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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press



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Vol. 12 - Issue 24 | Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Fun for all ages at local gymkhana event



Zig-zagging through the poles. See story page 7.

Martin Long, re-elected in West Yellowhead, sees lots of positivity for the future

By Serena Lapointe

Monday, May 29, proved positive for Martin Long, re-elected to serve the West Yellowhead constituency, garnering just over 70 per cent of the votes in the riding. With four more years to look forward to, Long sat down with

the Whitecourt Press to discuss his thoughts on the most recent election and his party's plan for the next 48 months.

Having gone through two elections, Long said he respects those who put their names forward. "It's a lot of work going through an

election campaign and everything that leads up to that. I spoke with Mr. Kreiner (NDP) on election night and thanked him for putting his name forward and running a relatively clean campaign in West Yel-

continued on page 11



MLA Martin Long said he is honoured to keep representing West Yellowhead.



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No applications accepted after September 1, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

www.whitecourt.ca | facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt | 780-778-2273



LEMONADE DAY JUNE 17, 2023

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize June 17 as Lemonade Day in Whitecourt.



NORTHERN ALBERTA

Lemonade Day helps youth learn skills to become the business leading, social advocated, community volunteers and forward thinking citizens of tomorrow. Youth will be set up all throughout town with their lemonade stands on June 17 and we encourage the residents of Whitecourt to support these entrepreneurs by purchasing their tasty treats.

ENHANCED DRIVEWAY CROSSING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Town of Whitecourt is continuing the Enhanced Driveway Crossing Replacement Program for those property owners wishing to upgrade their private driveway crossings. The Town will cost share with the owner up to 60% for the costs associated with the removal, disposal and replacement of the residential driveway crossing installed according to the "Minimum Standard for Local Improvements".

The program is intended for driveways in areas with high profile of older, rolled curb and gutter which create a harsh entrance into private driveways.

The program application for 2023 must be completed, signed and submitted with a minimum \$500.00 deposit prior to June 16, 2023 to be considered for replacement in the current calendar year.

Program information and an application form may be found on the Town's website at www.whitecourt.ca or by contacting:

Town of Whitecourt, Box 509, 5004 – 52 Avenue, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6
Email: administration@whitecourt.ca Phone: 780.778.2273

CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Current opportunities are posted on the Town's website. Currently Whitecourt has the following opportunity:

- **Call for Photographers** - Closes: June 16, 2023 at 12:00 noon

For further details on this opportunity, visit www.whitecourt.ca and search the project title.

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 23-056: 9 Feero Drive – Discretionary Use – Home Occupation: Massage Therapy – Approved with conditions.

Date of Decision: June 8, 2023 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** June 29, 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.

TOWN OF WHITECOURT GARAGE SALE

The Town of Whitecourt will be holding a Garage Sale. Patrons will have the opportunity to bid on items posted for sale.

Date & Time: June 24 - 25, 2023 from 9:00am to 5:00pm **Location:** 3410 35-Ave

For further details on this opportunity, visit our website www.whitecourt.ca.

**TRL
Gas CO-OP Ltd.**

We are looking for members who are interested in sitting on TRL's Board of Directors.

TRL Gas Co-op Ltd. is a growing member owned gas utility. We have 9 directors who represent the Co-op members.

Each year three positions become available for elections at the Annual General Meeting held in late August. Nominations for the 3 upcoming positions will need to be in by July 18th. If you are a member and someone who desires to make a difference, this could be the opportunity for you.

If you are interested, please phone the office and ask about it.
1-800-727-5259

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or email wctpress@gmail.com



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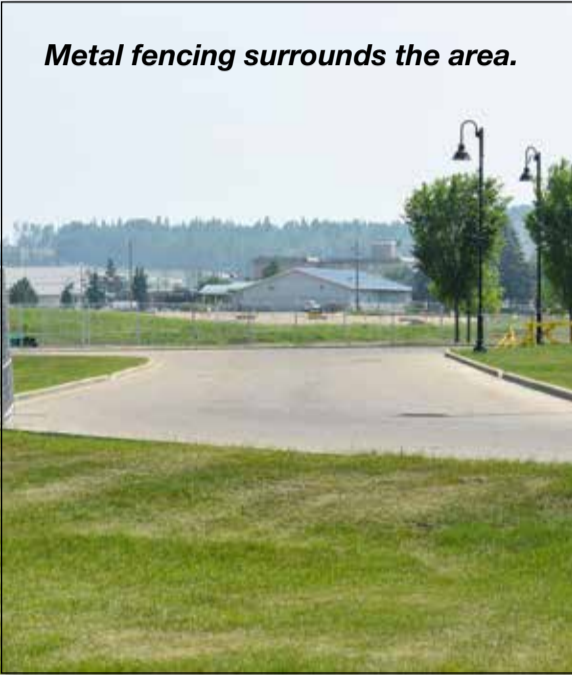
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Metal fencing surrounds the area.



