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# The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

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**Shirley Olson has lived in Whitecourt since she was a little girl and is now a resident at Spruce View Lodge. She recently sat down with The Press to chat about life growing up in Whitecourt, from planting trees to dancing the polka and watching the community grow. Shirley holding a picture of her two sons, Brian and Doug, and one of her and her husband, Bill.**

## Reminiscing with residents: Spruce View Lodge edition featuring Shirley Olson

By Serena Lapointe

Many residents in our wonderful community and surrounding area have stories to tell. This new series, Reminiscing with Residents,

will highlight some of those stories, thanks to the kindness and patience of those willing to sit, chat and share. The first few installments will feature res-

idents at Spruce View Lodge, and the aim is to print at least one each month.

Our first storytell-

continued on page 2

## Rising tariffs, skyrocketing duties and an Albertan forestry industry in need of support at home

By Serena Lapointe

With the United States changing up its tariff system, placing a 25 percent tax on incoming goods from Canada and Mexico, among other countries, and seeking to impose reciprocal taxes on all countries that import into the USA, essentially charging the same tariffs on countries that already charge tariffs on The United States, industry leaders in Al-

berta are looking to their allies for support.

At a recent Whitecourt Town Council meeting, Brock Mulligan, Senior Vice President of the Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA), along with several industry leaders from the area, presented an overview of what Alberta's for-



**AFPA  
Senior  
Vice  
President,  
Brock  
Mulligan.**

estry industry is facing and how community leaders can help support changes by advocating to the provincial government.

"Times are a little un-

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Photos by naturallywood.com

**Advocacy is a crucial tool for municipal governments. The Alberta Forest Products Association recently visited the community, asking for Town Council support in advocating for the industry to the provincial government as looming tariffs and duty increases hang in the balance. Pictured is an eighteen storey, mass timber building in BC.**



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er, Shirley Olson, has lived at Spruce View Lodge for nine years and has been a resident of Whitecourt since she was seven years old. "My parents moved to Whitecourt in the spring of 1942. We moved from a farm in Greencourt. The farm wasn't doing well in those years. We were getting through The Hungry 30s, and Dad got work here at Millar Western.

Rather than mom and us kids staying on the farm alone, he thought it was best if we moved," explained Olson.

Nowadays, people hardly blink an eye commuting from rural areas into urban centers to work, but in those days, the distance was different. The Olson family eventually ended up living in downtown Whitecourt, smack dab in the heart of the downtown core. "We were across from where the Town Office is, in that

area, in a small house."

In first or second grade, Olson attended the downtown school where she was a student until she reached the eleventh grade. "I could only go up to grade 11 because there was no one to teach grade 12. I don't think you could do grade 11 either if I think about it. There were only two of us in the class, but we passed anyway. I don't think we were ready to pass through grade 11 because we didn't finish our textbooks, but we did. That was the end of my education," explained Olson.

She said teachers were hard to come by in those days. If a school didn't have enough teachers to teach every grade, some would combine, while in older grades, like grade 12, if there wasn't someone to teach it, the kids would enter the workforce instead, which is what Olson did. "I started working at 14. It was

part-time, on week-ends, in the downtown grocery store. I kept working there after I finished school. The store was across from where CIBC is, in the now empty building. Millar Western also had a store downtown and ended up building a new one where ATB is, and I went to work over there. I stayed working there until I got married in 1954," said Olson.

Shirley married Bill Olson, and they had two sons, Brian and Doug. Olson recalled the experience of having her children. "We had no hospital here at that time, of course. We had to go to Mayerthorpe because they had a new hospital. I remember I told Bill we needed to head out because it was time. It was raining that day, it had been raining for a few days, and my father-in-law said he better come with us, just in case we had trouble," said Olson. She said when it rained, the high-



Bill and Shirley Olson.

ways were very slick. "We didn't have good highways like we do now. Back in the fifties and sixties, the roads weren't good. It was dirt, with some gravel.

Maybe more gravel in some areas than others. They were better after they were gravelled because otherwise, they would get all ruddy. It's so quick now, but it took longer then. Those were the days," chuckled Olson.

Olson said she remembered when the community grew in the late forties and early fifties as the oil boom hit. She said the chang-

es at that time included building the Windfall plant. "That was a big change. My dad always said that Whitecourt would be a ghost town because, back then, it was just lumber. He said when the lumber ran out, it would be a ghost town. I wish to this day that my dad and my father-in-law could both see what Whitecourt is now. They wouldn't believe it," smiled Olson.

From watching developments growing in the valley to up onto the hill, Olson said the community kept growing, and more people arrived. "Compared to

what there was, there is quite a bit now, my goodness!" One of her favourite big changes was Rotary Park, now Festival Park. "That used to be an old rodeo grounds, and now it's such a beautiful place, and people come from the city and all over the place just to go there and take the kids."

When asked about a family memory she holds dearly, Olson said planting trees. "There was a time that I can remember, Bill and I and the two boys, every spring, we had to

continued on page 3

## DUST CONTROL

Residents who wish dust control applied adjacent to their property can submit an application to Woodlands County beginning **March 15<sup>th</sup>** until **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Rates for dust control are as follows:

- \$425 + GST for 100 metres
- \$750 + GST for 200 metres
- \$4.25/metre + GST for any dust suppression application over 100 or 200 metres

Application forms and more information about dust control are available at [woodlands.ab.ca/p/dust-control](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/dust-control).

**Please submit an application prior to Thursday, May 1, 2025:**

Application forms are also available at:

Woodlands County  
Municipal Office  
#1 Woodlands Lane  
Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3  
Telephone: 780-778-8400  
Fax: 780-778-8402

OR

Woodlands County  
Regional Municipal Office  
P.O. Box 33  
Fort Assiniboine AB T0G 1A0  
Telephone: 780-584-3866  
Fax: 780-584-3988

**PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE WITH DEBIT, VISA, MASTERCARD, CHEQUE OR CASH AT EITHER COUNTY OFFICE**

## ADVERTISEMENT PUBLIC SALE OF LAND WOODLANDS COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Woodlands County will offer for sale, by public auction, at the Administration Building, Whitecourt, Alberta, on Friday, March 28, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., the following lands:

Roll #	LINC	Title	Legal Desc
210150	0017549974	162290179	5-06-063-25-NW
219100	0026004895	972153266	5-13-059-13-SE

Each parcel will be offered for sale, subject to a reserve bid and to the reservations and conditions contained in the existing certificate of title.

