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Vol. 12 - Issue 31 | Wednesday, August 2, 2023

To pulverize or not to pulverize, that is the question



Councillor Wilhelm pushed for cold mix rehabilitation to start up again, starting in 2024. See story page 3.

Take that to the bank!
Homeowners receive \$1,000 for completing FireSmart upgrades

By Serena Lapointe

Two homeowners on Beaver Drive whose homes back onto Centennial Park recently made some changes to their properties in the name of being FireSmart. Joel and Stacey Wright had an old fence between their house and their

neighbour's house that needed to be replaced. Around the same time discussions about the fence took place, they saw some activity in the woods behind their home. FireSmart crews were busy at work, clearing the bushes, removing dead and downed trees, and low-

ering the fuel load in the park.

The couple walked over to the activity taking place and spoke with Fire Chief Brian Wynn. The rest, as they say, is history. "He told us some things we could do to help

continued on page 7



The Wrights accept their \$1000 check from FF1 Terrance Corke and Fire Chief Brian Wynn. See story page 7.



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NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 23-086: Home Occupation – David Green Tree Cutting Services – 33 Baly Road – Approved with conditions.

Date of Decision: July 27, 2023 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** August 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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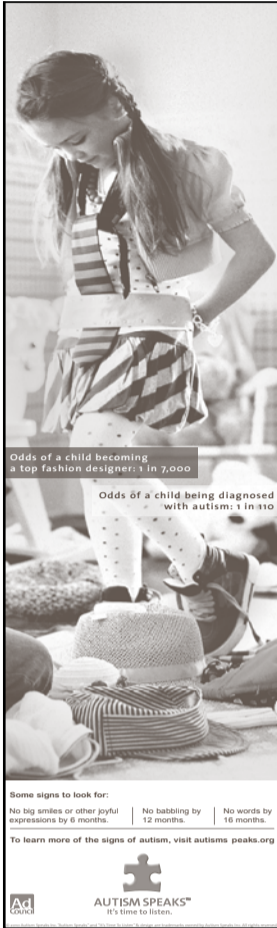


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To pulverize or not to pulverize, that is the question

By **Serena Lapointe**

County residents may be interested to know that the topic of road condition and repair was hot over the last month for Woodlands County Council. In 2020, with financial concerns at the forefront, Council chose pulverization for cold mix roads needing attention rather than spending more money to fix problem areas or rehabilitate them.

At a mid-June meeting, Council learned that their Administra-

tion had found areas for pulverization, totalling just over one kilometre. "When we say we are pulverizing a cold mix road back to gravel, it's not really back to gravel. It's a pulverized oil product when the summer comes around and the heat, along with the traffic, it does bind it together somewhat, but it is not the smooth cold mix road that was there before," explained Andre Bachand, Director of Infrastructure Services.

continued on page 4



Road rehabilitation or pulverization is an ongoing discussion for Woodlands County Council. Pulverization started as a cost-saving measure three years ago, but recently, chatter has turned back towards cold mix to increase residents' service levels. Councillor Deane was the lone vote against continuing pulverization this year.



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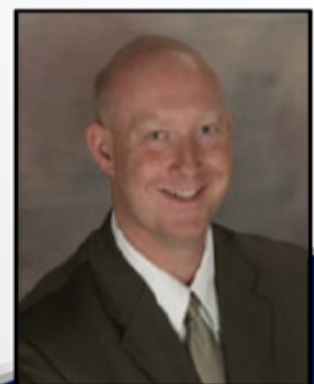


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A look at the local weather

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24-Hr Rain / Snow



Wed., Aug 2
Mainly sunny
20%
22°C
11°C
NW 12 km/h



Thu., Aug 3
Sunny
10%
23°C
12°C
SE 14 km/h



Fri., Aug 4
Mainly sunny
20%
24°C
13°C
E 10 km/h



Sat., Aug 5
Mix of sun and clouds
30%
23°C
14°C
E 7 km/h



Sun., Aug 6
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30%
23°C
14°C
E 10 km/h