Temporary entrance.



A walkway along the fencing.

Construction fencing now surrounds the entrance area of Festival Park. A temporary walkway runs alongside one whole side of the fence linking pedestrians with the bus stop and sidewalk to downtown. The permanent fencing that used to separate the Whitecourt Air Cadets (blue building) and Whitecourt Community Garden parking lot is now a wall of easily moveable temporary fencing, and the curb is covered with packed dirt, creating what looks to be a temporary access point into Festival Park for when the main entrance is closed.




Help Shape the Future of Whitecourt!

OPEN HOUSE #2: Share Your Voice

- Review work in progress for the Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan Update Projects.
- Provide your feedback to the project team.

Participate in the Open House for the Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw, and North Flats Area Structure Plan projects. Get updated on the project progress, and provide your feedback.

Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023
Time: 5:30-7:30 pm
Location: Allan & Jean Millar Centre Boardroom
Address: 58 Sunset Blvd, Whitecourt

See you there!

For more information, please visit the project website at whitecourt.udconnect.net or call 780-778-2273.

Scan this code to visit the website!



Fresh Community Market coming to Whitecourt

Join your Whitecourt and District Chamber of Commerce as we celebrate the long-awaited Grand Opening and ribbon cutting of the Whitecourt Fresh Community Market, on Saturday, June 24th at 9 AM in the parking lot next to Staples.

“This market has been a long-time goal of the Chamber, and to see it come to fruition is very exciting”, explained Louise Meier, President of the Chamber of Commerce. “When we were approached to be the sponsors of this mar-

ket by two local farmers, who had created a bit of an ad hoc market last year; we jumped at the chance”, Meier explains. “then to be given the approval by the Alberta Farmer’s Market Association, it just made both the farmers and our work worthwhile.”

The intent is to provide both vendors and guests with an opportunity to buy and sell at a different time and place than the one held during the week.

The Fresh Market is to capture the height of growing and harvesting season, as well as provide an opportunity for other vendors like Mystic Moonchild or Just a Rock vendors to showcase their wares.

We also are encouraging not for profits to fund raise with a barbecue, or if you have a talent with a guitar and would like to show that off, let the Chamber office know, and we can set you up. We want a festive atmosphere that will be fun and entertaining for the whole family.

HELP WANTED

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

Food Service Attendant
Full Time / Shift Work

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Full Time / Shift Work

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The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food in order to help families in need.
Open Mon, Wed & Fri 11:00am to 2:00 pm
Phone: 780-778-2341

Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre
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.
Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Phone: 780-778-2341



WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

- Mondays 7:30pm
- Wednesdays 7:30pm


Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.
ZOOM ID: **818 413 483** PASSWORD: **gratitude**

LORNE'S BLANKET

is transitional housing for men.

We exist to help homeless men get back on their feet.

If you know of any male requiring assistance, please Call Lorne's Blanket at 780-778-0952



WHITECOURT **CANCER & WELLNESS SOCIETY**

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*

24/7 CRISIS LINE
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Child Support Program:
Child Care & After School Programs - Age Appropriate Programs & Support for Children Who Have Been Affected By Family Violence

Preventative Education:
Provides Workshops, Information and Awareness to Schools, Community Organizations, Agencies and Businesses



Family Resource & Crisis Centre
www.whitecourtshester.ca



Effective immediately, there will be a change in the publication schedule for The Press. Due to a printer and delivery alteration, the newspaper will now be published on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays.

Whitecourt AA Group
Of Alcoholics Anonymous



Meetings three times each week

- Monday 8:00 p.m..... (12 Step Meeting)
- Wednesday 8:00 p.m...(Open Topic Meeting)
- Friday 8:00 p.m.....(Big Book Meeting)

Located at the United Church Basement on Legion St. (formerly 5201 - 50 Street)
More info Contact: (780) 396-8777. Please Leave A Message For Our AA member or Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322

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Warts

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Whitecourt, AB

Grande Prairie

Parkland Medical
Centre
#202, 10127 121 Ave
Grande Prairie, AB

Airdrie

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Test runs on a few changes at Festival Park, include no cooking zone



Increasing safety and enjoyment for those who use Festival Park is the focus behind a few pilot projects on trial this summer. A no-cooking zone and new spots for picnic tables are two of the changes recently voted on by Town Council.