The land is being offered for sale on an "as is, where is" basis, and Woodlands County makes no representation and gives no warranty whatsoever as to the adequacy of services, soil conditions, land use districting, building and development conditions, absence or presence of environmental contamination, or the developability of subject land for any intended use by the Purchaser. The Purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.

No bid will be accepted where the bidder attempts to attach conditions precedent to the sale of any parcel. No terms and conditions of sale will be considered other than those specified by Woodlands County.

Woodlands County may, after the public auction, become owner of any parcel of land not sold at the public auction.

Terms: 10% paid by cash or certified cheque due at the time of the auction and that balance of sale proceeds are required to be paid within 10 days after the auction. GST will apply to all properties sold at the public auction. The Purchaser will be responsible for the transfer registration fee.

Redemption may be affected by payment of all arrears of taxes and costs at any time prior to the sale.

Dated at Woodlands County, Alberta, February 11, 2025.  
Matthew Ferris, Chief Administrative Officer

## WOODLANDS COUNTY RFQS, RFPS AND TENDERS AVAILABLE

Woodlands County is seeking quotations for the following projects:

- **Vegetation Control – Right of Way Mowing**

Detailed information on the proposals are available on the Woodlands County website: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/prfps-and-tenders>

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.



**DAVE KUSCH**  
Councillor for Assiniboine  
Division 1  
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca  
Phone: 780-778-9337



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



**ALAN DEANE**  
Councillor for Whitecourt  
Central Division 3  
alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca  
Phone: 780-778-0694



**JEREMY WILHELM**  
Councillor for  
Whitecourt East Division 4  
jeremy.wilhelm@woodlands.ab.ca  
Phone: 780-773-6564



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



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Councillor for Goose Lake/  
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peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca  
Phone: 780-264-2425



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go into the bush to look for a tree to plant in our yard or somewhere close. That was a real thing for us. The boys would ask, when are we going to go looking for trees, Dad?"

And once the boys were grown, and Bill and Shirley moved up-town to Beaver Drive, the tree planting tradition stuck. "Centennial Park was behind us, and the trees were getting sparse right behind our place. So, Bill and I went out and dug up little spruce trees.

I think we had half a dozen or more that day, and it was pouring rain on our way back, and here we were, out in the park, planting these little trees," said Olson, laughing. Even now, when Olson is out and about with one of her sons, someone usually points out a nice-looking green specimen, reminiscing about the good ole days. "We can be going for a drive out in the country somewhere, and one of the boys will say, oh, that's a nice-looking tree over there," she laughed.

One of the things that

Olson misses about the younger community is the selection of shops downtown. "In the fifties, sixties and seventies, we had all kinds of little shops downtown. We had men's wear, shoe stores, ladies' wear, all those kinds of shops. Now, we don't. It's a shame." She said once larger stores came; the smaller shops started to close.

Another thing she misses is going out dancing with her friends, living it up to polka and foxtrot. "I remember every weekend there was a dance

somewhere, Mayerthorpe, Blue Ridge, Greencourt, Rochfort Bridge. We loved to dance. We would pile six or seven in a vehicle, and away we would go. Those were fun days. It was so different back then because the whole group would have maybe one beer, and everyone took a sip. No one ever got drunk, but everyone always had lots of fun."

Years later, when the Town of Whitecourt named a street after the family, Olson Crescent, which hugs Wellwood Drive in the valley, Olson said she, her hus-

band and her kids were very proud to see the family name on display. "I wish my father-in-law was still around and could've seen it." Olson's love, Bill, passed away after a brave five-year battle with cancer, entering eternal sleep in 2002. For fourteen years, Olson remained in their home in Southland Village before joining the fun at Spruce View Lodge, a place she knew well, as her mother and sister had also lived there.

Looking back, one thing Olson said the community always

was, was friendly. "You knew everybody, and everyone helped one another. If you needed help, there was always somebody to help you. It was always that way." Thank you, Shirley, for welcoming The Press into your home, sharing some of your precious memories with our readers and for all those beautiful trees that you, Bill, Brian and Doug planted along the way. Residents wishing to join this series and share their Whitecourt stories are encouraged to contact Serena Lapointe at the Whitecourt Press.



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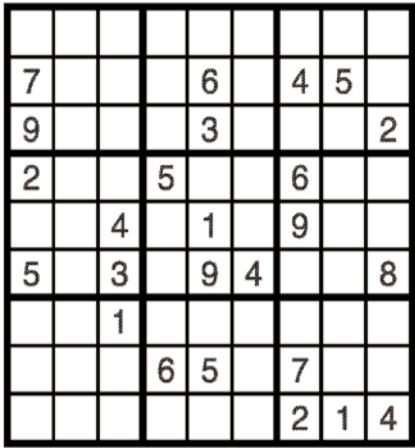
www.mcman.ca/become-a-foster-parent





# PUZZLES

## SUDOKU

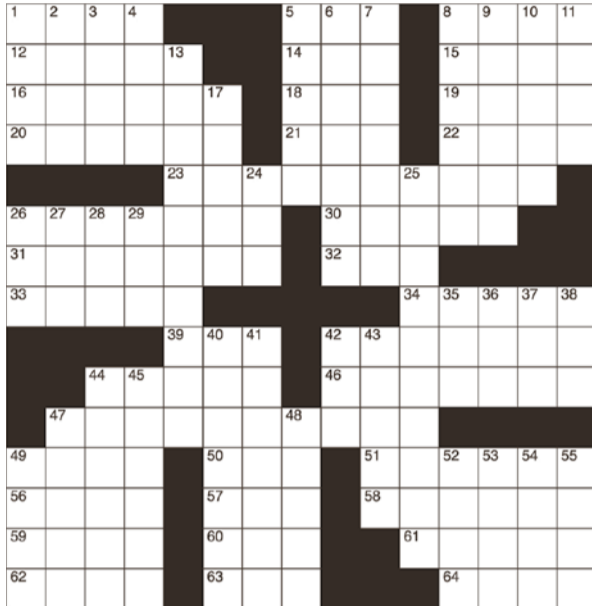


Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

## CROSSWORDS



### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## Crossword Clues

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concession of recognition
14. Expression of youth
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. An iPad is one
18. Adult beverage
19. Manning and Wallach are two
20. Makes a petty verbal attack
21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Wristwatches
26. Body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. Turkish honorific title

