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The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 14 - Issue 37 | Wednesday, October 1, 2025

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Whitecourt's Career and Education Expo: Highlighting local possibilities



Learning about jobs at Alberta Parks.

By Serena Lapointe

On Friday, September 26, the Allan and Jean Millar Centre was extra busy thanks to the Career and Education Expo, which overtook the community hub from 9:30 am until 4 pm. Each year, the event is attended by high school students from both school divisions, as well as from schools in the region, and anyone from the general public interested in new employment or post-secondary options.

The planning committee

Event volunteer, James Rennie.

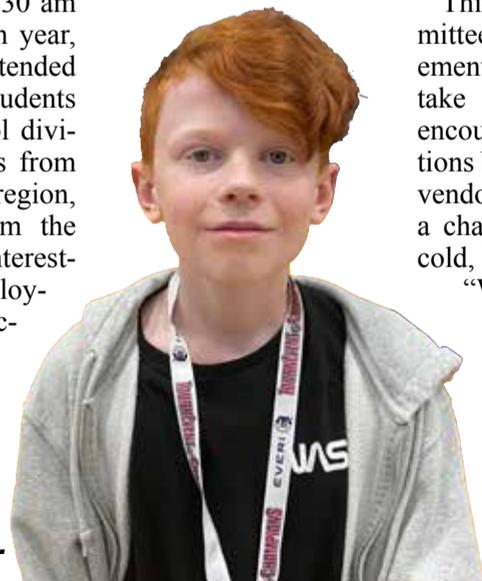
tee comprises representatives from: the Town of Whitecourt, Woodlands County, the MD of Greenview, the Government of Alberta, Northern Gateway Public Schools,

Living Waters Catholic Schools, Community Futures Yellowhead East, the Whitecourt Chamber of Commerce, Whitecourt Employment Services and Careers.

This year, the committee added a fun element for students to take part in, to help encourage conversations between them and vendors and give them a chance to win some cold, hard cash.

"We developed a game called Passport Bingo. When we did vendor registration, we

continued on page 11



Patrick Carew

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The Town of Whitecourt wants to snag more grant dollars for the new building, saving tax dollars



Photos by Town of Whitecourt

The building of the Culture and Events Centre is well underway and slated for completion in one year's time. With an extensive portion of the project already covered by grants, the Town of Whitecourt has continued to seek out opportunities to save tax dollars. Pictured is a rendering of what the centre will look like.

By Serena Lapointe

The Town of Whitecourt is seeking to add more grant dollars to the millions they've already successfully obtained for the new Culture and Events Centre being built at the entrance of Festival Park. The ginormous structure includes three separate functions: Town Office, Library and the Arts, Culture & Convention Centre.

The municipality has already banked over 30 million in grants towards the project, a whopping 60 percent of the overall cost. In wanting to lower the building's cost as much as possible, the Town of Whitecourt has continued seeking other funding options to help cover the costs of various segments of the building.

At the September 22 Regular Meeting of Town Council, Kelly Sadoway, Manager of Recreation, Arts and Culture, provided details on the latest grant that the municipality hopes to successfully gain. The Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) is a federally funded grant that focuses on equitable funding opportunities reflecting cultural diversity in Canada. It is offered under the Department

of Canadian Heritage.

On the Canadian Government's website (www.canada.ca), it details the grant as supporting "the improvement of physical conditions for arts, heritage, culture and creative innovation. The CCSF supports renovation projects, the acquisition of specialized equipment, and planning, design and feasibility studies related to arts and heritage cultural spaces."

It is listed as "highly competitive," and special considerations may be given to funding applications submitted by organizations in rural or remote areas, or for underrepresented or equity communities and groups, including deaf people and those living with disabilities. It also states that municipalities can apply, provided that they have historically demonstrated a commitment to the arts or heritage-focused activities, which Whitecourt certainly has.

Town CAO Peter Smyl explained that the funding was 50/50 between the CCSF and approved applicants, adding that the total funding would be around \$200,000. "Everything helps for the center. The grant application requires a

motion from Council," he said. Deputy Mayor Derek Schlosser queried the funding. "So, this was money we were going to spend regardless, and now we are doing a grant in place of that?"