By Serena Lapointe

Some changes, which included new picnic tables, have been made to the grounds at Festival Park. Whitecourt Town Council voted to make the changes and update Policy 72-004 Rental of Festival Park at their 4 pm May 23 Regular Meeting held at the Forest Interpretive Centre. The changes and policy updates were first discussed in January at Council's Strategic Planning Session and, most recently, at the Policies and Priorities Committee meeting on May 15. Policy updates included the name change from Rotary Park to Festival Park.

Chelsea Grande, Director of Community Services, explained that the Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB) looked into placing a no-cooking zone at Festival Park to alleviate some of the

concerns that Council had identified at their Strategic Planning Session. At their May 15 Policies and Priorities Committee (P&P) meeting, Council recommended increasing the size of the no-cooking zone even further.

When looking at the aerial view of Festival Park (as shown from the agenda package), the no-cooking zone encompasses the entire lower portion of grass from the pathway beside the splash park to the bottom end of the river slides. Council's recommendation increased the area to include the grass space closest to the main bathroom building, directly behind the splash park and up to the edge of the lower river slide.

Visitors who wish to cook while spending time at Festival Park can use other areas, including the pavilion and

playground shelter. The no-cooking zone is a trial implementation and aims to remove cooking from the areas with the heaviest traffic. Temporary signs are already up to let visitors know where not to set up if they plan to cook.

"We are looking at this as temporary. We are going to be looking at the no cooking zone over the summer and seeing where people migrate to cook and then (will) bring it back to Council possibly for more placement of picnic tables and pads to support cooking in other areas," explained Grande. "The other items that we reviewed were the parking lot garbage cans, portable structures, and public placement of sun shelters," said Grande, adding that the CSAB members had recently visited Festival Park for a closer look. The

CSAB didn't have any recommendations concerning changes to parking or sunshades at this time.

Grande explained that the flaps on the garbage cans in the parking lot had been removed. "You'll see that people are utilizing them, and there isn't as much garbage around them, so hopefully, that continues throughout this summer." Last summer, more garbage cans were added to the park to help with busy days and higher user traffic. The garbage cans in the parking lot area had round hole covers that had to be pushed to access the bin. However, they were harder to push, and the hole was small, resulting in park visitors leaving garbage at the bin's base rather than inside it. Grande said the change in mechanics, removing the lids, was being done as a

trial and that they would continue promoting the idea of visitors taking home their cardboard, from inflatables or food, for proper recycling.

Another addition to Festival Park is more picnic tables. During the review of Festival Park, CSAB members noted that there wasn't anywhere to sit close to the parking lot or along the pathway. As per the meeting package, the CSAB wanted picnic tables closer to access points for those who didn't necessarily want to use the other amenities at the park but would like to have a picnic.

The board listed adding picnic tables as its number one priority for 2024. Before adding permanent structures, Administration recommended trialling the ideas this year by adding temporary picnic tables to see how

it goes. "The portable picnic tables are there in areas by the parking lot, and people were using them," said Grande, speaking to the early success of the trial.

After the season ends, data compiled about the different trials on the go will help guide the CSAB and Town of Whitecourt Administration in recommending any necessary changes such as permanent signage, extra picnic tables with cement pads, or any other changes they feel Council should know about for potential implementation in 2024.

Facts about the no-cooking zone will be shared publicly to help create awareness. The meeting package said that park staff would be responsible for enforcement of the zone in partnership with the fire department, bylaw officers and RCMP.



Signs show visitors where not to cook.



New picnic tables are being trialed to see what the public thinks.



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.

Fun for all ages at local gymkhana event

By Serena Lapointe

On Saturday, June 10 and Sunday, June 11, equestrian skills were on full display at the Whitecourt Agricultural Grounds for a Fun Show & Gymkhana hosted by the Woodlands Lac Ste. Anne Gymkhana Club. For those unfamiliar with the word "gymkhana" and what it means, it describes an event that features timed athletic skills performed on horseback or behind the wheel of a car. For this event and purpose, it describes the former; skills on horseback done on tight constricting courses meant to put athletes and their horses to the test.

Club treasurer Erin Barber, who also sits on the Whitecourt District Agricultural Society board and is part of the Westward Riders Horse Club, said she is excited to see everyone enter the ring.

