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# The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 14 - Issue 22 | Wednesday, June 4, 2025

## Over 600 hazardous trees were removed during FireSmart treatments last year



Photo by Town of Whitecourt

FireSmart activities remain an ongoing focus for the community, with projects always on the go. Many dead and hazardous trees were removed from the forests within the municipality last year, reducing the fuel load and risk for first responders in the event of a wildfire. Pictured are Fire Chief Aaron Floyd, Councillor Tara Baker and Lee Hardman, Director of Community Safety with the fireguard behind them. See story page 2.

Local news printed on local newsprint

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# Over 600 hazardous trees were removed during FireSmart treatments last year

Photo by Town of Whitecourt



A wide open expanse on the eastern boundary of town.

By Serena Lapointe

Wildfire risks have become the norm, with fire bans and evacuations for nearby municipalities happening yearly. To stay proactive, Whitecourt has put a high focus on being vigilant. From performing home assessments with members of the fire department, assisting homeowners in making changes and lowering their fire risks to vegetation management projects that reduce the fuel load from the forests in and directly around Whitecourt.

FireSmart initiatives kicked up locally in 2010, and the Town has utilized grant dollars from the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) as often as possible. Every project and initiative completed since that time has been done to help safeguard the municipality from fire risks.

Established in 2021, the Whitecourt FireSmart Working Group features representatives from the municipality, province and industry. The goal is to help instill a culture of what it means to be FireSmart within a community, from students in school to government officials and industry leaders.

The working group consists of six members: Town Councillor Tara Baker, Government of Alberta Forestry Representative Mike Penner, White-

court Fire Chief Aaron Floyd, Town Director of Infrastructure Services Drew Hadfield, Town Director of Planning & Development Jennine Loberg, and Canfor Representative Mike Hudson. Director of Community Safety Lee Hardman, the group's administrative representative for the Town, provided a presentation during the May 25 Town Council meeting, highlighting some of the activities last year.

"We oversaw the implementation of the Wildfire Mitigation Strategy, completed the Wildfire Preparedness Guide for a two-kilometre radius from town, identification of pre-alert triggers for evacuation regarding a wildfire event and annual vegetation management projects in collaboration with FRIAA," listed Hardman.

"We also conducted a major two-day exercise, including a mock, full-scale event at the pulp mill, with Canfor and Millar Western, the North Central Incident Management Team, Alberta Emergency Management Agency, and the Town's Incident Management Team," said Hardman.

Hardman explained that the multi-agency, two-day exercise was based on a fire breaking out at the mill and the log deck catching fire, causing an enormous risk to the community. Given the massive

amount of wood piled up on any given day at the mill site, steps from downtown Whitecourt, the training was a valuable learning opportunity for all involved.

"In 2024, 32 home assessments were completed, and ten thousand two hundred in incentive funding was provided to twelve Whitecourt residents to FireSmart their properties," said Hardman. When asked what residents taking part in the assessments tend to use dollars for, Hardman explained that it was most often for the removal of trees.

Thirty-two assessments are down a bit from previous years. When asked why, Hardman said there could be a few reasons for it. He added that they are looking to bring on a FireSmart Coordinator through FRIAA funding, and if successful, the candidate would be able to lift those numbers. "They would be able to provide more messaging and conduct more of these assessments in the community," he said.

Two significant mulching projects last year saw the forests to the east and west of Dahl Drive cleared. "Our summer crew of four members completed a significant amount of treatment throughout the community. They removed approximately 600 dead, standing or hazardous trees and the majority were offered as firewood for

residents," explained Hardman.

He said nearly every zone has been FireSmarted to some degree and that crews are now going back and reworking areas as part of the retreatment cycle. "Our goal is to treat every identified zone in our mitigation strategy and then come back to the zones. Our goal is to have it way better than it was prior."

The work done along Centennial Park and Dahl Drive are two areas where residents can see the difference between treated and non-treated forests. Non-treated bush is risky to walk through with dead and downed trees, low-hanging branches and vegetation along the ground, whereas treated forests allow safer access for crews if needed and less fuel for a fire to burn.

The FireSmart crew also attended com-

munity events, such as Canada Day, the Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair and Farmer's Markets, sharing the message of FireSmart and helping grow the understanding and knowledge of what the crew does and why the projects are beneficial to the community.

"Currently, our extensive project, which is a collaboration with the FireSmart Working Group and FRIAA, is the Community Fireguard Project. The planning phase of this project started in the fall of 2024 with a public information session hosted on December 4. The project began on January 31 with construction expected to be completed towards the end of June," detailed Hardman.

The fireguard project is approximately 80 percent completed. It is a 100-metre-wide expanse with trees and

vegetation removed. It extends 4.5 kilometres from Highway 43 near the Kanata Hotel to Ecole St. Joseph School. The significant break in the forest could prove vital in the face of an advancing wildfire. Hardman added that the working group has twenty-five other projects underway.

"Through 2025, we will continue with the FireSmart Home Incentive Program, vegetation management based on identified treatment zones, and complete the Community Fireguard Project," explained Hardman, which he said includes seeding along the fireguard, just off the Old Blue Ridge Highway, where the slope requires it. Residents can learn more about FireSmart projects by talking to the summer crew members at community events in June and July.



FireSmarted' bush along Dahl Drive.

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

Council passed By-law 628/25 – Tax Penalty Bylaw. The bylaw sets dates on when penalties will be applied to unpaid property taxes. A 6% penalty will be applied on July 1st and an additional 6% penalty will be applied on September 1st if outstanding property taxes are not paid.

A letter of support will be sent to the Town of Whitecourt for their Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) FireSmart Coordinator grant application. If approved, the FireSmart Coordinator will be based in Whitecourt and focus on en-

gaging the community and building awareness of FireSmart and wildfire resilience in Whitecourt, Woodlands County, Fox Creek and Swan Hills.

Council approved a \$511,000 increase to the 2025 Subdivision Roads Reconstruction project coming from the Roads Capital Reserve. Following a more detailed geotechnical analysis of the roads identified in the project plan, it was confirmed that the road base and sub-base were in poor condition due to intermixing with weaker materials. Additional funding is required in order to

rebuild the road to extend the lifecycle of the roads.