Smyl and Sadoway said yes. "This is budgeted for the center. It's part of the budget. We will continue to do that, even with the sponsorship stuff rolling out. We will continue to apply for grants, just like all the capital expenditures in town. If we can double down and free up some of our money, then so be it," said Smyl.

If successful, the grant would fund the specialized theatre equipment needed to enhance the physical, technological and safety of the centre. As mentioned, the equipment was already budgeted, so gaining grant dollars towards it allows those dollars to go towards something else.

The agenda package provided at the meeting outlined that the space inside the Arts, Culture and Convention Centre would be the "first fully equipped performance space of its kind in our region."

The specialty lighting control system

and high-quality sound equipment will "transform a multi-purpose space into a professionally outfitted theatre venue, with essential infrastructure such as lighting grids, rigging systems and quality sound." It continued to say that the equipment would accommodate "a larger range of artistic disciplines from community theatre, dance, cultural and heritage events, live music performances and touring productions." Lastly, it stated that the high-quality equipment would "bring the Centre in line with Canadian industry standards, enabling local artists

and visiting performers to deliver polished, professional work."

When asked which facility closest to Whitecourt had similar equipment, Sadoway said St. Albert or larger venues in the city. "It has a wide range to host a variety of different shows, with different lighting, sound, and options for different types of setups. It's a more versatile space that can offer more alternatives, and different types of artists will be able to come," she said. "It's all stuff recommended by the theatre consultant (Schick, Shiner, and Associates). It's things we would want

to have for the range of shows that we want to be able to present," she added.

The grant administrator asked that the application be submitted before September 30, 2025.

Following the discussion, Whitecourt Town Council voted in favour of approving the grant submission to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund in hopes of garnering funds towards the specialized theatre equipment already scheduled to be purchased for the centre. It's not known when the Town of Whitecourt can expect to hear back on whether they were successful.



A view from the top.

Library Hours:
 Mon-Fri 10am-8pm
 Sat 12pm-4pm
 Sun Closed

OCTOBER 2025

EVENT CALENDER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Fall Scavenger Hunt 			1 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	2 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00 Scrabble Night 6:00-7:30	3 Yap & Yarn 6:00-7:30	4 Family Movie: Hotel Transylvania 2 1:00
5	6 French Homework Help 4:00-5:00 Adult Book Club 2:00-3:00	7 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	8 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	9 Story Time 10:30-11:30 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	10 Adult Art Therapy 5:30-7:30	11 Closed
12	13 Closed for Thanksgiving! 	14 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	15 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	16 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	17 Soapstone Carving 5:30-7:30	18 Family Movie: Nightmare Before Christmas 1:00
19	20 French Homework Help 4:00-5:00	21 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	22 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	23 Story Time 10:30-11:30 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	24 Crib Night 6:00-7:30	25 Creative Corner: 1:00-3:00
26	27 French Homework Help 4:00-5:00 Tween & Teen Night 6:00-7:30	28 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	29 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	30 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:00	31	

NOTE: For more Library information check our Facebook page, or call (780) 778-2900

Woodlands County confirms candidates for 2025 Municipal Election

The official list of candidates has been released for the 2025 Woodlands County Municipal Election. Three candidates have been acclaimed to office:

- Division 1, Anselmo

- Dave Kusch
- Division 3, Whitecourt Central – Alan Deane
- Division 6, Goose Lake/Freeman River – Peter Kuelken

Contested races will

take place in the following divisions:

- Division 2, Whitecourt West
- John Michael Burrows
- Patricia Ray MacNeil

Division 4, Whitecourt East

- Karen St. Martin
- Andrew Burgoyne
- Deb Edney
- Jeremy James Sergeew

Ridge

- Jenna Wright
- Chris Exley
- Robert William Haydock

Division 7, Fort Assiniboine/Timeau

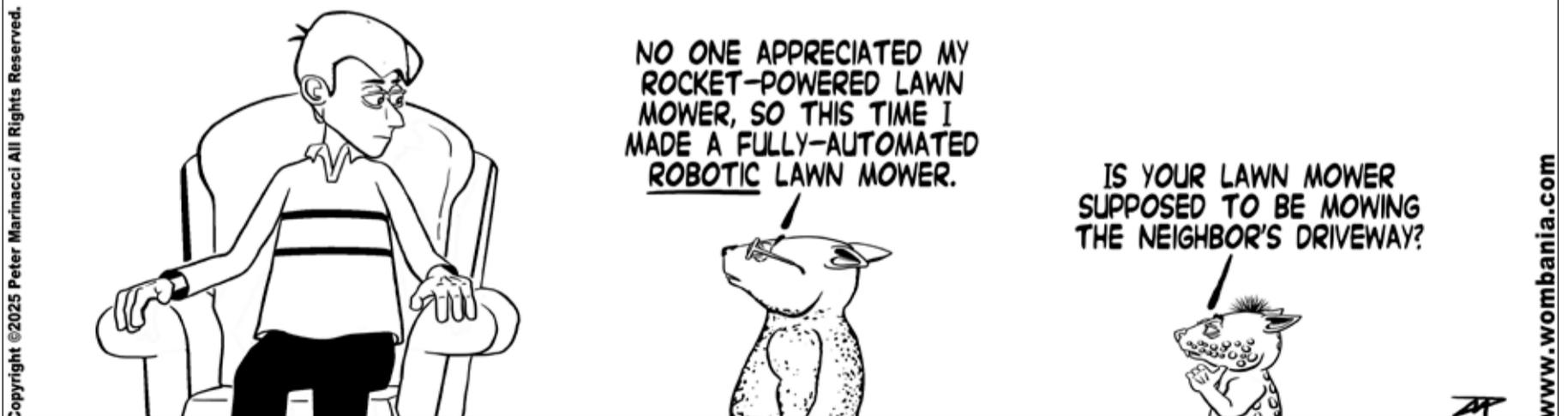
- Benny Whitten

• Dale Kluin

Information on special ballots, along with dates and times for advance and general voting, will be posted at www.woodlands.ca/p/2025-election.

WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI



A look at the local weather	Wed., Oct. 1	Thu., Oct. 2	Fri., Oct. 3	Sat., Oct. 4	Sun., Oct. 5
P.O.P.	40%	30%	40%	10%	20%
High	16°C	14°C	13°C	12°C	13°C
Low	5°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	3°C
Wind	W 6 km/h	SE 3 km/h	W 10 km/h	SE 5 km/h	SE 5 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	<1mm	-	~1mm	-	-



Measles is very dangerous when pregnant.

Get immunized.

If you're planning to become pregnant make sure you have received two doses of the vaccine at least one month before conception.

Visit alberta.ca/measles



WORKFIRST ALBERTA HELPS JOB SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS CHANGE THEIR STORY.

Being unemployed can be a frustrating chapter for anyone. Especially if you're struggling to find a job. And it can be equally frustrating for businesses struggling to find qualified candidates.

Fortunately, WorkFirst Alberta can help Albertans like you change your story. It connects job seekers to training in simulated work environments, and offers support in finding employment. This means more Albertans can be ready for lasting careers, and more employers can get the skilled workers they need.

With the help of WorkFirst Alberta, you can go from unskilled to **skilled**, understaffed to **staffed**, or unemployed to **employed**.