33. Yell
34. Historic Alabama city
39. Cub
42. Type of sea bass dish
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Former OSS
51. Open spaces in a forest
56. Innermost brain membranes
57. Fortune
58. Hunting expedition
59. Doomed queen Boleyn
60. Peyton's little brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Scottish tax
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. An increase in price or

### CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art
2. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
3. A desert in Asia
4. Eat greedily
5. Doomed French queen
6. Beat
7. One who survives on blood
8. As a consequence
9. Counted on
10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science
11. Unclean
13. One who does not drink
17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago
24. \_\_ student, learns healing
25. Bacterial skin infection
26. Expresses surprise
27. What one says on a wedding day
28. Crony
29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
35. Unit of length
36. Side that is sheltered from the wind
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
41. Statements that something is untrue
42. Greek alphabet letter
43. Suspends from above
44. Popular types of cigars
45. Girls
47. U.S. philosopher and logician
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian
54. Amounts of time
55. Trigonometric function

## HOROSCOPE

### ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, you are in a leadership position this week, whether you realize it or not. Your confidence may inspire others to follow your lead. Just be sure not to micromanage.

### TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, stability is important to you. This week you may find yourself craving a deeper connection. Explore the different types of relationships in your life and make a plan.

### GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



This is an excellent week for networking and making new friends, Gemini. Just be careful of overcommitting, as it's easy to fill up your plate with too much to handle.

### CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, you might be craving an emotional connection this week. You may feel drawn to someone who shares your values and outlook. Pay attention to signs that may guide you.

### LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Now is the perfect time to push forward with creative projects or ideas at work, Leo. You might receive recognition for your efforts, so don't worry about the spotlight if it happens.

### VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Don't lose sight of the bigger picture, Virgo. For too much time you have focused on the small details that are getting in the way of the bigger plan. A mentor might offer guidance.

### LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Libra, you and your partner might come up with plans to improve your living situation or finances this week. Collaboration is really the best way to tackle this.

### SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, a transformation could take place this week. You might feel like stepping into a new version of yourself and figuring out the best path to personal growth.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Stay focused on what matters most, Sagittarius. You will find that most things will fall into place. Prioritize your health and finances this week.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Capricorn, with so much creativity flowing, you might want to express yourself through hobbies or an art project. Approach challenges in new ways and the solutions will come.

### AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Aquarius, you might find yourself taking a step back at work to focus on personal matters. This doesn't mean you are slacking off. It just means you need to shift priorities for a bit.

### PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Avoid any miscommunications by expressing yourself clearly and concisely, Pisces. Focus on strengthening your communication and connection with others in the days to come.

## VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

D V L O A V B L V P U M C A Y V O Y F Y  
 E C O H U E G V F V B E V Y G P S H C H  
 V L K D E R O I C L W C U H N D U K L A  
 O R S T I O E I R T E N I T N E L A V O  
 L D O C L D P Y T L E K T O U N U U H O  
 E W Y A E A I T F H F W Y I W A D A T E  
 B U K E A N D B C T E R R O M A N C E A  
 B K V D E M G P L B B A I E H W O R F S  
 S O L U U A F A C D O S R E R O P O C S  
 L I Y Y M M C R P W F Y N T N C L K I I  
 I T H O R C K V H M L L F Y S D N B K K  
 I L A L L K U R M U A M O R B Y H W B M  
 L N P Y P O E O S S G H M W I L R Y F T  
 K A E H N O V S B P I B C E E E A N C Y  
 P L A S D I S E L H B W A L O R N L U V  
 H D D G E O C S V N C U B P W P S D P Y  
 G O S W E E T H E A R T R V I S V E I D  
 P U A H A F F E C T I O N E N L D F D N  
 W L N O E T A L O C O H C A H Y S Y C A  
 G B S T F I G S A U P W V O D C K H W C

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

- |      |           |          |           |            |              |
|------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| BOWL | CAT       | FEEDING  | LEASH     | REFERENCES | TRUST        |
| CARE | COMPANION | HELP     | MEDICINE  | SITTER     | VETERINARIAN |
|      | DOG       | HOME     | OVERNIGHT | SNUGGLE    | WALKS        |
|      | FAMILY    | INSTRUCT | PETS      | TRAVELING  | WELFARE      |



Photos by naturallywood.com



Prefabricated pieces resulted in a speedy rise for the 'Woodscrapper'.

continued from page 1

certain for our industry, and we're doing what a lot of folks do in uncertain times, and that's come to see some of your friends and chat a little bit about steps that could help mitigate some of the uncertainty that we are going through," started Mulligan. "We're here because we know that municipal advocacy works, and we want to chat a little about the situation and some ways that the provincial government might support the industry in these times."

The AFPA requested that Whitecourt Town Council send a letter to the provincial government.

"We're starting to see tariffs and duties com-

binning to produce pretty scary results. The letter, we were hoping, would talk about some of the mitigative actions that could be taken to help us through this time."

In Alberta, the forestry industry employs around 30,000 people and has a 14-billion-dollar impact on the provincial economy. "Collectively, our members pay about 75 million dollars' worth of property taxes to municipalities to support the type of services that we all love and enjoy," explained Mulligan.

He said that not only are the tariffs from the United States worrisome but so are the duties on softwood lumber. "Lumber market prices spiked during COVID. The relationship is that higher prices

lower duties, so we saw the duties come down quite a bit in that period, but when you have a substantial year-to-year change in the prices, where they've now fallen significantly, that has an inverse effect. It's quite a sharp rise because of how quickly the market changed. Based on where prices were two years ago, we are likely to see duties increase dramatically, probably from 14 percent to somewhere in the 30 to 35 percent range. If you add tariffs and duties together, we're talking for lumber, potential trade barriers in the fifty to sixty percent range," explained Mulligan.

The first advocacy piece was speaking to Americans about the

value of Alberta forest products.

"They help build affordable housing. Pulp goes into the USA and (is used) to make things consumers from all over the world buy, including Canadians, which fuels jobs there through retail, trucking and construction. There are a lot of jobs, and we think this is a strong message."