"Gymkhana is riding for everybody. We have riders that are two years old and riders who are 80. There are so many divisions. Since there are pee-wee, junior, intermediate, ladies' men's and senior's divisions, it's kind of adjusted to suit everybody. The kids do barrels, poles, stakes and keyholes, and the adults do barrels, poles, stakes, and flags."

Each event is de-

signed to push riders through a tight course, showing off their abilities to work cooperatively with their horse as they maneuver around intricately placed stakes, drums, chalk outlines, or poles. Though timed and still competitive, riders don't have to worry about hitting a particular mark or reaching a specific time, hence the name "fun show."

"It's like our kick-off to the summer. It's a welcome to Gymkhana type of thing and is exactly what the name says because it's just for fun. We spend \$2500 on prizes, and it's a good, fun day for everyone," explained Barber. "We are not registering times here. During the weekly gymkhana events, you can pay five dollars and register your times, which can help qualify you for finals later this season. You don't need to qualify for this event, though I think there's some added money. It's just for fun, where people can ask questions and figure it out. You don't have to be in full Western attire, either. You must be in full Western attire when you show (compete), or you are disqualified, but not in the fun show."

The Woodlands Lac Ste. Anne Gymkhana Club meets every second Friday, but once

school goes on summer break, they will switch to every Wednesday. As mentioned, riders can pay to register their times during the weekly events. The fun show is different because it allows riders to practice their skills in a similar setting as a competition, without all the pressures that a competition may bring a rider, such as qualification, recorded times, attire, etc.

Riders have many opportunities to add to their time count throughout the season. "Since we are affiliated with the Edmonton Gymkhana Association, there are six different clubs, and each of those clubs holds a trophy day, and there are provincials too. To make

it to provincials, it's a top ten in each division through all the clubs. So, you have to be pretty good to get into the finals," explained Barber. She said having a competition-like event, such as the fun show, is nice to help riders find their groove right at the beginning of the season.

The fun show also helps introduce new members to the sport and how it works. "We have so many new riders joining us, as quite a few new families have moved here." She said four new families had recently moved to the area and joined.

Riders will attend countless weekend competitions throughout the summer as they try to rack up enough

points to make it into the finals. "We do a trophy day on August-long weekend, though the date is being changed for this year because the Whitecourt Rodeo's date had to be changed. So, we will be figuring that out. Then, we do our Fall Classic, which is September long weekend. That's our biggest event where we will have around 75 riders and about 200 people out for dinner," said Barber. "The August event has about \$3,000 in prizes, and the September Classic has \$20,000 in prizes. It's a big show."

The Fun Show & Gymkhana began in 1997. "That was at the rodeo grounds when they were still in town, in Whitecourt. So, it's a long-running event, mi-

nus a few Covid years. You can ride English or Western, and the smiles on all the kid's faces are great to see. I don't have little kids anymore as my daughter who rides is 19, but I still do this for the little kids," said Barber.

The event ran all weekend, with spectators coming and going to watch the action and cheer on the athletes. Saturday featured barrels, poles, stakes, flags, and key-hole-timed events. In contrast, Sunday featured various games and patterns, including scrambled eggs, toilet paper pairs, musical apples, thread the needle, paired foot race, and double barrels. Many families camped on-site and shared pot-luck meals.



Peek-a-boo! We see you.



Perfect throw into the bin.



Little Miss Eva was the youngest rider at the show, at just two!

The Whitecourt Agricultural Grounds were bustling with activity on the weekend. Riders of all ages participated in the Fun Show & Gymkhana hosted by the Woodlands Lac Ste. Anne Gymkhana Club. The weekend featured several different events and patterns.

RCMP ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Evansburg RCMP respond to Armed Robbery

On June 6, 2023, Evansburg RCMP responded to a report of an armed robbery taking place at the Wildwood liquor store in Evansburg. The sus-

pect entered the store, threatened and tied the victim up and stole liquor, a small amount of cash and a vehicle. Officers were able to quickly locate the vehicle and with the assistance of Edson RCMP, it was stopped

and the accused was arrested.

During the course of the investigation, officers linked the suspect to a break-in to the Entwistle post office on the same day.

As a result of the investigation, Danny Su-

pernault, (40), of no fixed address, was arrested and charged with:

- Robbery with a weapon
- Possession of a weapon dangerous to the public
- Forcible confinement

- Possess break and enter instruments
- Possession of property obtained by crime
- Assault type offences (x3)
- Additional 9 warrants from the Edmonton Police Service.

Supernault was brought before a Justice of the Peace where he did not speak to bail and has been remanded into custody with his next court date set for June 12, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Evansburg.