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The Murms have a comeback brewing this month but don't tell them that. Rather than calling it a comeback, the boys, William' Billy Jack' Blair, David' DUI' Crowell and Chris' CRASH' Bougie, said, "It's not a comeback if you never made it." Whatever you want to call it, The Murms are back, baby! The local favourite will be playing a concert at the Crown & Anchor Pub on Friday, August 11 and will have two bands from Edmonton joining the fun, Reifer Madness and Ripperhead. The next night, the local trio will play at the 3rd Annual FriendlyFest 'Year of the Alien' in Evansburg at Rangeton Park on Saturday, August 12. Named after their longtime friend, Amanda Murm Denis, who passed away from cancer, The Murms have put out three EPs; Ignorant Anthems, Whitegirl Wasted and Chase You, and they have plans to get into the studio again this fall. The show at the Crown & Anchor will be recorded for a live album slated for release next year. Billy Jack, DUI and Crash are pumped to get back on stage and hope to see many faces in the crowd and feet on the dancefloor.



continued from page 3

The 1.2 kilometres needing to be pulverized would cost the County between \$60-\$80 thousand. To rehabilitate the roads and bring them back to a paved state with cold mix, would cost between \$170-\$200 thousand. Councillor Alan Deane said he wanted to know more about using cold mix instead of pulverization.

Councillor Jeremy Wilhelm also questioned the pulverizing method. Given the County's better financial position, he spoke to his colleagues, seeking their thoughts. "This is the one service level that we have that is most visible to our residents. We've been increasing taxes to them the last several years and decreasing their service levels." He said he would rather see the service level flatline or slightly increase rather than decrease.

Councillor John Burrows agreed. "Back in 2019, when we were sitting here having a discussion about buying a grader and found out that there wasn't any money in the bank to buy a grader, we were in full panic mode to try and cut costs and save money. Based on the numbers I'm seeing here, I would support Councillor Wilhelm's assertion. I don't think it's worth going backwards at this point and time based on the numbers we're seeing and based on the taxation that we're seeing."

Councillor Bruce Prestidge agreed but felt they should wait until next year's budget. "We've done too much unbudgeted expenses, and that should stop. If we can't figure out our budget better than that, then we shouldn't be doing it."

Reeve Dave Kusch wondered if the areas identified could handle a patch job this year and be rehabilitated next year, saving the

cost of doing work this year. "The areas we've identified are breaking up pretty bad. The intention was to pulverize them so that those areas that are that bad, we wouldn't have to keep going there to patch," responded Bachand.

The conversation went around the table several times as Council discussed balancing the situation, considering everything involved, from the budget to the residents and the growing potholes. Councillor Allan Deane took a stab at a motion as he tried to encompass everything his colleagues had brought forward. His motion, to look at cold mix rehabilitation on identified areas and a patch plan to get the roads serviceable until next year, passed. A second motion was made to bring forward potential roads for rehabilitation in 2024 to give Council an idea of what next year's budget would need to be.

Administration brought the information requested to the July 19 Council meeting. The twelve sections, on five different roads, totalled 1.2 kilometres, would cost \$115,000 to rehabilitate and \$45,000 to pulverize. Bachand said pinpointing roads for work next year was difficult, given the rate of deterioration. "The cold mix inventory is roughly forty-eight kilometres. Based on \$85,000 a kilometre, that's in the ballpark of 4.4 million dollars. If Council wishes to reestablish a cold mix program, Administration would put forward an \$880,000 budget to do a fifth of the roads and that amount every year after that, given that the life expectancy of cold mix roads is roughly five years." Administration recommended continuing with the pulverization program for 2023.

Councillor Wilhelm started the conversa-

continued on page 5



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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
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- Recruit and hire staff
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- 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 **Experience:** 5 years or more

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

Language: English

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

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continued from page 4

tion. "If we are potentially looking at doing a cold mix program next year, depending on the budget, would this just be a waste to spend the \$45,000 if we are just going to mitigate it next year? Could they be patched in the meantime rather than spending \$45,000?" Bachand said some areas could be patched, but others were "beyond the point of patching."

Councillor Wilhelm asked what his colleagues felt about reintroducing a cold mix program next year. He said many of the sections shown are in his division and that with pulverization, he would have concerned residents coming forward. "If I can at least say that we are looking at rehabilitating the whole road, that's something that I can share with them to have peace of mind on their investment into the municipality by paying their taxes. The quality of road you had before, we're looking at bringing that back to you."