The second was to advocate for keeping Alberta's regulatory costs low, something Mulligan said Alberta is already the strongest in doing. "It's a very competitive jurisdiction (here) with a very supportive provincial government." Mulligan said keeping the focus on Alberta things, like permitting, approvals, and timelines, is cru-

cial to help conserve industry dollars. Next was building things in Alberta with Alberta wood. "We know that this council has been tremendously supportive in the past. You helped us catalyze the movement to get the taller wood buildings allowed under Alberta's Building Code, which has been a real help for the industry. Whitecourt was the first municipality to support us and send a letter."

Then, Whitecourt-St. Anne MLA George Vanderburg brought the bill forward (Bill 203) in 2015 to change Alberta's safety codes to allow for wood-constructed buildings up to six storeys. The bill passed that year and has since been updated, allowing up to twelve storeys.

One of the world's tallest wood-constructed, mass timber buildings, dubbed The Woodscrapper, is a Canadian marvel. The student residence at the University of BC is 54 meters high, a whopping eighteen-storeys. It was completed in only 70 days, with some ready-to-assemble prefabricated pieces.

Mulligan said a "Build with Alberta Wood" act could drive demand for Alberta wood locally, lowering

the industry's reliance on exporting to the USA. BC and Quebec have similar policies.

The Office of Mass Timber Implementation in BC was the world's first. The mandate of the office is to make it easier to build with mass timber and to expand its use in BC buildings.

"We are likely going to have trouble sending products across the border into the States. Using more of our resources here at home is something we think makes a tremendous amount of sense." Mulligan noted this would not discriminate against wood from other provinces. "We're just saying that if we built more with wood, particularly in some of the procurement decisions that the province makes, we could use more of our resources from communities like Whitecourt here at home and help shield some of the burdens that we're going to see when these various types of trade barriers come in."

The fourth advocacy piece was to ask the province to advocate to the federal government. "The softwood lumber dispute has drug on since 2016 when the last agreement lapsed.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

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### COMMUNITY CLEAN UP PROGRAM FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Whitecourt is seeking non-profit organizations to perform refuse pickup duties within the community, including highway ditches and boulevards. The refuse pickup schedule will run throughout April to the end of October (weather permitting). At least one group is needed for July and one group for August.

To qualify for the program, groups must provide a written request to the Town, outlining how the funds would be used, confirming dates that the group would be available to perform the work, and providing an address and phone number for two group representatives.

**Please note: All those participating in clean-up activities must be 9 years of age or older. All groups awarded projects under the Community Clean-Up Program will be required to abide by all current public health guidelines. Information on protocols will be provided to groups prior to performing scheduled refuse pick up duties.**

Groups must provide a minimum of 12 volunteers, with at least one adult for every two youth (aged 9 to 17 years); Applicants can submit a proposal to complete between 50 and 100 hours of service; the time commitment must be confirmed prior to approval. Approved applicants shall receive \$12.00 for each hour of service, and total allocations for the program will be based on the annual budget.

For further details, please contact the Infrastructure Services Department at 780-778-2705.

Written letters of application must be received at the following address by **12:00 noon on Monday, April 7:**

TOWN OF WHITECOURT  
Re: Community Clean Up Program Application  
Box 509, 5004 - 52 Avenue  
WHITECOURT, AB T7S 1N6  
Fax: 780-778-2408  
E-Mail: cathysudderdean@whitecourt.ca



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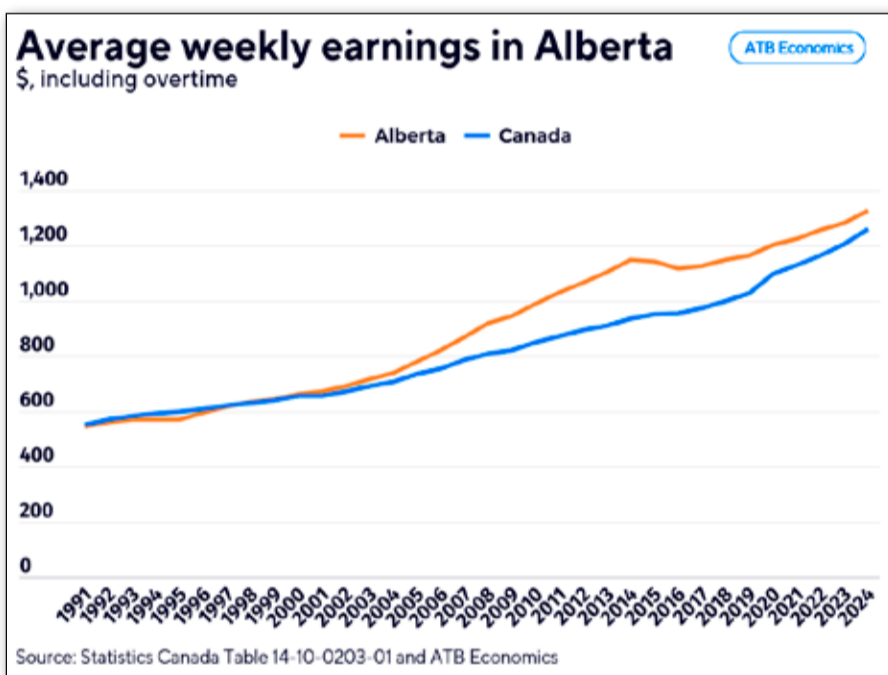
# Earning more: Average weekly earnings rose in 2024

By Rob Roach, ATB ECONOMICS

Earnings from employment in Alberta have posted their strongest increase in a decade. At \$1,328, average weekly earnings (AWE) were 3.5% higher last year. The growth was an improvement over the 2.1% increase in 2023 and the first time AWE have grown faster than the provincial inflation rate since 2020 (and only the second time they have outpaced inflation since 2014).

Oil and gas extraction jobs paid the most with AWE last year of \$2,970 (up 2.3% from 2023) while accommodations and food services had the lowest AWE at \$509 (down 0.5% from 2023).

The largest percentage increase in AWE occurred in the management of companies\* sector where earnings rose by 10.3%



to \$2,171, and the arts, entertainment and recreation sector where earnings also rose by 10.3% to reach \$733.

Accommodation and food services was the only sector to post a decline in AWE.

Nationally, AWE rose by 4.6% to \$1,260. The increase was higher than in 2023 when AWE went up by 3.4%.

Up by 5.7%, the largest increase took place in P.E.I. with Alberta's 3.5% rise the smallest among the provinces.