Congratulations 2023 Graduates



Alvarez, Elmira



Brownlee, Alejandro



Bucad, Lorraine



Carew, Brent



Carew, Jenna



Castillo, Silver



Fernandez, Elisha



Gillette, Farah



Jespersen, Jax



Kennedy, Sam



Kentner, William



Kostyniuk, Jon



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE

CLASS OF 2023

Graduation is an achievement and a time to be proud of. This is just the beginning of your journey forward filled with hopes and dreams.

For with God nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:37




Ecole St. Joseph 12 Graduates

Reflecting on the Past and Paving the Way Forward



As the academic year draws to a close, Ecole St. Joseph stands proud to witness yet another cohort of Grade 12 students preparing to graduate. These young individuals have embarked on a remarkable journey during their time at this esteemed institution, building a strong foundation of knowledge, friendships, and personal growth. As we reflect on their past, celebrate their present achievements, and anticipate their future endeavors, it becomes evident that the students of Ecole St. Joseph are poised to make a significant impact on the world.

The journey of these graduates at Ecole St. Joseph began long ago when they first stepped onto the school grounds as kindergartners. Through the nurturing environment of St. Joseph, they have dedicated themselves to learning, growth, and personal development. Through their experiences, they have learned to overcome challenges, embrace diversity, and work together towards a common goal.

utes École St. Joseph School



Chabot, Lylah



Condrada, Ianne



Crawford, Aiden



Cruz, Margerette



Davio, Evan



Eggar, Johannes



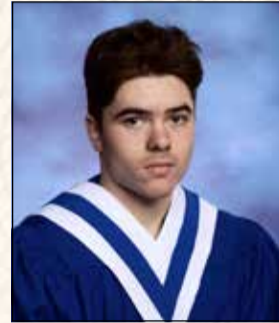
Lunn, Phoebe



Luther, Rayden



MacAulay, Keira



Mobey, Keagan



Nguyen, An



Ouellet, Isyss

St. Joseph Grade uating Students:

the Past, Embracing the Present, g the Way for a Bright Future



ourney of the Grade 12 stu-
Ecole St. Joseph began years
n they first stepped foot into
ol. From their early days of
rten to their final year of high
he students have experienced
ring environment that Ecole
h has provided. The school's
d teachers and staff have
tirelessly to instill a love for
creativity, and a strong mora-
ss within these individuals.
hroughout their educational jour-
students have faced challeng-
ome obstacles, and celebrated

numerous achievements. They have
forged lasting friendships and learned
the importance of collaboration and
empathy. The diverse range of extra-
curricular activities, community ser-
vice initiatives, and academic pursuits
at Ecole St. Joseph has allowed them
to explore their passions and talents
while fostering a well-rounded edu-
cation.

As the Grade 12 students stand on
the brink of graduation, their pres-
ent accomplishments are cause for
celebration. Each of them has grown
academically, intellectually, and emo-

tionally during their time at Ecole St.
Joseph. They have honed their skills
in various subjects, developed critical
thinking abilities, and expanded their
horizons through engagement with a
wide range of disciplines.

Moreover, the graduating class of
Ecole St. Joseph has exemplified the
importance of leadership, teamwork,
and community service. They have
contributed their time and energy to
extracurricular clubs, sports teams,
and charitable initiatives, making a
positive impact both within the school
and the broader community. Their
dedication and passion have left an
indelible mark, inspiring younger stu-
dents to follow in their footsteps.

As the Grade 12 students bid fare-
well to Ecole St. Joseph, they step into
a world full of endless possibilities.
Armed with the knowledge, skills, and
values instilled in them, they are well-
equipped to navigate the challenges
and opportunities that lie ahead.

The future for these graduates is
brimming with potential. Some may
choose to pursue higher education,
further expanding their intellectual
horizons and acquiring specialized
skills. Others may embark on en-
trepreneurial ventures, while some
might enter the workforce directly,
ready to make their mark in their cho-
sen fields. Regardless of their paths,
the Ecole St. Joseph graduates are
poised to become leaders, innovators,
and change-makers in their respective
spheres of influence.

Congratulations
TO THE
**Graduating
Class of 2023!**

**Congratulations
to the 2023 École
St. Joseph
High School
Graduates!**

"Oh, The Places you will Go!"
Dr. Seuss

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2023 Graduates!*

Wishing you all the success you deserve!

