes from the oil and gas industry, I would bet you that it would be staggering. Those dollars have built not just our province or community but our country in many ways."

Councillor Chauvet echoed the need for further advocacy and said it comes down to asking questions and putting weight behind the movement. He added that it doesn't stop at oil and gas. "What else should we be proud of and pushing as suppliers for the world? With our standards and the quality of products? People need to start asking questions about this. To fully read Whitecourt's resolution, visit <https://data.fcm.ca/home/fcm-resolutions.html> and search "Whitecourt."

PUBLIC NOTICE

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OPEN FOR TENDER

The Town of Whitecourt has the following project Open for Tender:

- 2023 Street Improvement Program

Tenders Close: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

A full description of the project details will be included on the Tender posting on APC. Tender Documents will only be distributed electronically in digital PDF format through Alberta Purchasing Connection (APC) <http://www.purchasingconnection.ca/>. Any inquiries for this project must be sent no later than 72-hours prior to submission deadline, and can be sent to Juan Grande at JuanGrande@whitecourt.ca or 780-778-2273.

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 23-009: 70 Beaver Drive – Home Occupation – Hair Salon – Approved with Conditions.

Application 23-013: 5004 Dahl Drive – Optometrist Clinic – Approved with Conditions.

Date of Decisions: February 23, 2023

Appeals Close at 4:00pm: March 17, 2023

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$300) to the Office of the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, Town of Whitecourt Administration Building, Box 509, Whitecourt, Alberta, T7S 1N6 prior to 4:00pm on the above noted date. Any person(s) affected by the said proposal(s), has the right to appeal prior to the above date.

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George William Hurst

“Trapper George”

November 10, 1930 – February 21, 2023

It is with sadness to announce the passing of George William Hurst at the age of 92 years at the University of Alberta Hospital. Born in Aklavik, NWT, George made his way to Alberta in the early 1960's to start a new adventure in his life. He made an honest living for himself in the forestry industry and working on farms. One of George's great passions was trapping, he had a wealth of knowledge when



it came to the outdoors. George will be lovingly remembered by Fern and Bea Goudreault and family, along with numerous close and dear friends. A service was held February 26, 2023 at 11a.m at the Whitecourt Seniors Circle with Interment at the Blue Ridge Cemetery. If friends and family

so desire, memorial contributions may be made directly to Stollery Children's Hospital 8440 112 St NW, Edmonton, AB T6G 2B7.

To leave a condolence or memory in George's name, please visit www.affinityfuneralservice.ca.

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continued from page 3

bring their skills to Whitecourt. "If there's a business abroad looking at coming into the community, they can reach out to us. We provide virtual tours and sell the community and set them up with locations and walk them through the process. We had five community tours and five support letters

that were provided," explained Woods. She said she is excited to see what comes of it.

A strong relationship with the Chamber of Commerce is another key to economic development in the municipality. Last year, Whitecourt was a platinum member and supported the Economic Forum, Shop Local Campaigns and the

Whitecourt Bucks Program. "People loved to see the Whitecourt Bucks and be able to spend that back in the community. So, that was another highlight for our retention." Woods said that retention is an essential focus for the committee.

Promoting Whitecourt and showcasing what the community offers grew on social media last

year. New community videos launched and on the Town of Whitecourt's YouTube page. "We took an Economic Development spin on four videos and did tourism on the other three. For the tourism ones, we worked with regional partners across Alberta everywhere, from Grande Prairie to Edmonton and Jasper. We applied for some

grants for Travel Alberta and were successful in three of those," explained Woods. Councillor Derek Schlosser commended the group on a job well done. He said the videos were professional and encouraged people to check them out.

"We worked with a number of micro-influencers like our Ski North Campaign and ZenSeek-

ers. If you've seen them online, they have a ton of followers. We had over two million hits and a hundred thousand shares between all our campaigns, and that's huge for a small community," said Woods. Council will receive another update in the summer/fall to see what the committee accomplished in the first half of 2023.