AWE in Alberta remained above the national average for the 27th straight year, but the gap (+5.4%) was at its smallest point since 2004 (+4.3%) and well below the peak reached in 2014 (+22.7%). AWE in

Alberta have not been below the national average since 1997 (-0.9%).

\*There were 15,138 employees working in this sector in Alberta last year (0.7% of the total number of employees in the province). It includes operations such as holding companies, corporate head offices, and regional offices.

continued from page 5

During that time, the Americans have continually been collecting duty deposits that are on hold until the dispute is resolved. There's ten billion dollars worth of Canadian lumber producers' money sitting there," explained Mulligan.

"Our ask is that the province lobby the Federal Government to consider backstops tied to those 10 billion dollars in deposits. Essentially, the feds would make loans to lumber companies and would not be paid back when the ten billion dollars came back. It may be a step that is necessary to keep mills running and folks working if things get ugly," he said.

Next was support for market diversification. "There is no panacea for access to the USA market because they take such a tremendous volume of our products. But it is a time that makes sense to look at other places." He mentioned India, the Philippines, China, Japan and Korea. He also credited the Community Rail Advocacy Alliance. Whitecourt Mayor Tom Pickard sits on the board with other community leaders. "There's no way to

get those products there efficiently with our current transportation system. When we're having conversations about how we can diversify our markets, this is a foundational step, so continuing with that is important."

The last advocacy was to ask Alberta's Government to implement a Forestry Manufacturing Tax Credit to help encourage investment in new products and technologies. "There's one of these for petroleum producers and one for agricultural producers and not yet one for forestry," explained Mulligan. He said the province issues mandate letters to each minister and that two ministers have this on their desks. "It's certainly on the radar now it's just about getting it over the line." Whitecourt Town Council voted unanimously to approve the AFPA request to send an advocacy support letter to the Alberta government.



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## WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

- Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:30pm at the Family Worship Center upstairs
- Fridays 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Baptist Church

ZOOM ID: **818 413 483** PASSWORD: **gratitude**



WHITECOURT  
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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):

**Kim Nendsa** (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) **780-778-0932**  
**Aimee Grierson** **780-262-0222**

<https://wctcancerwellness.com/>

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



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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

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### Preventative Education:

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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

[www.whitecourtsheelter.ca](http://www.whitecourtsheelter.ca)

## GRIEF SHARE

Support group on Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:30 pm.

Our next series starts Tuesday, February 4 at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Ave, Mayerthorpe. \$35 includes 12 weekly sessions.

**Pre-register by calling 780-786-2533.**

## Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group



Meetings are three times each week

- Monday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Wednesday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Friday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**New Women's AA Group on Saturdays @11 am**

Located at the United Church Basement 5201 - 50 St

Please Leave a Message for AA member (780)424-5900

or **Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322**



# It's tax season: Are you ready?

(NC) Tax season comes around every year, but it can still manage to catch many of us by surprise. In fact, according to a recent survey, less than a third of Canadians feel confident in knowing when to contribute to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) versus a Tax-free savings account (TFSA). Fortunately, there are some steps you can take to feel more prepared.

"It's no secret that people are feeling the impact of the current economic climate, and that's why it's more important than ever to

seek trusted advice," explains Pat Giles, vice president of saving and investing at TD. "Having the right financial support can make a significant difference when it comes to planning for both short-and long-term financial goals."

Speaking with a personal banker or financial advisor can help you understand the different savings options available, and their benefits come tax time. They can also develop a plan suited to your financial goals and show you how to start making smart investments.

This type of one-on-one guidance can assist

those who believe they aren't saving enough to reach their long-term financial goals, which is over half the country, according to a recent survey.

Remember, setting a financial plan doesn't require a large amount to start; it's about cultivating a habit of investing and sticking to it. A personal banker can help you build it based on your unique needs and how much you want to contribute. No amount is too small to start saving or investing.

Learn more about having the right financial support at [td.com](http://td.com).



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Having completed my education through the Real Estate School of Alberta, I am licensed with both AMBA and RECA. I bring a client-first approach, combining industry knowledge with personalized service. My mission is to guide individuals and families through one

of the most significant financial decisions of their lives, ensuring they feel confident every step of the way.

I also collaborate closely with experienced industry professionals, including my mentor Mike LaRue, to continually refine and expand my expertise. Together, we are building a team dedicated to delivering exceptional mortgage services.

At the heart of my work is a passion for helping people secure the home of their dreams while building lasting relationships based on trust and integrity. As I grow in this field, I'm committed to providing an exceptional client experience that is as rewarding as it is reliable.



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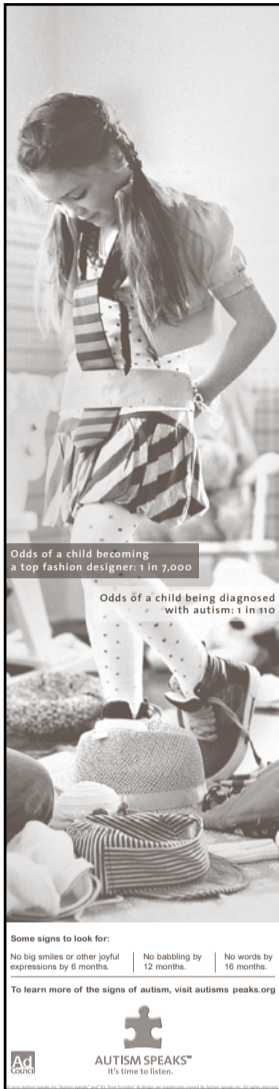




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A look at the local weather	Wed., March 12	Thu., March 13	Fri., March 14	Sat., March 15	Sun., March 16
P.O.P.	Snow	Snow	Snow	Mix of sun and clouds	Cloudy
High	40%	60%	40%	30%	30%
Low	-4°C	-6°C	-5°C	-3°C	-2°C
Wind	-10°C	-11°C	-11°C	-11°C	-7°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow	NE 13 km/h 2-4cm	E 13 km/h 2-4cm	E 9 km/h <1cm	E 11 km/h -	E 7 km/h -



# If your life is in danger or you know someone's life is in danger DIAL EMERGENCY NOW 911!

If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, you need to know that you're not alone. You can also call if you are not in crisis, seeking additional information. The new Canada Suicide Prevention Service (CSPS), by Crisis Services Canada, enables callers anywhere in