2023

Congratulations 2023 Graduates École St. Joseph School



Pond, Brody



Porsnuk, Declan



Powder Tipler, Raylynn



Pudlo, Shealyn



Schmidt, Tyson



Simon, Rain



Smith, Connor



Stephen, Kairi



Supat, Elijah



Tipler, Jaydin



Wolf Tail, Everett



Westendorf, Tayden



Wiley, Dylan



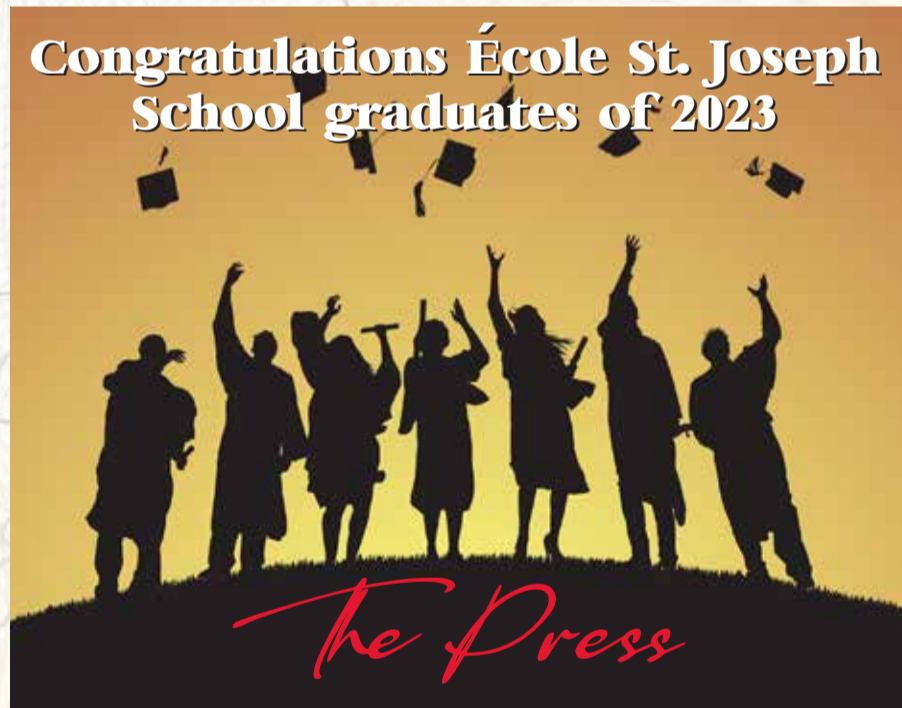
Wiltse, Tyson



Yuhar, Lily



Member Elect
Martin Long
West Yellowhead



Contratulations École St. Joseph School graduates of 2023!

Whitecourt

All the best in your future endeavours.



A busy early afternoon at the river slides.



This cutie was having a blast.



No floatie? No problem!

With temperatures reaching 30 degrees on Friday and Saturday, many people suited up, inflated their floaties and rode on the Festival Park river slides. Even before school was out on Friday afternoon, many families were already at the park and having fun in the water, finding relief from the hot sunshine above.

continued from page 1

lowhead."

Moving forward, Long said it's about working together. "I made it clear in my first term, and I stand by this now being re-elected, (that) my role as the MLA is to represent 52,000 people whether they voted for me or not. That's what I think I've displayed for the first four years, and many folks that I've met and chatted with have told me that."

Long said he sees his colleagues who make up the opposition as those who may have

differing views but ultimately want the same result as him, which is a better Alberta. Long said his goal continues to be focused on maintaining relationships for the betterment of the residents in his riding.

"It's easier to get things accomplished through relationships. Sometimes there's politics in politics, and I've chosen not to get into some of that and instead treat all colleagues, both government and opposition, with respect, and from that standpoint, try to get the things that my constituents need in West Yellowhead

accomplished by that relationship. Each community has their own specific agenda items. My approach is to have my colleagues pick up the phone when I call and tell them what we need in West Yellowhead."

In speaking with constituents on the campaign trail, Long said he heard concerns about health care and affordability. "We've been making a lot of progress in a short period of time on health care with coming out of the pandemic and starting to make headway on the waitlist for certain surgeries and

lowering EMS response times. On affordability, we have the lowest level of inflation in the country based on some of the affordability measures we've taken." Long added that they still need more time to get things "righted."

One big concern Long said he heard involved the storyline that residents would supposedly have to pay out of pocket to see their physicians should the UCP be re-elected. Long didn't mince words. "You won't have to pay to see your doctor. There are no plans to privatize healthcare. I am very open with folks that the Canadian Health Act doesn't allow for us to privatize healthcare, not that there would be any plans to anyway."