Change your story at WorkFirstAlberta.ca

**WorkFirst
Alberta**

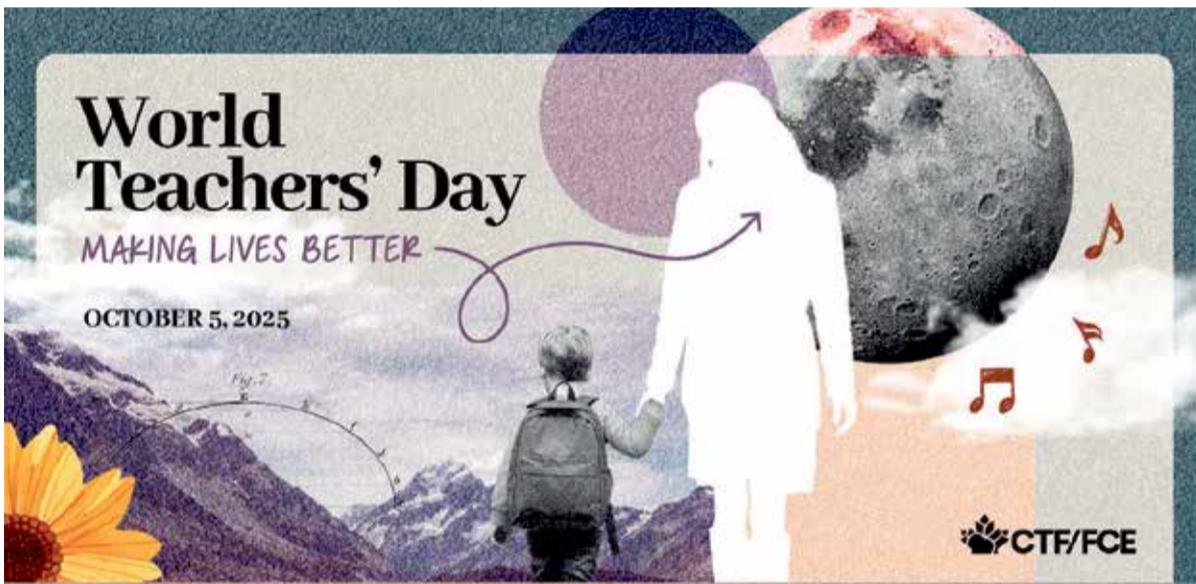


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Visit www.whitecourtpress.com



World Teachers' Day

MAKING LIVES BETTER

OCTOBER 5, 2025



Behind every success story, there's a teacher

Here's what parents and kids had to say about their teacher last June.

"Thank you for infusing my daughter with courage and self confidence."

- Parent

"There were days I doubted myself, but you never did. You have a gift not just for teaching, but for making people feel like they matter."

- Junior high student

"Because of you, he loved coming to school every day. You didn't just teach him, you changed his world!"

- Parent

"You were the teacher who always believed in my dreams."

- High school student

"I love you because you taught me how to read."

- Elementary student

"I will remember you forever for what you did for us."

- Parent

October 5 is World Teachers' Day.

Take a moment this week to thank a teacher



The Alberta Teachers' Association

Meet Bud

Bud is an approximately 2-year-old Pyrenees cross who is neutered and up to date on all vaccinations.

WHITECOURT ADOPTABLE ANIMALS

This sweet-natured dog has a gentle, shy temperament and forms strong bonds once he feels comfortable. Bud enjoys being close to his people and is happiest when he's by your side.

He knows how to sit for treats and is eager to continue learning. Playful and affectionate, Bud especially loves a good game of fetch.



For more information or to arrange a meet-and-greet, please contact the Whitecourt Pound at: **780-778-5767**

Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.71 US Dollar at an exchange rate of **0.7174** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of October 1, 2025

HELP WANTED

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

Food Service Attendant
Full Time / Shift Work

Food Service Supervisor
Full Time / Shift Work

SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS

Please apply in person at the restaurant.



4331-52 Ave Unit 1
Whitecourt, AB

4216 Elko Drive
Whitecourt, AB

The Press Got a news tip?

Call Valerie Winger at 780.706.1858 or email wctpress@gmail.com

Hydro Haven: A safe space where wellness flows and healing begins



Tammy Rilling, owner of HydroHaven, stands proudly in her shop.

By Haylee Winger

In a world where the pace of life often leaves little time for self-care, one Whitecourt entrepreneur has created a space where recovery, relaxation, and well-being take priority. Hydro Haven is a wellness-focused business dedicated to supporting both mental and physical health through innovative hydrotherapy and nutritional offerings.