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

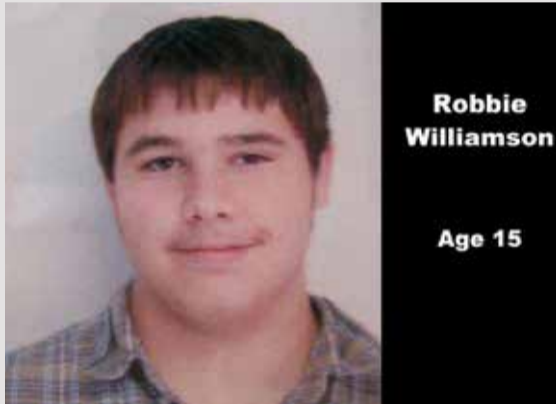
in Canada by texting TALK to 686868 to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to 686868 to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/SMS enabled cell phone. KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under

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 Trans LifeLine – All Ages 1-877-330-6366

## Have you been bullied, and want to share your story?

Email [wctpress@telus.net](mailto:wctpress@telus.net) All submissions remain confidential

### Putting a face on suicide



Robbie Williamson  
Age 15

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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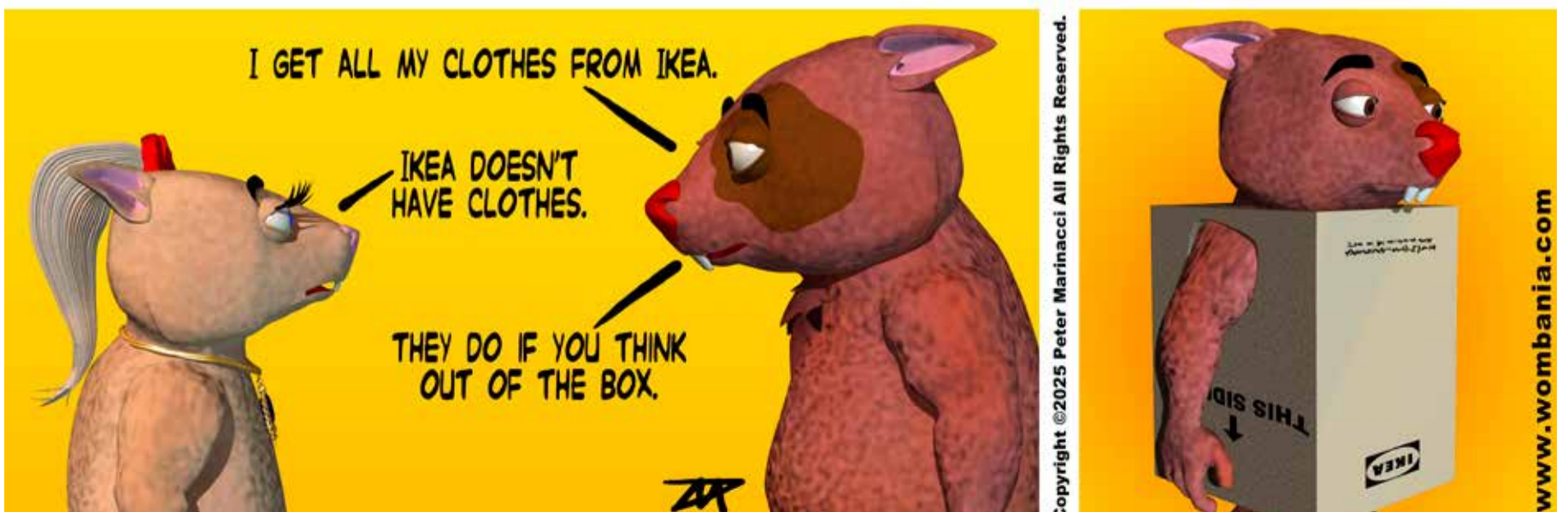
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by PETER MARINACCI





# CANADIAN Kids Corner



## Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

10	8		33
	11	9	22
6		5	15
18	23	29	

5	4	6
9	11	2
15	8	10

Solution

## CANADA

MONTH



## HISTORY

1794

The Jay Treaty establishes a neutral commission to settle border disputes between the United States and Canada.

## Food FACT:



True or false?  
There is no perfect diet for everyone.

Answer: True; experimentation may be needed

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

E H L T Y H A L M S A E

Answer: Healthy meals

## NEW WORD

### REFINED

with unwanted elements removed by processing

## How they say that in...

- English:** Protein
- Spanish:** Proteína
- Italian:** Proteine
- French:** Protéine
- German:** Eiweiß

## Did You Know?

A combination of various foods, with a good deal of vegetables and fruits, is part of a healthy and balanced diet.



## Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Smoothie



SCHOOL NEWS



Whitecourt IGA raised \$9,914 during its "Joy of Giving" campaign over the Christmas holidays, demonstrating its commitment to supporting the community. This generous contribution will help provide fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats in the food bank's hampers for most of the year, making a significant impact on local families in need.



Parent-teacher interviews at Pat Hardy Primary School proved to be a lively and successful event, fostering a positive and engaging atmosphere for both parents and teachers.



Grade 2 students at Pat Hardy Primary School had a great time participating in literacy centers.



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[altalink.ca/wildfiresafety](http://altalink.ca/wildfiresafety)

Follow us on social media for regular updates.  





A youngster was spotted checking out the condition of the outdoor rink at Percy Baxter School on Friday, shortly after the Town of Whitecourt officially closed the town's rinks for the season. More than two weeks of mild temperatures quickly degraded the rinks sparking the necessary closure.



Photo: Town of Whitecourt

Global Pet Foods continues to support the Whitecourt Food Bank, recognizing the importance of helping local families in need. Their generosity plays a vital role in strengthening the community and ensuring that those facing difficult times receive the support they need.

## Alma Mary Island (Ominayak)

January 5, 1950 – February 25, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Alma Island, who left us on February 25, 2025, at Whitecourt, Alberta.

Alma is survived by her husband of 53 years, John Island; her sons, Clayton, Steven and Philip and her daughter, Donna Ghostkeeper. Alma leaves the living legacy of her grandchildren, Samantha Haley, Shawn Galliot, Grace Galliot, Miranda Marcoux, Laura Dobney and her great grandchild, Layne Haley. Alma's life and spirit will also be cherished in the hearts of her siblings, Theresa Belcourt, Bella Auger, Dorothy L'Airondele and Ernie Ominayak. Alma touched the lives of many, and though she is no longer with us, her spirit will continue to live on in the memories she created with those who knew her.