Looking to the future, Long said he is excited about what he sees. "There are some really exciting things on the horizon. One that will impact every Albertan, and I think it's been a long time coming, is lowering taxes on the first \$60,000 of income. That will help every Alberta household, and I'm excited to see initiatives like that where a government is purposely trying to create less tax burden on its citizens."

He said continuing to grow the economy was another positive point on the list. "We've got

so much momentum right now. We have the leading economy in the country, and we have the most diversified economy in Alberta history," said Long, also mentioning the UCP's two back-to-back balanced budgets.

"We need opportunities for our kids and grandkids for the future, and we will do that by not passing on our debt burdens to them and by having a strong economy for them to enter the workforce and create opportunities for them and their own families." Long said the UCP would continue to "attract investors, businesses, and companies into Alberta."

Long said he looks forward to continuing to advocate for West Yellowhead residents and is honoured by voters' trust. "The democracy that we get to have in our country and our province is such a key component of our makeup. The fact that people have elected our United Conservative government to continue on the momentum that we've started, I'm very grateful for that opportunity."

The diversity of West Yellowhead, spanning from mountains to rivers and agricultural lands, holds just over eight percent of Alberta's land mass within its border. Jasper, Hinton, Grande Cache, Yellow-

head County, Lac Ste. Anne County, Edson, Brazeau No. 77, Drayton Valley, Woodlands County and Whitecourt comprise the municipalities. Long said he boasts about his area often.

"I get to represent the most beautiful riding in the province, and I always clarify that, yes, we have the landscapes, with mountains and rivers, and that every one of my communities is beautiful in and of itself as far as the look, but it's actually the people that make us distinguished in the province. I have the most incredible people, everyday Albertans. That's what makes us the best riding in the province, and I'm so honoured to be able to represent the families and people who make up West Yellowhead."

There were 24 voting locations throughout West Yellowhead and 36,648 eligible voters listed. From those, 20,135 votes were cast. MLA Long garnered 14,456 votes, equating to 71.8 percent. The Allan & Jean Millar Centre voting location saw the most votes cast in West Yellowhead, with 9,229. Edson was second with 8,244, and the Hinton Centre was third with 7,797. The combined voter turnout for West Yellowhead was 55.4 percent, just shy of the provincial turnout of 59.5 percent.

Donna Angela Jane Bray

July 18, 1955 – April 8, 2023

A Celebration of life will be held in Donna's honor on Saturday the 24th of June 2023, at 2:00PM, at the Seniors Circle in Whitecourt AB. Friends and family are asked to come and join sharing in Donna's memory. Luncheon to follow after service. As an expression of sympathy memorial contributions in Donna's name may be made directly to Haying in the 30's Cancer Support Society, Box 35 Mallaig, Alberta, T0A 2K0 or by visiting www.hayinginthe30s.com.



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We would like to extend our gratitude to all local businesses and organizations in the region who have gone above and beyond to support Canfor during the recent Alberta wildfires. Your selflessness and willingness to help is a true testament to the strength and resilience of our community. As a forestry company, with two operations in the area, we are truly grateful for your immediate response and generosity.

A special thank you to the firefighters, first responders, Canadian Armed Forces, volunteers and our Alberta teams for their tireless efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of those affected.

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- Scream'in Eagle Sales
- Total Oilfield Rentals Ltd.
- Town of Fox Creek
- Town of Whitecourt
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ONLINE FARM AUCTION SALE online from June 13 to 20th, 2023. **VIEWING:** onsite June 13th to 16th and 19th from 11 am - 4 pm ONLY, at 50532 RR232 Leduc County, AB. ****VIEWING IS A MUST DUE TO THE VOLUME OF ITEMS**.** See website for detailed listings & photos. www.auctions.ca. Gary Hanna Auctions Ltd. 780-440-1075. Subject to additions, deletions and errors. All Sales Final. Payment by Cash, Debit, EFT, certified

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Woodlands County Council recap

Woodlands County Council discussed the following items at their recent meeting of Council:

Gary Redmond, Yvonne Barker, and Dan Moore with the West Central Airshed Society were in attendance to provide an overview of their organization and their work monitoring air quality. Council approved payment of \$1,500 for membership into the organization and requested more information about the air quality monitoring stations be brought back to Council.

Council passed By-law 597/23 - Advertising which allows Woodlands County to advertise municipal notices such as by-laws, meetings, and

public hearings, online through the County's website and social media in addition to printing notices in newspapers and other local publications. The County will be utilizing a hybrid approach with notifications in print published in a condensed manner and more details posted on the website.