It was identified that additional office space is required to meet the needs of the Woodlands County organization growth. Council approved a funding increase of \$111,000 for the Municipal Office Development project from the General Capital Reserve to develop 7 to 9 new offices in the building's lower level.

Council approved \$64,000 from the General Capital Reserve to improve the sewer infrastructure at the Woodlands County Municipal Office. The building experienced

several issues including a sewer backup at both the office and shop resulting in damage to both buildings. Project work includes connecting the current sewer line directly to the Town of Whitecourt sewer lines nearby.

As part of an ongoing effort to streamline and modernize procedures, Council adopted Policy G-1.004 External Boards & Committees providing guidance on the appointment of a member of Woodlands County Council to an external board or committee ensuring consistent and fair representation for Woodlands County.

Financial Reserve Policy F-5.202 was amended to establish the Corporate Risk Reserve and transfer

\$300,000 from the General Operating Reserve to the Corporate Risk Reserve. The new reserve is intended to provide financial flexibility to address unforeseen legal, regulatory, governance or labour-related issues.

Policy 6306 – Demonstrations was rescinded as it was determined that the policy was no longer in practice due to external partnerships keeping the local agriculture community informed of modern farming

techniques and promoting new crop varieties and machinery.

### Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council - Wednesday, June 4, 5:00 pm
- Governance & Priorities – Wednesday, June 11, 5:00 pm
- Regular Council - Wednesday, June 18, 9:30 am

Meetings are 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 Civic Web Portal.

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*The Press*

## Ball of confusion: Canadian businesses and the trade war

By Rob Roach  
ATB ECONOMICS

Conducted from April 1 to May 5, 2025, the latest results from the Canadian Survey on Business Conditions show that over 4 in 10 respondents see the Trump administration creating greater uncertainty for their businesses over the next 12 months with about 3 in

10 not sure what the impact will be (which is, arguably, another form of uncertainty).

Accompanying this is the expectation that the actions of the Trump administration will increase the cost of material inputs for 40% of Canadian businesses with 34% expecting they will have to increase the prices they

charge their customers.

Standing at the centre of this is the chaotic path of recent U.S. trade policy with nearly one-fifth (18%) of respondents saying the imposition of U.S. tariffs would have a high level of impact on their businesses with another 34% citing at least some impact.

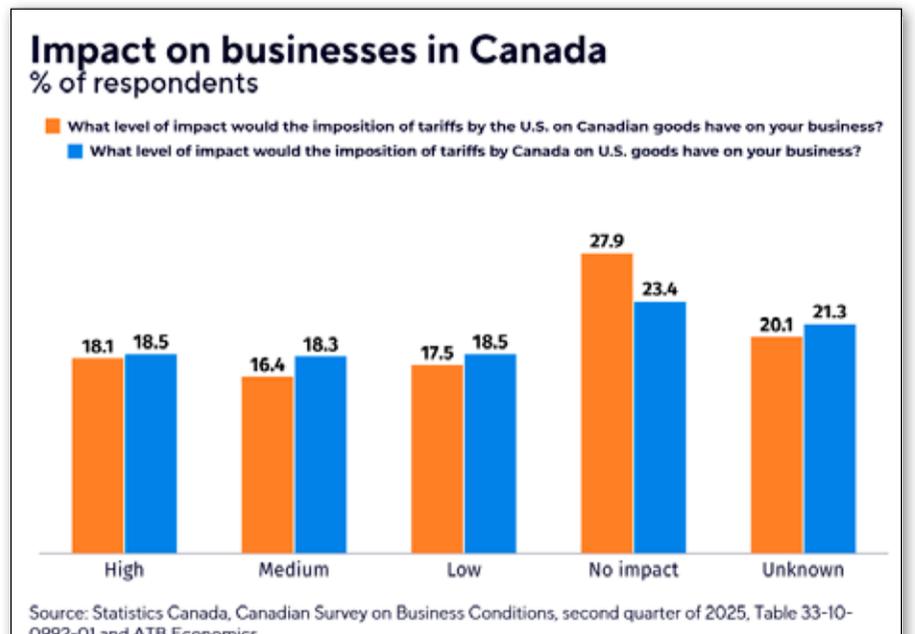
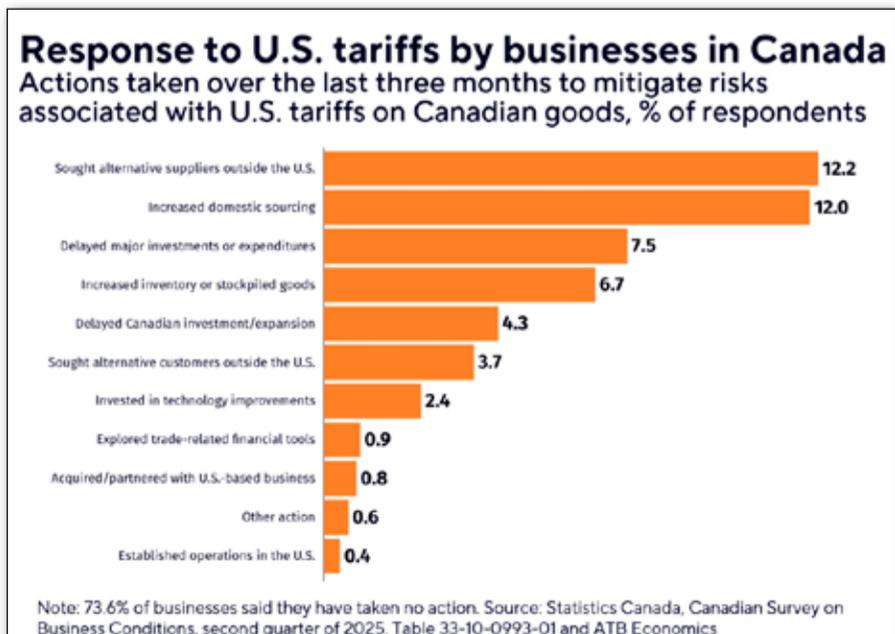
Not surprisingly,

businesses involved in foreign trade are the most likely to cite the potential impact of tariffs with almost 60% of businesses that export goods saying U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods would have a high or medium impact on them and almost 50% of businesses that import goods saying the imposition of Canadian tariffs on U.S.