Alma was predeceased by her parents, Elzear Ominayak and Marie Alook; her sons, Johnathan and Francis and her siblings, Joseph, Madeline and John.

Alma had many passions throughout her



life, including her love for the outdoors, fishing, playing Bingo and her hands were always busy with her crafting. But her greatest passion was for her family. She was so devoted to John, and while they were married for 53 years, they had a 6-year courtship before their wedding, so celebrated 59 years of sharing and doing life together. Her love for her children and grandchildren was so deep and they will always be touched by her great sense of humor, her love to laugh, her beautiful smile and such a positive outlook on life and love. Alma is now at rest from the storms of this life, and the legacy of her spirit and character will be passed on to each of her family members and friends.

A celebration of Alma's life will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, 33 Avenue N.E., McLennan Alberta on Sunday, May 11, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. where we invite all who loved her to gather and honor her legacy.

A Wake will also be held for Alma on Saturday, May 10 and will also be at the McLennan Legion.

Please visit [www.affinityfuneralservice.ca](http://www.affinityfuneralservice.ca) to leave your condolences.

Funeral Arrangements in the care of Dwayne Henley at:

780.778.3330



Affinity Funeral Service

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## Keep on Truckin' Dave MacNevin

By Valerie Winger

It is with great sadness that I share the passing of Dave MacNevin on February 26. Dave was more than just a contributor to this newspaper—he was a pillar of our community and a great friend to those lives he touched.

Dave was the kind of person who truly cared. He was deep-

ly community-minded, always looking for ways to uplift those around him. Whether through his words, his involvement, or simply the way he carried himself, he made a lasting impact. His heart was as big as his love for this town, and his presence will be profoundly missed.

Above all, Dave was

a devoted family man, a friend to many, and a shining example of what it means to give back. His legacy will live on in the stories he told, the connections he nurtured, and the countless lives he touched.

Rest in peace, Dave. Your kindness and dedication will never be forgotten.





## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

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- Inventory each month
- Work with Marketing & Advertising to promote the food & beverage outlets.
- Understand security requirements.
- Ensure maintenance of safety and sanitation standards and policies
- Provide overall direction, coordination, and ongoing evaluation of operations.
- Understand basic asset management.
- Must be able to work other duties assigned.

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- 4-5 years' experience in the Food & Beverage Industry.
- 3-4 years demonstrated experience in supervisory within the Food & Beverage Industry.
- Experience in a casino setting preferred.
- Post secondary education in a related field preferred but not required.
- Training in management and employee development preferred but not required.
- Continuous training and education to keep abreast of changes in the industry and external environment.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to meet deadlines in a rapidly changing business environment.
- Ability to work independently.
- Extensive food & beverage knowledge and ability to develop and apply practices, procedures, and principles in a casino environment.
- Developed writing skills sufficient to prepare written materials involving detailed descriptions and explanations requiring the accurate use of

- We are in the people business and therefore it is part of everyone's job to actively provide customer service. This means that for every customer that comes in, you will attempt to make eye contact, greet and welcome to our business. This also means that you must always be attentive to the customer's needs so there are no undue delays and we will serve our customers in a cheerful and efficient manner. Our service attitude also implies and obligation to each other. We must greet and acknowledge each other in a sincere professional way. And seek to assist each other wherever practical, thereby demonstrating that success is a shared experience among our teams. Excellent customer relations and team work are essential part of every job in this environment.

- specialized terminology.
- Self-planning skills sufficient to schedule, organize, and carry out work assignments according to established work plans, adjusting work schedules according to changing priorities.
- Developed judgment and problem solving skills sufficient to interpret and/or analyze factual and conceptual information with the ability to adapt general procedures or approaches when formulating responses to problems.
- Manages workload independently, and works well in teams.
- Develops security and systems knowledge through on the job experience.
- Must display leadership skills, the ability to multi-task and adjust to multiple jurisdictions.
- Smart Training course, preserve, deal US in phase 1, 2.
- Must be able to provide RCMP security clearance check.
- Working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint.

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## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

### Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

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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.

#### 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](http://www.eaglerivercasino.ca)

#### How to Apply:

Send resume to [HR@eaglerivercasino.ca](mailto:HR@eaglerivercasino.ca), mail or fax



## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

### Restaurant Assistant Manager NOC 60030

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate the operations of a restaurant, bar, or other food or beverage service
- Determine type of services to be offered and implement operational procedures
- Recruit staff and oversee staff training
- Set staff work schedules and monitor staff performance
- Control inventory, monitor

- revenues and modify procedures and prices
- Resolve customer complaints and ensure health and safety regulations are followed
- Negotiate arrangements with suppliers for food and other supplies
- Negotiate arrangements with clients for catering or use of facilities for banquets or receptions.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Completion of a college or other program related to hospitality or food and beverage service management is usually required.
- Responsible beverage service certification is usually required

- for managers of establishments serving alcoholic beverages.
- Several years of experience in the food service sector, including supervisory experience, are required.

#### Experience:

3 – 4 years.

#### Education:

Completion of secondary school is usually required. Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.

#### Language:

English

#### Employment Conditions:

Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights. Wage: \$26.00/hour Vision, Dental, and Health after a 90-day probation period. Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.

#### Benefits Package:

Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3. Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

#### Address:

[www.eaglerivercasino.ca](http://www.eaglerivercasino.ca)

#### Visit our Website:

Send resume to [HR@eaglerivercasino.ca](mailto:HR@eaglerivercasino.ca), mail or fax.

#### How to Apply:

## David Alexander MacNevin



With heavy hearts and great sorrow, the family of **David Alexander MacNevin** announce his sudden and unexpected passing on February 26 at 1:21 am at the Mazankowski Heart Institute in Edmonton, AB. He was surrounded by family at his time of passing after succumbing to unforeseen complications with heart surgery that occurred on February 21st.

Born on January 4, 1956 in Montreal, Quebec to late parents Alexander W. MacNevin and Mary C. Surrette.

Dave is survived by his wife of 37 years Gail Charity; daughters Jessica Griffeth (Brenden) and Danielle MacNevin; and sons Brian MacNevin (Brandy) and Christopher MacNevin (predeceased). Fondly remembered by his siblings, Alan MacNevin (Charlene), Sandra MacNevin-Xu (Jingchun) and Donnie MacNevin (predeceased). Dave's legacy of living life with unwavering warmth, humour, kindness, and love will be continued through his eight grandchildren Laney, Nevin, Morgan, Xander, Kalven, Jaxon, Christopher Jr, and Harmony.