Woodlands County will enter into an agreement with the Province of Alberta for the development of the Centre of Alberta. The Centre of Alberta is a provincial natural area located off Highway 33 northwest of Fort Assiniboine. Under the Recreation, Ecosystems and Lands Program (REaL), the province will conduct

all surveys, investigations, assessments, capital works and large maintenance items such as large vandalism repairs. Woodlands County would be responsible for the regular maintenance of the area once development is complete. Development of the site is expected to take two to three years.

The next scheduled Council meeting is Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 9:30 am. The meeting is held in-person at the Municipal Office in Whitecourt and streamed on the Woodlands County YouTube channel. Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.

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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.

DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

The Municipal Planning Commission will be making a decision on the following development permit application, as per the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw, at their regular meeting on **Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Section 19 of the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw provides opportunity for any person who may have comments on the proposed development to deliver to the Development Officer, a written statement of their concerns indicating: their full name and address and the reasons for their comments to the proposed use.

If you have any comment or concern regarding this proposal you may provide a written statement via email to peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca prior to **4:30 p.m., June 15, 2023**, or you may attend the meeting.

Comments received will be taken into consideration by the Municipal Planning Commission.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER	PROPOSAL
PT. NW 8-59-11-W5M Lot A Plan 782-1309	15-030-2023	Setback Variance: 30m to 20m
PT. NW 28-59-12-W5M Lot 1 Block 3 Plan 062-0123	15-033-2023	Transport Contractor Business (Minor)
PT. NW 24-59-10-W5M Lot 16 Block 4 Plan 5989KS	15-035-2023	Home Occupation (Minor) STAYK Gardens

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 pm, June 15, 2023.**

Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer
peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca

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

FARMLAND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Subdivision and Development of Farmland

PLACE: Anselmo Hall; **DATE:** Thursday, June 29; **TIME:** 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Woodlands County would like to invite residents and owners of farmland to provide feedback on potential subdivision guidelines and regulations while in review of our Municipal Development Plan to help preserve our hearty agricultural lands.

Woodlands County
Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3
Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer
Or email at peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca
For more information, please contact the above at 780-778-8400.

Information will be onsite at the public consultation session.

NOTICE OF DECISION

Decisions have been made regarding the following development permit applications:

PERMIT	LOCATION	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	DECISION	DATE OF DECISION
15-024-2023	PT. SE 3-59-13-W5M	Variance: third residence (replace existing mobile)	APPROVED with conditions	7-June-23
15-026-2023	PT. NW 10-59-10-W5M Lot 1 Block 1, Plan 112-0353	Intensive Recreational Use: personal use	APPROVED with conditions	7-June-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 pm, June 28, 2023.**

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.

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
15-032-2023	PT SE 27-57-10-W5M, LOT 1 BLOCK 1 Plan 122-2800	Dwelling: manufactured home with deck Accessory Building: garage	6-June-23	27-June-23
15-034-2023	PT SW 26-59-10-W5M	Dwelling: modular home Accessory Building: tarp shed/shop	7-June-23	28-June-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 BENEFITS PROGRAM

A new Benefits program is available for Woodlands County residents beginning **July 1, 2023**. Under this program, County residents can apply for 3 benefits:

To qualify for the program, applicants must provide a copy of their Tax Notice of Assessment from Canada Revenue Agency for the current year and have an income below the following amounts:

Seniors 65 years of age or older and persons with disabilities are also eligible for the program's benefits regardless of income level.

- **Tax Rebate** - \$150 flat rebate if you own your own home.
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- **Snow plow flags** - 3 free snow plow flags per season.

1 person	\$30,000
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Per dependent after	\$2,500

Applications and full details of this new Benefits program and policy can be found on our website at woodlands.ab.ca.

If you have any questions, please contact Community Services at 780-778-8400.



JOHN BURROWS
Reeve
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Division 2
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Central Division 3
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Phone: 780-778-0694



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor for Goose Lake/
Freeman River Division 6
E-Mail: peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-284-2425



A look at the local weather

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



Wed., June 14
A Few showers
60%
17°C
8°C
NW 16 km/h
1-3mm



Thu., June 15
Chance of a shower
40%
15°C
8°C
W 14 km/h
~1mm



Fri., June 16
Showers
60%
18°C
8°C
SE 12 km/h
~10mm



Sat., June 17
Chance of a shower
40%
19°C
9°C
NW 11 km/h
5-10mm



Sun., June 18
A Few showers
60%
21°C
10°C
S 20 km/h
5-10mm

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