“Hydro Haven is a designated wellness space to support both mental and physical health through recovery and relaxation,” says founder Tammy Rilling. “After experiencing some major life changes a couple of years ago, I knew it was time to shift my energy. I wanted to create something that could encourage people to focus on their own self-care and well-being. To create a space that resonates with myself and others, to foster peace, tranquility and finding connection with ourselves and our own well-being.”

That mission lies at the heart of Hydro Haven’s philosophy. Tammy emphasizes that the goal has always been to make wellness more accessible without compromising on quality. “My intent for this endeavour was to provide the opportunity for my consumer base to have affordable access to a service that

can benefit their health, mental wellness and overall well-being. To have a premium experience that will leave them feeling refreshed, revitalized, focused and mindful of their personal well-being.”

Hydro Haven offers a variety of services designed to support both physical recovery and emotional wellness. The space features four HydroMassage units, including both contoured loungers and flatbed styles. “I have 4 Hydro Massage units, a contoured lounger and a flat bed style to choose from. The water is fully contained and you always remain clothed. The lounger and bed are both equally beneficial, offering a quick, affordable no-contact massage – literally just remove your shoes. The entire experience is guided by the client with a touch screen interface, which controls the pressure and speed, so they can receive the full personal benefit of the hydro massage.”

These massage systems offer a range of therapeutic benefits, including relaxation, muscle relief, and improved circulation. “Hydro Massage supports in reducing tension, boosting circulation, stress relief, sore muscles and overall wellness. Enhances the immune system and aids in detoxification

processes within the body. Improves joint mobility and muscle flexibility, which is beneficial in recovering from injuries or relief from chronic conditions like arthritis.”

Hydro Haven also provides wellness-focused nutrition, offering high-protein smoothies that are designed to complement the massage experience. “We also offer high protein smoothies, low in sugar, fat, carbs and high in protein. They are an excellent alternative for meal replacement or high energy snack. Top off your tasty smoothie with a delicious Hydro Bite protein ball!”

What sets Hydro Haven apart from traditional wellness centers is not only the technology used, but the experience offered. “A HydroMassage bed differs from traditional massage therapy. Instead of a massage performed by a therapist, the HydroMassage bed uses jets of warm, pressurized water to target particular areas of the body. These units are an excellent alternative for those who do not want physical contact, a longer traditional massage visit, and are also effective for interim relief between chiro, massage, or physio visits.”

Hydro Haven was carefully designed to

be a calm, comfortable, and welcoming environment, whether clients are seeking relief from physical pain, stress, or simply need a moment of peace. “Hydro Haven is a unique space, designated specifically for a calm and relaxing experience, whether it’s for relaxation, stress relief or pain management. The focus is on the benefits of the units, the importance of achieving overall wellness, using technology to provide a comfortable and rejuvenating experience.”

The business is rooted in Tammy’s own personal journey and professional growth, shaped by life changes that inspired her to invest in both her own healing and the wellness of others. Though the details of her background are personal, her passion for creating a safe and inclusive space is evident in every part of the business.

Her values are also reflected in the way she interacts with clients. “With every client that comes through the door, I ensure they are treated with care, compassion and respect. That they feel like this is a safe space to be vulnerable and feel comfortable. I do my best to keep the space calm, relaxing and focus on the needs of my clients. This space was created for them, to be

a comforting and welcoming environment from the minute they walk in.”

Hydro Haven serves a wide range of guests, from those recovering from physical injuries to individuals simply looking for a moment of relief in a busy day. Tammy explains that her services are especially helpful for people who may not have the time or comfort level for traditional massage therapy. “The world is busy, stressful, and we are facing so many more challenges to be able to find a work life balance. Hydro Haven offers an alternative experience that is safe, affordable, no contact, and quick. You can use it on your lunch break, or while the kids are at school or activities. It’s time just for you, to recharge and focus on yourself in a meaningful way.”