To capture all of Dave Mac's passions would be impossible. Some of his most cherished however were his family, the open road, fishing, racing (whether it be cars, motorcycles, boats, or lawnmowers anything with an engine would do), sports (especially his beloved Habs and Steelers), sharing stories, laughing, and continually learning. Dave was and will remain the gold standard for compassion and guidance to those in need of a helping hand.

**In lieu of flowers and in memory of Dave, donations can be made to help support his dear wife, Gail, through this challenging time at <https://gofund.me/711d264d>**



### Money Matters

**One Canadian Dollar = 0.69 US Dollar**  
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Dollar Values as of March 12, 2025

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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@gmail.com.



## The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

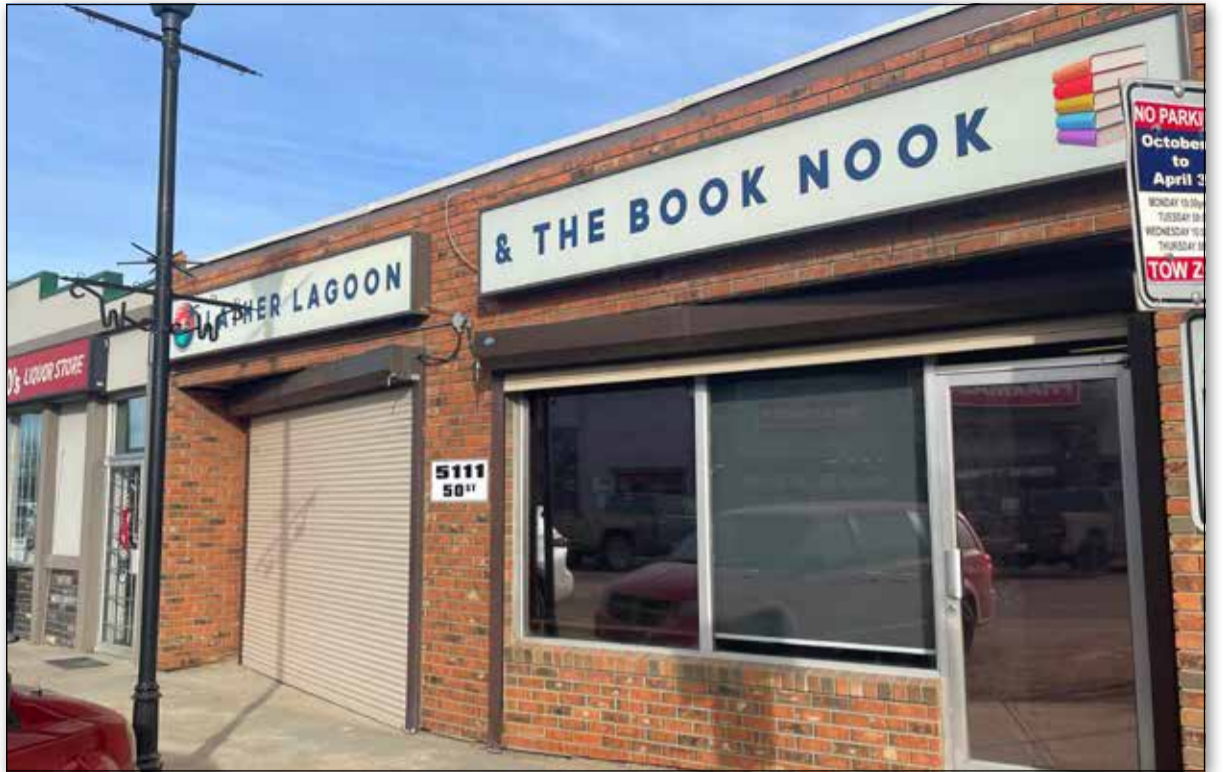
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### Contact

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



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



Two brand-new signs popped up on a downtown building last week, growing some excitement for residents who spotted them. One of the signs teased the arrival of a bookstore.

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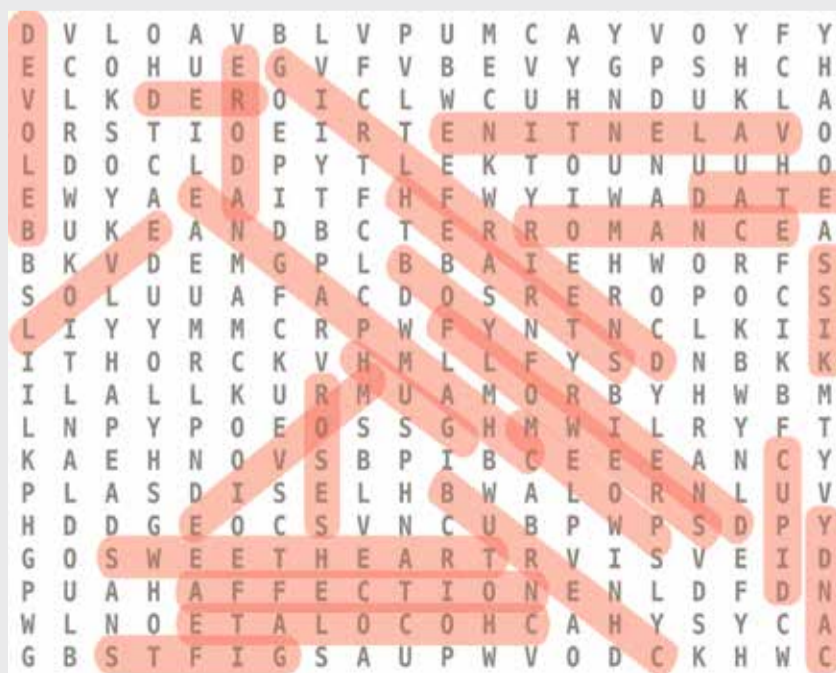
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1	8	6	4	2	5	3	9	7
7	3	2	8	6	9	4	5	1
9	4	5	1	3	7	8	6	2
2	1	9	5	7	8	6	4	3
8	7	4	3	1	6	9	2	5
5	6	3	2	9	4	1	7	8
3	9	1	7	4	2	5	8	6
4	2	8	6	5	1	7	3	9
6	5	7	9	8	3	2	1	4



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