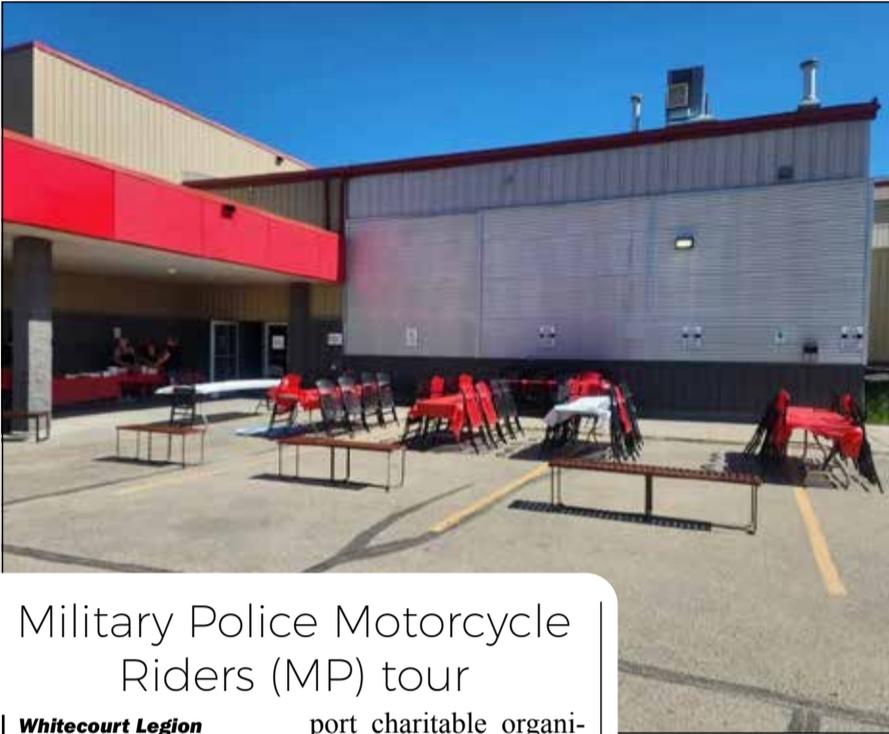
goods would have a high or medium impact on them.

Looking at the actions taken in response to U.S. tariffs so far (keeping in mind that only a fraction of the threatened U.S. tariffs on Canada have been implemented), the two most common are seeking alternative suppliers outside the U.S. and in-

creasing sourcing from Canadian suppliers (see the chart below). Finding non-U.S. customers has, so far at least, only been tried by 4% of businesses. Also concerning, given Canada's already sluggish levels of business investment, some businesses are saying they are delaying investment or expansion plans.



# Mama Gray's Kitchen serves up support for evacuees



Catering by Mama Gray's Kitchen photos

## Military Police Motorcycle Riders (MP) tour

### Whitecourt Legion Press Release

Military Police Motorcycle Riders (MP) are doing a tour through Whitecourt Friday, June 27th! They ride across Canada to raise money for blind and visually challenged children. The members consist of serving and retired veterans who do this every year. The Military Police Fund for Blind Children was established in accordance with the Canada Corporation Act. This is the only Military Charity in the country. One aspect is that it is run and managed by Military Police volunteers. Its projects are to aid blind children primarily and young blind adults up to and including the age of twenty-one; and to sup-

port charitable organizations and individuals involved in the education and recreation of blind children and young adults. There is a Military Police Blind Fund volunteer in every Canadian Forces Base throughout Canada.

If you would like to make a donation to this worthy cause, the Military Police Motorcycle Riders will be in Whitecourt, visiting the Whitecourt Legion, 4928-51 Avenue, Friday, June 27th, predicted afternoon arrival with 17+ riders.

For more information, please contact Ralph Schutte, President of the Whitecourt Legion, at 780-779-8543 or Legion at 780-778-3666 Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 2:30 p.m.

On May 29, at the arena parking lot, Mama Gray's Kitchen provided hot meals to about 100 evacuees, offering comfort and nourishment during a difficult time. Although more evacuees were expected, those who arrived expressed heartfelt gratitude. A group of generous volunteers stepped in to help, bringing warmth and energy to the effort. After the meal service, Mama Gray's Kitchen donated the remaining food to Tenielle's Hope Soup Kitchen, ensuring that even more in need would be fed the next day.

# Sailor's delight



The saying, "red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in the morning, sailor's warning," has been used for centuries to help predict weather. A bright, colourful sunset indicates that the next day will be favourable for weather while a sunrise of the same beauty indicates the opposite. Referenced in the Bible, Shakespeare and numerous cultures, the saying continues to see use today and proved its salt last week. Ahead of the searing heat on Wednesday, this beautiful display filled the night sky on Tuesday, letting residents know to expect a great forecast.

## HELP WANTED

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# Oilers superfan turns heads in Whitecourt



Hilltop High School photos

Mason Merrill, a devoted Edmonton Oilers fan, stands beside his vehicle, fully decked out in bold Oilers graphics. Parked outside Hilltop High School, the eye-catching car has become a familiar sight around Whitecourt, drawing attention and sparking smiles from fellow hockey fans.

# Don't get measles.

# Get immunized.

Measles outbreaks are occurring in Canada, including Alberta. Measles is an extremely contagious disease that is spread easily through the air. The best way to protect yourself, your family and your community is to ensure you are up to date with your immunizations.

Visit [alberta.ca/measles](https://alberta.ca/measles)

to find out if you're up to date and what to do if you're not.