As with any small business, building Hydro Haven has come with its own challenges, but Tammy says the rewards far outweigh the obstacles. “I am truly blessed to be able to have this opportunity at this stage of my life, to create something new and unique. To witness the relief, it is providing to those with chronic pain, to connect with people who are looking to prioritize their wellness, mentally, physically and even emo-

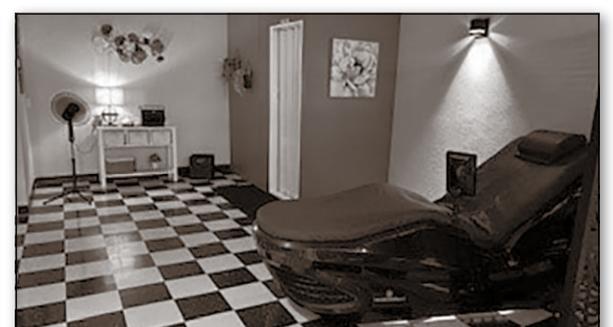
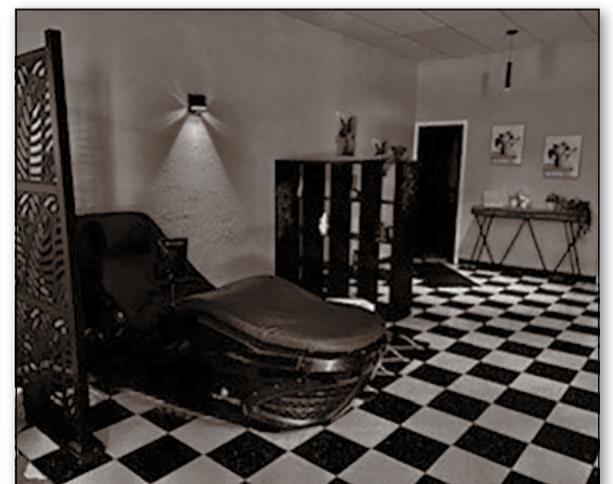
tionally. I love being part of the journey with my client’s, that they trust me to hold space for them, and share in their experiences. Just being able to bring something to the community that provides connection and opportunity to improved well being, makes me strive to continue to be a better human.”

Hydro Haven is more than a business—it’s a reflection of Tammy’s own growth and her vision for a more connected, healthier community. “Hydro Haven lets me connect with people on a holistic level, being part of their wellness journey. This isn’t a job for me; this is building a stronger community. When I embarked on this endeavour, I knew I wanted this space to be a reflection of me and how I continue to evolve in finding peace in my life. To help others find harmony and solace even if it’s only for a few moments in their day. A wellness space that is a true benefit to self care and overall wellbeing. Finding a haven, a sanctuary, where wellness flows and the healing begins.”

Hydro Haven is located at 4703-52nd Avenue in Whitecourt. To learn more, book a session, or purchase gift cards and packages, visit www.hydrohaven.ca.



The exterior of HydroHaven, located at 4703-52nd Avenue.



Whitecourt Town Council update

Whitecourt will be applying to the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta for funding for two projects:

- Development of a Wildfire Resilience Toolkit – This will be targeted to developers, builders and homeowners to promote FireSmart principles during permitting and construction phases. The Toolkit will include educational materials, and facilitated sessions.
- Vegetation Management Program – Funding will be allocated to hire the 2026

FireSmart Summer Crew to promote FireSmart principles and complete vegetation management projects in the Centennial Park and Southlands Park area.

A delegation from the Whitecourt/Yubetsu Cultural Exchange presented Council with highlights of their recent trip to Japan. The Whitecourt/Yubetsu Twinning Exchange Program provides residents of both communities the opportunity to immerse themselves in a new culture.

Since 2005, the Government of Alberta

has funded the Whitecourt Family Violence Stakeholders group to provide the Family Violence Initiative. It uses best and promising practices to deliver services and supports to prevent and reduce family violence/sexual violence and promote safe, healthy, equitable relationships. The supports the Initiative provides, including a court coordination program for domestic violence cases and the New Hope program, are unique in Alberta in the way the programs work to provide not only support and reha-

bilitation to the victim, but also to the perpetrator to help end the cycle of family violence. The Town was recently notified that a recent grant request to extend funding for the program was unsuccessful, and that the current funding will expire this month. Whitecourt Town Council has allocated funds from a reserve to continue the program to the end of 2025, and will be advocating to the Province for funding so that the program can continue into 2026.