Reeve Kusch said he wasn't against it but felt keeping the pulverizing program in place for the rest of 2023 made sense. Councillor Bruce Prestidge spoke in favour of it, providing the roads

done could handle it. "I have no problem doing a cold mix program on roads that will not fall apart in six months. If you cold mix a road and within a year it's totally gone again, that's wasted money."

Councillor Kuelken motioned for Woodlands County to continue the plans for pulverizing through 2023 and to find roads for complete rehabilitation for the 2024 budget. Before voting, Councillor Wilhelm confirmed that restarting a cold mix program would be an option, to which Bachand said yes. Bachand added that they would revisit the twelve sections identified and patch what they felt they could effectively patch and pulverize the rest.

Councillor Deane said continuing pulverization made sense, provided someone else was driving on it. "Objectively, yes, pulverization does make the most sense unless you live on that road, and then it doesn't make sense at all. We are here to serve our residents, and we have to be conscious of the bottom line, obviously, but we also need to be aware of their concerns." Council voted in favour of the motion. Councillor Deane was the lone vote against.



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Dollar Values as of August 2, 2023

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Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Now Hiring Surveillance Supervisor NOC 62029

Responsibilities:

- Completes routine surveillance of the gaming floor identifying potential problems, such as poor game protection, suspicious individuals, and acting as a support unit to other departments in relation to the protection of company assets.
- Maintains accurate logs of all procedure violations or completing reviews of all material that is pertinent to site operations.
- Always maintain awareness of gaming operation and comply with security policies and procedures to secure company assets.
- This position requires the ability to communicate clearly, deal tactfully and work effectively with Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza, staff, and management.
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work.
- Monitor quality and production levels.
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised.
- Handle emergency situations.
- Monitor quality and production levels.

Qualifications:

- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Completion of secondary school is usually required.
- Possesses detailed knowledge of casino table games, slots, poker policies, cash/slot cage, and count room policies and procedures.
- For this position you will be required to sit for long periods with computer monitors.
- 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.

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Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

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- 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.

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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.

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- **Job#: 23-032**, Child Mind Attendant, Casual Position.

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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.

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This pretty bird grabbed a snack from a neighbourhood bird feeder following a rainy week. A quick snapshot captured the little fellow mid-flight with his accordion-like wings on full display. The beautiful white/black/brown pattern on his back flowed into his wings and up to the top of his head. He bounced around from perch to perch nibbling the birdseed before taking off in search of his next snack.



A new fence got the ball rolling into a FireSmart experience.



Rock work against the home was one of several projects.

With such a crazy fire season, many homeowners are paying more attention to their homes and yards, looking for ways to reduce their risks of approaching forest fires. The Whitecourt FireSmart Homeowner Incentive Program offers up to a grand to homeowners who complete upgrades recommended by the Whitecourt Fire Department. A pair of neighbours recently received some cash for a job well done.

continued from page 1

out with this program (FireSmart). We had to get rid of the fence anyways, so we decided to go all out and get rid of the trees, too," explained Joel. Their property had several large trees, with another between the neighbours' homes. Two of the trees were some of the biggest in the area.

The Wrights brought in a professional to remove the hazardous behemoths, which Joel said only took three short hours from start to finish. "It really puts an ease on us. Those

trees were so big, and with the wind storms as of late, we were really worried about them blowing over on the property. I'm at ease and not as worried about the forest fires now," he added.

Fire Chief Brian Wynn and FF1 Terrence Corke visited the home on Thursday, July 27, to hand over a check for \$1,000. "They are doing everything fantastic," said Chief Wynn. "The rock work that they've done around the house is great. There are no fuels. That non-combustible zone is there.

Nothing is going to burn and take the structure. The roof's in great shape. The siding is in good shape. The rock barrier. The grass is well maintained, and they've expanded it in the back of the property. They took out the tree in the front yard. There was a fence, and they rebuilt it. Now, because of the home assessment, they are going to put a piece of metal between the wooden fence and the house so that they keep that 1.5-metre non-combustible zone. This way, even if the fence burns, it's not

going to touch either house," he explained.

Chief Wynn also tipped his cap to the neighbourly actions between the two homeowners. "They worked with their neighbours, and their neighbour took down a big tree, so now you're making the neighbourhood safer. If we can keep growing that neighbouring safety thing, then it makes it easier to save. If I

can save this street, I can probably save everything else behind you guys." Chief Wynn handed over a similar check to the neighbour the following day.