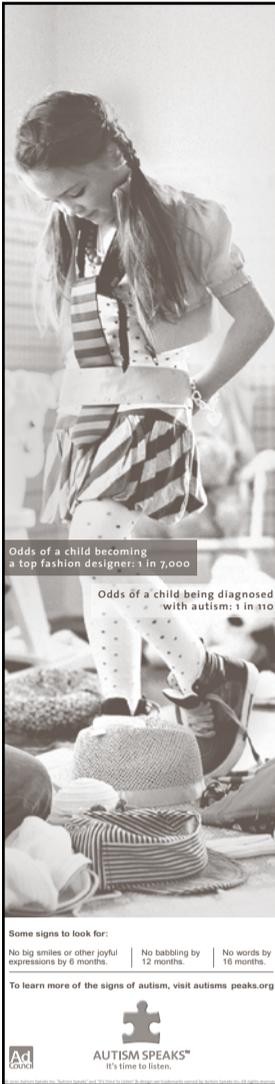




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### Coming Events

**FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2025 AUCTION PROGRAM:** Firearms, Ammunition, Accessories, or Militaria. Collections, Estates or single items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Contact us: 1-800-694-2609, Email: [sales@switzersauction.com](mailto:sales@switzersauction.com) or Visit us @ [www.switzersauction.com](http://www.switzersauction.com) for Auction Dates & Details.

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### Employment Opportunities

**THE LAKESIDE LEADER** is hiring a reporter/photographer for an ongoing, full-time position in Slave Lake. Must have own car and camera. Email resume to: [joemc@lakesideleader.com](mailto:joemc@lakesideleader.com).

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### For Sale

**WHITE SPRUCE TREES:** 5' average \$50. Installation ONLY \$19. Includes: hole augered, Wurzel Dip enzyme injection, bark mulch application, staking. Minimum order 25. One-time fuel charge: \$150 - 225. Crystal Springs. 403-820-0961. Quality guaranteed.

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lump sum refund. Take advantage of this offer. Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide: Expert help. 1-844-453-5372.

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# Whitecourt Town Council update

The Whitecourt FireSmart Annual Report for 2024 has been published. The report outlines activities and accomplishments achieved throughout 2024, and is available to download on the Whitecourt website.

- The Community Fireguard Project was approved for construction in 2024 on the eastern boundary of Whitecourt. The project is expected to be complete the summer of 2025. The fireguard, a strategically constructed feature where trees, brush and fuel sources are removed, will break the path of wildfire that could potentially move towards prop-

erty, infrastructure, and other values at risk.

- 32 FireSmart Home Assessments were completed in 2024. To book your FireSmart Home Assessment, go to our website. [www.whitecourt.ca/live/public-safety/firesmart](http://www.whitecourt.ca/live/public-safety/firesmart)
- \$10,200 in funding was granted to Whitecourt property owners under the Whitecourt FireSmart Homeowner Incentive Program. Canada Day Celebrations are scheduled for July 1 in Festival Park and other downtown locations. For details, visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) or follow the event page on Facebook.

Council has awarded \$30,000 in funding under the 2025 Enhancement Grant Program. Recipients include:

- Brighter Futures (Ecole St. Mary School Parent Society) – Soccer Goal Posts - \$7,501.17
- The Woodchuckers Whitecourt Cornhole League – Transport Carts - \$271.48
- Whitecourt Minor Ball Association – Pitching Machine - \$3,874.23
- Whitecourt Minor Soccer Association – Equip for Excellence - \$13,056.91
- Whitecourt Whiskey Jacks – Junior Forest Wardens – Stand-Up Paddleboards - \$5,296.21

Whitecourt has awarded \$6,700 in funding from the 2025 Sports Hosting Program to the following groups to host provincial/ international sporting competitions in Whitecourt:

- Whitecourt Blue Dolphins - \$3,200
- Whitecourt Tae Kwon Do Association - \$3,500

The Whitecourt Provincial Swim Meet estimates it will attract 400 people to the community; and, the Whitecourt & District Taekwondo Association anticipates the Christmas Cup event will attract over 1,000 people from Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

The 2025 Street Improvement Program

contract has been awarded to E-Construction. Further information on the projects and schedule will be posted once confirmed.

Council has approved street closures in the downtown area on August 9 for the Summer Street Fest event. This year's event will include entertainment, community food vendors, multi-cultural activities, and late-night shopping.

Council members have been authorized to attend the First Responders Golf Tournament on August 22, 2025. Councillor Schlosser has been appointed Deputy Mayor from July 1 to October 27, 2025.

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- Addiction Helpline **1-866-332-2322**
- Health Link **811**

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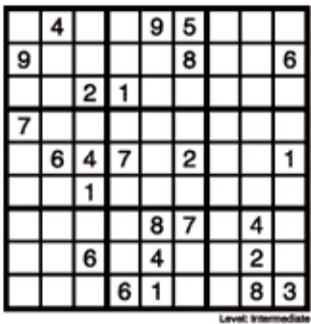
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A look at the local weather	Wed., Jun. 4	Thu., Jun. 5	Fri., Jun. 6	Sat., Jun. 7	Sun., Jun. 8
P.O.P.	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Chance of showers	Chance of showers	Mix of sun and clouds
High	30%	40%	40%	40%	30%
Low	20°C	20°C	12°C	14°C	16°C
Wind	10°C	7°C	5°C	7°C	8°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow	W 10 km/h	W 14 km/h	W 19 km/h <1mm	W 35 km/h ~1mm	NW 17 km/h

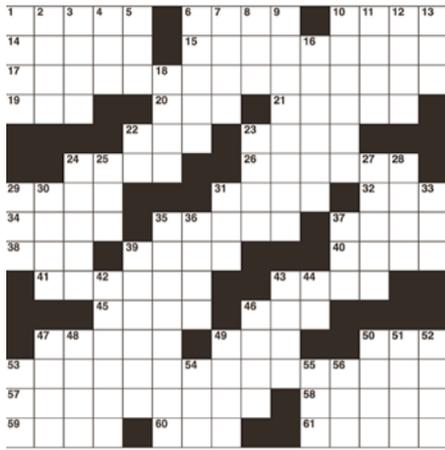
SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

# SUDOKU CROSSWORDS



**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!



**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. Marsh plant
- 6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")
- 10. Fogginess
- 14. Home to Fools' Day
- 15. Absence of the sense of pain
- 17. Popular November holiday
- 19. Consume food
- 20. Buddy
- 21. Long-haired goat-antelope
- 22. Japanese honorific
- 23. Actor Malek
- 24. One point south of southeast
- 26. Illegal acts
- 29. As fast as can be done
- 31. Prevents harm to young
- 32. Exclamation of satisfaction
- 34. African nation
- 35. Slow-moving animal
- 37. Oh, goodness!
- 38. A team's best pitcher
- 39. Cleanser
- 40. Radioactivity units
- 41. Expectorated matter
- 43. Cover a wide range
- 45. The central area of a church
- 46. California capital

(abbr.)

- 47. Dutch painter Klaver
- 49. 007's creator
- 50. Impression of dishonesty
- 53. Northeastern sports rivalry
- 57. Cloths
- 58. Stalin's police chief
- 59. Hostelries
- 60. Bitterly regret
- 61. Anwar \_\_, Egyptian statesman

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Satisfy
- 2. European health advocate
- 3. Expression of annoyance
- 4. Strong liquor
- 5. Large red deer
- 6. Holder of less common religious beliefs
- 7. West Indian shrub
- 8. Family of proteins
- 9. Wealthy, influential business leader
- 10. Low spirits
- 11. Approves food
- 12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman
- 13. Mary \_\_, cosmetics
- 16. Expressed in pithy maxims
- 18. Relaxing spaces

- 22. The NFL's big game
- 23. Proof of payment (abbr.)
- 24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers
- 25. Indicates near
- 27. Minneapolis suburb
- 28. Herring-like fish
- 29. Doctors' group
- 30. Pouches
- 31. Bread dipping in sauce
- 33. Commercials
- 35. A reminder of past events
- 36. Affected by injury
- 37. Geological time
- 39. Stationary part of a motor
- 42. Brings together
- 43. Of sound mind
- 44. Personal computer
- 46. Without (French)
- 47. A bank might give you one
- 48. Agricultural testing organization
- 49. A small island
- 50. Type of gene
- 51. Murres
- 52. Card game
- 53. A measure of human health
- 54. Australian airline (abbr.)
- 55. One point south of due west
- 56. Affirmative



Photo by Global Pet Foods

**Global Pet Foods has donated pet food and supplies valued at \$1,000 to the Whitecourt Food Bank to support evacuees from Swan Hills. They're also offering a 15% discount to anyone purchasing food or litter to donate, encouraging the community to help care for pets and their families during this challenging time. This combined effort aims to provide much-needed relief and comfort to those displaced by the evacuation.**

# FIRE BAN ISSUED FOR WHITECOURT

Effective May 29, 2025



Visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) for details.

Due to the extreme fire hazard, Whitecourt has issued a full fire ban, effective Thursday, May 29, 2025. No fire permits will be issued, and all existing fire permits will be suspended until conditions improve within Whitecourt.

The fire ban includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Backyard fire pits,
- Campground fire pits,
- All open burning,
- Fireworks,
- Flame propelled floating lanterns,
- Charcoal briquettes,

- Turkey fryers,
  - Tiki torches.
  - Allowed for use during the fire ban:
  - CSA approved or ULC certified gas or propane barbecues used for cooking,
  - CSA approved or ULC certified Wood Pellet Smokers,
  - Propane and natural gas fire pits,
  - Catalytic or infra-red-style heaters,
  - Electric or propane meat smokers.
- The fire ban will remain in effect until conditions improve. The operation of

Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) within the Town of Whitecourt is prohibited under the Traffic Bylaw 1573 which prohibits OHV use within Town boundaries between April 1 and November 30 annually. Penalties for contravening Bylaw 1573 range from monetary fines to OHV seizure.

Updates on the fire ban will be posted on [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) and on Whitecourt's Facebook page. For details on fire bans across Alberta, visit [www.albertafirebans.ca](http://www.albertafirebans.ca).

## DAIRY FARM WORD SEARCH



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

**WORDS**

- AYRSHIRE
- BEDDING
- BREWERS GRAINS
- BROWN SWISS
- COTTON SEEDS
- CUD
- EAR TAG

- FEED
- FORAGE
- GRASS
- GUERNSEY
- HAY
- HOLSTEIN
- HOMINY
- HOOVES

- HUTCH
- JERSEY
- MILKING
- PARLOR
- PASTURE
- RATION
- RUMEN
- SILAGE
- UDDER

# 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

## Putting a face on suicide



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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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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**Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza**

**Sous Chef NOC 62200**

**Primary Responsibilities**

- Supervise activities of specialist chefs, chefs, cooks and other kitchen workers
- Demonstrate new cooking techniques and new equipment to cooking staff
- Prepare and cook complete meals or specialty foods, such as pastries, sauces, soups, salads, vegetables and meat, poultry and fish dishes, and create decorative food displays for special events such as banquets
- Instruct cooks in preparation, cooking, garnishing and presentation of food
- Create new recipes
- May plan menus and requisition food and kitchen supplies
- May prepare and cook meals or specialty foods.
- May requisition food and kitchen supplies.
- Supervise cooks and other kitchen staff

**Employment requirements**

- Cook's trade certification or equivalent credentials, training and experience are required.
- The certifications of Certified Working Chef (CWC) and Certified Chef de Cuisine (CCC), administered by the Canadian Culinary Institute (CCI) of the Canadian Culinary Federation (CCF) preferred.
- Red Seal endorsement preferred.
- Sous-chefs, specialist chefs and chefs require several years of experience in commercial food preparation.
- Completion of secondary school preferred.

**Experience:** 3-4 years  
**Education:** Completion of secondary school preferred  
**Language:** English  
**Terms of Employment:** Permanent, full-time (44 hours/week)  
**Benefits Package:** Vision, Dental, and Health after 90-day probation period.