Joel said that since they live on the park's edge, being extra cautious is a good thing. "It's been a great experience, and I'm glad about the outcome." He said the process was streamlined and

recommended other homeowners do it too, especially if they live near the park or forests surrounding the community. "Let's try and keep our neighbourhoods safe," he said.

Stacey called the process informative and said she learned things she hadn't considered before. "Trees were obvious to me, but I would never have considered a wooden fence an issue," she said, speaking to having a wooden fence touching a house rather than having a metal connection between the house and fence to stop a fire from reaching the structure.

She said her confidence has grown and that she better understands how to keep their home safe. "I was really impressed. They were great and informative, and we learned a lot about keeping our home safe in case of a wildfire. They are so friendly and helpful, and it was an easy process."

Chief Wynn thanked the homeowners for putting in the work and being proactive. Residents interested in learning more about reducing their wildfire risk are encouraged to call the Whitecourt Fire Department at 780-778-2342 or email firedepartment@whitecourt.ca. The Whitecourt FireSmart Homeowner Incentive Program awards up to \$1,000 to help with the cost of FireSmarting. Round two of the grant program wraps up on August 31, 2023. Upgrades that count towards the program include upgrading the roofing material to ignition-resistant roof material, screening below a deck, converting from mulch to rock in landscaping, cutting or removing conifer trees and cleaning and covering eavestroughs.

Ryan Patrick Gould "Panda" 1982-2023

We are absolutely heartbroken to announce the passing of our beloved dad, husband, son, and friend, Ryan Gould on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. Ryan was born in Whitecourt on February 23, 1982. He moved away for several years to pursue his career and had recently just moved back with his wife and two sons to their farm SW of Whitecourt, near Anselmo.



of support from family, friends and Ryan's world-wide community. It just goes to show you how many lives he has touched. To his wife and children, Ryan was everything, he was a real-life HERO, and he will be missed every moment that his family has to live without him.

Ryan is survived by his wife, Carlyn Gould; his sons, Gus age 9 and Evan age 7; his parents, Eric and Gail Gould; his in-laws, Terry

and Beverly Lengwenus; his two sisters, Jessie (Ryan Mitton, Victoria, Vanesa, Vira, Vivien) and Naomi (Luke Yanik, Avery, Emma, Will); sisters-in-law, Brita Lengwenus (Wade, Hunter, Vincent), Valena Lengwenus (Flora, Adisa) and Kiara Lengwenus; his grandmother, Diane Jones and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Ryan is predeceased by his grandparents, Claude and Vivian Gould and David Jones.

If you so choose, Memorial Donations can be made to <https://www.givesendgo.com/GAW9F?mibextid=Zxz2cZ>, the Give Send Go that has been created to ensure that Carlyn, Gus and Evan are taken care of after the untimely passing of the family's sole provider.

Please join our family for Ryan's Celebration of Life. Please dress casual and in blue. If you are in attendance, please bring your favorite photo of Ryan to display on the memory board in the hall.

Celebration of life Saturday August 5 AT 1:00PM at Anselmo Hall

In 2009, Ryan and Carlyn exchanged vows and began their lives together. As a husband, Ryan was a pillar of support. As a father, he was hands-on, filling his family with all of the love that he had for them. His blue eyes lit up at the sight of his family no matter how tired he was after a tour at work and family was his first priority.

Ryan was also known as "Panda" because of his Grizzly Bear exterior and his Teddy Bear interior. Ryan could sometimes be stubborn and opinionated but he was fiercely loyal, honest and hard-working. He had a super dry sense of humour that he would inject into every situation. He could create all kinds of mischief, and loved a strong drink and a good joke. Ryan loved to BBQ and if he was cooking, grilling or smoking meat the family would not miss the opportunity to eat way too much, laugh way too hard, and be surrounded with the best company. Ryan loved the farm, the animals, and was an avid enthusiast of Formula 1 racing.

We appreciate the overwhelming outpouring



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Amanda Lind, CPA, CA will be in the Fox Creek office (20 Commercial Court) every Wednesday. To set up an appointment please contact our Whitecourt office.

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