**Visit our website** [www.eaglerivercasino.ca](http://www.eaglerivercasino.ca)  
**Address:** Twp Rd 602A, HWY 32N Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3  
**Phone:** 780.779.2727  
**Fax:** 780.706.7451  
**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  
**Benefits Package:** Vision, Dental, and Health after a 90-day probation period. Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.  
**Address:** Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3. Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451  
**Visit our Website:** www.eaglerivercasino.ca  
**How to Apply:** Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax.



## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Executive Chef NOC 62200

### Responsibilities:

- Plan and direct food preparation and cooking activities of several restaurants in an establishment, restaurant chains, hospitals or other establishments with food services
- Consult with clients regarding weddings, banquets and specialty functions
- Plan menus and ensure food meets quality standards
- Estimate food requirements and may estimate food and labour costs
- Supervise activities of sous-chefs, specialist chefs, chefs and cooks
- Arrange for equipment purchases and repairs
- Recruit and hire staff
- May prepare and cook food on a regular basis, or for special guests or functions.

### Employment requirements

- Cook's trade certification or equivalent credentials, training and experience are required.
- The certifications of Certified Working Chef (CWC) and Certified Chef de Cuisine (CCC), administered by the Canadian Culinary Institute (CCI) of the Canadian Culinary Federation (CCF) preferred.
- Several years of experience in commercial food preparation, including two years in a supervisory capacity and experience as a sous-chef, specialist chef or chef.
- Red Seal endorsement preferred.
- Management training preferred.

**Experience:** 3-4 years  
**Education:** Completion of secondary school preferred  
**Language:** English  
**Terms of Employment:** Permanent, full-time (44 hours/week)  
**Benefits Package:** Vision, Dental, and Health after 90-day probation period.

**Visit our website** [www.eaglerivercasino.ca](http://www.eaglerivercasino.ca)  
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# Recipes

## Simple spare ribs to satisfy your craving for barbecue

The aroma of barbecue is hard to resist and the flavor is even better. Barbecue is an art form, as that enticing aroma and undeniable flavor is truly a labor of love. But even novices can try their hands at barbecue and end up with delicious results. For those who want to craft their own barbecue concoctions, this recipe for "Barbecue Spare Ribs" from Lines+Angles is easily followed, and the finished product is undeniably flavorful.

### Barbecue Spare Ribs Makes 6 servings

- 2 tablespoons paprika

- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
  - 2 tablespoons garlic powder
  - 1 tablespoon salt
  - 1 teaspoon freshly ground black peppercorns
  - 6 lbs. spare ribs, racks cleaned and trimmed
  - 13 ounces barbecue sauce, low sugar, if possible
  - 1 ounce flat-leaf parsley, torn
1. Stir together the paprika, cayenne, garlic powder, salt, and pepper in a mixing bowl.
  2. Thoroughly rub the spice mix into the rib racks. Place in a shallow dish, cover and chill for at least 8 hours.
  3. After chilling, remove the ribs

- from the fridge. Preheat a gas or charcoal grill to about 300 F.
4. Cook the ribs on the grill, covered with a lid, until the meat is tender and pulls away from the bone, about 2 hours.
  5. As the ribs cook, periodically brush them with some barbecue sauce, reserving any unused sauce.
  6. When ready, remove the ribs from the grill and let them rest under aluminum foil for at least 10 minutes.
  7. After resting, brush the ribs with any reserved barbecue sauce before cutting and serving with a garnish of parsley.



## A French standard offers a unique way to prepare beef



Beef is a versatile ingredient that's popular in countries across the globe. There's no shortage of ways to prepare this favorite protein source. French chefs utilize beef in various recipes, and one popular dish is Beef Bourguignon. This stew works well as a comfort food, and has become a standard of French cuisines over the last century and a half and made widely popular in the United States when Julia Child first adapted the recipe.

Those who want try their hand at cooking beef in the French fashion can look to this recipe for "Beef Bourguignon" from Lines+Angles.

### Beef Bourguignon Makes 6 servings

- 1 1/2 tablespoons sunflower oil
- 7 ounces diced smoked bacon
- 2 1/4 lbs. beef steak, chuck, cut into 2 1/2-centimeter cubes
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 onion

- 3 carrots, peeled
  - 14 ounces button onions, or small round shallots, peeled
  - 2 finely chopped garlic cloves
  - 1 tablespoon tomato passata
  - 3 cups good quality red wine (e.g., from Burgundy)
  - 1 2/3 cups beef stock
  - 3 bay leaves
  - 4 to 5 sprigs young thyme, plus extra for garnishing
  - 1 small bunch chives, snipped
  - Salt
  - Freshly ground black peppercorns
1. Preheat the oven to 275 F.
  2. Heat the sunflower oil in a large, wide saute pan or casserole dish set over a moderate heat until hot. Add the bacon and fry until golden and crisp, 7 to 8 minutes. Remove from the pan to a plate lined with paper towels.
  3. Dust the chuck steak with the flour, shaking off the excess. Season with salt and pepper before browning in the pan, in batches, over a moderately

high heat. Remove from the pan to a bowl.

4. Return the pan to a medium heat. Add the butter, let it melt, and then stir in the onion, carrot, pearl onions, and a pinch of salt.
5. Saute for 8 to 10 minutes until colored. Add the garlic and tomato passata, and cook for a further minute.
6. Return the beef to the pan and deglaze with the wine, scraping the base to release any stuck-on bits.
7. Stir in the stock, bay leaves and thyme sprigs, and bring to a boil. Once boiling, transfer to the oven.
8. Braise for about 90 minutes to 2 hours, stirring occasionally, until the beef is tender and easy to pull apart.
9. Remove from the oven and season to taste with plenty of salt and pepper. Serve from the pan with a garnish of snipped chives and some thyme sprigs.

## Serve up springtime flavor with beetroot soup

Certain foods tend to hit the spot a little more convincingly during particular times of year. For instance, it's hard to resist a hearty comfort food when the weather outside is cold and the winter winds are howling.

Come springtime, lighter fare regains its place in the spotlight. As spring blooms return, foodies looking for something that won't bust their belts can try this recipe for "Beetroot Soup with Mixed Seeds" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

### Beetroot Soup with Mixed Seeds Makes 4 servings

#### For the soup:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion
- 1 finely chopped garlic clove
- 3 chopped celeries
- 1 teaspoon dried marjoram
- 1/2 teaspoon dried dill
- 5 cups vegetable stock, plus

- extra as needed
  - 1 1/4 lb. pickled beets, cubed, juice reserved
  - 2 tablespoons plain yogurt
  - Salt
  - Freshly ground black peppercorns
- To serve:**
- 4 tablespoons plain yogurt
  - 2 tablespoons chopped pistachio nuts, shelled
  - 2 tablespoons black chia seeds
  - 2 tablespoons pumpkin seeds
  - 2 tablespoons golden linseeds or linseeds
  - 1 handful mint leaves
1. For the soup: Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan set over medium heat until hot.
  2. Add the onion, garlic, celery, and a generous pinch of salt, cooking for 6 to 7 minutes until softened.
  3. Stir in the dried herbs and vegetable stock. Bring to a simmer before stirring in the

- beets.
4. Simmer gently for 20 to 25 minutes until the beetroot is very tender to the tip of a knife.
  5. Purée with an immersion blender, adding in some of the reserved beetroot juice to thin out the consistency to your liking; you can also thin it out with more stock or some water.
  6. Return the soup to a simmer and stir in the yogurt and some salt and pepper to taste. Keep warm over a very low heat, making sure the soup does not boil.
  7. To serve: When ready to serve, ladle into warm bowls and top with some yogurt.
  8. Garnish with a scattering of chopped pistachios, mixed seeds and some mint leaves before serving.



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## Recover Out Loud

- Mondays are in person, at the Family Worship Center upstairs, and online (hybrid) at 7:30pm
- Fridays 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Baptist Church in person only.

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



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

This can include help with parking costs for hospital visits, living expenses and unforeseen medical expenses.

Applications can be made through the Drs at both Whitecourt Medical Clinics or (office hours, can leave a message): **Kim Nendsa** (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) **780-778-0932**  
**Aimee Grierson 780-262-0222**  
<https://wctcancerwellness.com/>



"Serving the community for over 30 years"  
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

## LORNE'S BLANKET

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### Shelter:

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### Outreach Support Program:

Ongoing Support, Advocacy, Follow-Up & Support Groups for Women, Men and Youth in Whitecourt and Surrounding Communities.

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

## 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

Located at the United Church Basement on Legion Street (formerly 5201 - 50 Street)

Please Leave a Message for Our AA member or Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322



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.**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

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### NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decision was made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application W25-355: Lot A, Plan 1322740 55 Edge Water Crescent – Approved with conditions.

**Date of Decisions:** May 22, 2025    **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** June 12, 2025

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$310) 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.

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Current opportunities are posted on the Town's website and when required, opportunities are posted on purchasingconnection.ca. Currently, Whitecourt has the following opportunities:

- **Allan & Jean Millar Centre Wellness Services.** Closes: June 6, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

For further details on any of these opportunities visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) and search the project title.

### Notice to Town of Whitecourt Ratepayers

The 2025 Combined Assessment and Tax Notices for the Town of Whitecourt were mailed on May 8, 2025. Please see [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) for further details. If you have not yet received your notice please contact the Tax Department at 780-778-2273, as you are still responsible for the timely payment of your taxes.

**Important Dates to Remember:**

**June 30, 2025**, with the exception of those ratepayers on the Tax Installment Plan, full payment of your taxes must be received at the Town Office, or postmarked prior to 4:30 p.m., to avoid penalties. Please make payment in person, by mail or through your banking institution.

**July 14, 2025**, is the deadline to submit your assessment complaint. Written complaints must be submitted on the prescribed form and accompanied with the appropriate fee to the Town Office by 4:00 p.m. It is strongly advised that you speak with the Assessor to answer any questions you might have regarding your assessment prior to submitting a formal assessment complaint.

### Seniors' Week June 2 – 7

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize June 2 – 7 as Seniors' Week. Seniors' Week honours and celebrates seniors for their many contributions to our community and province. Celebrate Seniors' Week with the Town of Whitecourt and join the many activities scheduled throughout the community. Details on events and activities can be found on [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca).

### Request for Quotation – Shredding Services RFQ No. 2025-05-28

The Town of Whitecourt is seeking qualified quotations for on-site shredding services for five Town facilities, between August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2028, with the option to renew for an additional three years. Submissions must be received at the Town Office before 3:30pm, Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

Further information on the request for quotation is on the Town website at [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca); or you can contact Wendy Grimstad-Davidson at 780.778.2273 or by email at [wendydauidson@whitecourt.ca](mailto:wendydauidson@whitecourt.ca).

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SCHOOL NEWS



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You're Invited to Celebrate the Life of JJ Hill

Saturday, July 26th | 2:00 PM – 11:00 PM | Whitecourt Legion | 4928 – 51 Avenue.

Join us as we gather to remember, honor, and celebrate the incredible life of JJ Hill. There will be stories, laughter, memories, and togetherness—just the way JJ would've wanted it. All are welcome.

Let's celebrate JJ's life, his spirit, and the joy he brought to us all.



Whitecourt Central School recently showed appreciation to volunteers who helped make their student dance a success!



Pat Hardy students enjoyed Freaky Friday last week.

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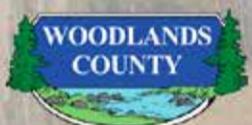




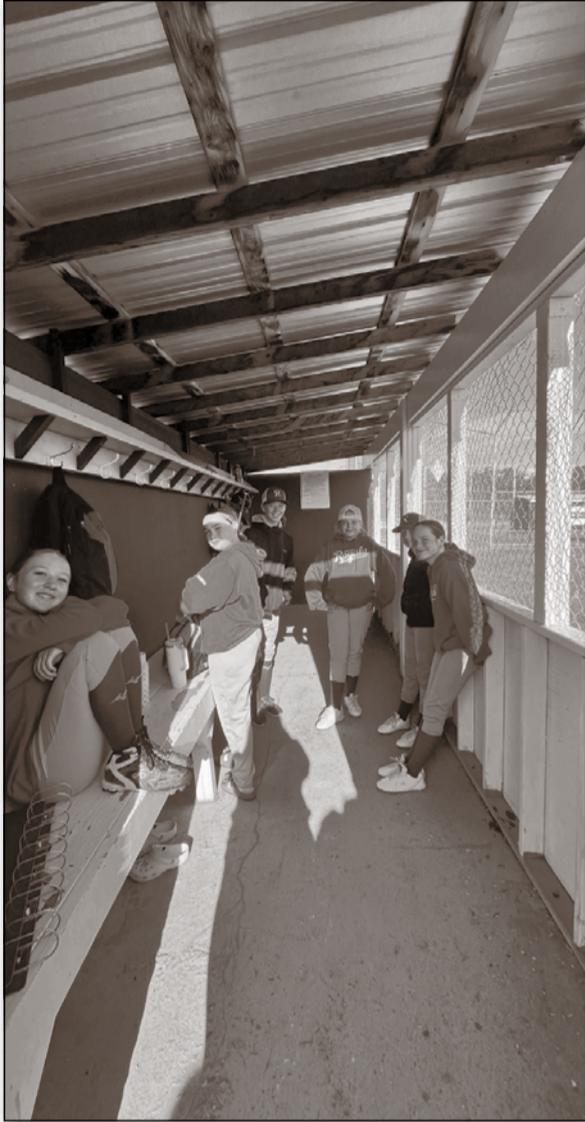
Photo by Whitecourt Minor Soccer

The U17 Warriors girls soccer team brought home the bronze medal at the Sherwood Park Classic, held May 24–26, showcasing grit and determination on the field. Pictured with their coaches, the team made their community proud with a strong performance in a competitive weekend of play.



Pat Hardy School students and staff enjoyed their last recognition assembly of the year. Summer is coming!

# Community spirit shines at large-scale youth baseball event



Whitecourt Minor Ball photos

By Haylee Winger

Whitecourt was a hub of excitement this past weekend as it hosted a large-scale youth baseball tournament that brought together 465 young athletes aged 5 to 18. A total of 39 teams took part, traveling from communities across Alberta, including Mayerthorpe, Edson, Pembina, Peace River, Parkland, Red Deer, Barrhead, Fort Saskatchewan, Anselmo, Valleyview, and Edmonton.

The tournament saw a significant expansion from last year. In 2024, the event featured 20 teams playing on four diamonds. This year, the tournament nearly doubled in size, with 39 teams competing on nine diamonds throughout the community. With more than 83 games scheduled over the weekend, the event highlighted the growing enthusiasm for youth baseball in the region.

Umpires from Whitecourt, Hinton, and Barrhead were brought in to officiate the games. In addition to the on-field action, families and spectators enjoyed a

lively atmosphere with 50/50 draws, a dunk tank, batting cage rentals, concession services, and even on-site camping options for teams and their supporters.

Volunteerism played a crucial role in making the event a success. A total of 518 volunteer shifts were filled, not including the countless hours contributed by the organizing committee. Prior to the tournament, volunteers assembled welcome packages for all 465 players, which included drinks, snacks, and a range of goodies to make each participant feel appreciated.

“It has been a heartwarming experience to have the support of so many for this Exhibition Weekend! The Whitecourt Royals were able to welcome 465 players with packages courtesy of many businesses banding together. We are so grateful to so many for making sure every ball player was made to feel welcome in our community,” said the Whitecourt Minor Ball Communications Coordinator.

Numerous local businesses stepped up

to support the initiative. No Frills, Circle K, Badger Daylighting, and Mountain Pizza and Steakhouse ensured every player stayed hydrated throughout the weekend by donating beverages. CO-OP Pembina West and KRB Energy Solutions provided granola bars for every participant, while Courier Vending, Circle K, and Mountain Pizza and Steakhouse contributed chips for the welcome packages. Dairy Queen, McDonald’s, and the Allan & Jean Millar Centre offered coupons for treats and recreational activities, giving players something to enjoy during downtime between games. The Town of Whitecourt added a fun touch by gifting each player a new Crocs accessory to take home as a keepsake.

Whitecourt Minor Ball coaches were also recognized, with all 39 entered into a draw for a gift basket sponsored by Mark’s Work Warehouse Whitecourt.

The Whitecourt Slo-Pitch Association played a pivotal role by allowing the use of all

the diamonds at Graham Acres and lending equipment necessary to maintain the expanded schedule. Fox Creek Minor Baseball also supported the event by providing a portable mound to help accommodate the additional games.

The long list of sponsors included Alexander Safety, Badger Daylighting, Bear Creek Rentals, Blainier’s Welding, C4 Pivotal Bookkeeping, Carlan Services Ltd., Circle K, CO-OP Pembina West, Courier Vending, Dairy Queen, E360S,

G & L Crane, KRB Energy Solutions, Life Med Pharmacy, Lochtite Wrenchin’, Mark’s, McDonald’s, Mountain Pizza and Steak House, No Frills, Prairie Disposal, Ralcomm, the Town of Whitecourt, West Fraser, Whitecourt Manual Osteopathy, and Woodlands County.

“We are grateful to Whitecourt Slo-Pitch Association for allowing us to use the diamonds this weekend that are allocated to them,” added Whitecourt Minor Ball’s Communications Co-

ordinator. “Fox Creek Minor Baseball was kind enough to lend us their portable mound to accommodate the expansion of baseball beyond our usual diamonds.”

Thanks to the tireless work of volunteers, generous business sponsors, and enthusiastic players and families, the tournament was a resounding success. The event showcased not only the talent and dedication of the youth athletes but also the strength and generosity of the Whitecourt community.



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### Money Matters

**One Canadian Dollar = 0.72 US Dollar**  
at an exchange rate of **0.7269** (using nominal rate).

**Dollar Values as of June 4, 2025**

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

### CROSSWORDS

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

### SUDOKU

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

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# The Press

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