Whitecourt is applying to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund

for funding a portion of the specialized theatre equipment for the Culture & Events Centre. The equipment will enhance the physical, technological, and safety of the Culture & Events, and create the first fully equipped performance space of its kind in the region.

Council received a letter from a local youth who is learning to drive about painted road markings throughout the community. A letter of response will be sent to the resident regarding current practices and standards.

The Whitecourt Land

Use Bylaw has been amended to be compliant with recent legislative changes to the Election Act.

Council has adopted a new Procedure Bylaw that aligns Town meeting processes with recent changes to the Municipal Government Act.

Council has scheduled a workshop for September 29 to discuss the impact recent changes to the Municipal Government Act will have on Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks.

Council has approved street closures for the Chamber of Commerce Santa Claus Parade on November 15 and the Christmas Is For Kids event on November 29. Details on road closures will be posted closer to the event dates.

Council has approved a request from the Whitecourt Mountain Bike Association to utilize the \$150,000 matching contribution for the road access and parking, and that any remaining funds be used for the skills park and trail development on a 50/50 matching basis.



Central School photo

Whitecourt Central School students enjoyed some hair-raising fun with their first spirit day of the year. WCS students and staff let their creativity run wild for Wacky Hair Day. From rainbow streaks to gravity-defying spikes, the hallways were filled with laughter and amazing hairstyles. It was a spirited way to kick off the school year.

Keep your money safe from sneaky screen scraping

(NC) Have you ever signed up for an app that promised to simplify your finances, only to wonder why it needs your online banking password? If the request gave you an uneasy feeling, you may have had good reason to distrust it.

Some financial technology, or fintech, apps use a method called screen scraping to log into your bank account. The app asks you for your username and password. Then, it uses that access to pull financial data like balances, transactions and even investments so

that the app can manage them in one place. It may sound convenient, but it's a cybersecurity nightmare.

- Handing over your login information means giving up more than just your username and password:
- You're giving a third party access to all the sensitive information you usually guard safely.
- You risk losing your legal protection against unauthorised transactions.
- Your bank may not repay your losses if your data gets breached.

The access you give out matters

Some things, like government services, use banks as sign-in partners to access your account. This isn't the same thing as screen scraping because you still sign in through the bank itself, and the bank provides confirmation for the secure login—your information stays secure.

With screen scraping, you're giving a third-party app your banking login, letting it see and potentially make changes to your account. That includes personal information,

transaction history, the products you use and more. And because it's logging in with information you gave, if something goes wrong it can be extremely difficult to prove you're not at fault.

Even if the app markets itself as secure, giving a fintech company this kind of access to your account may go against your bank's terms of use.

That's why experts, as well as the Government of Canada, advise against it.

How to protect yourself:

Never share your

banking credentials with an app, by text or email or over the phone.

Avoid apps that ask for your bank password, no matter how helpful they claim to be.

Use only secure, approved channels to access your financial data.

Fraud is evolving fast, and screen scraping is one of the sneakiest ways bad actors can get to your money. The best defence is always keeping your passwords to yourself.

Learn more at canada.ca/money.

Official candidate list released for Whitecourt's 2025 Municipal Election

The Town of Whitecourt has confirmed the official list of candidates for the upcoming 2025 Municipal Election.

Two candidates will compete for the position of mayor: Ray Hilts and Derek Schlosser.

In the race for council, 10 names will appear on the ballot: Tara Baker, Mike Braun, Paul Chauvet, Morgan Geczi, Braden Lancot, Serena Lapointe, Bill McAree, Brigitte Moore, Jim Rennie, and Brian Wynn.

Information regarding special ballots, as well as dates and times for the advance, institutional, and general vote, will be posted on the Town's website at www.whitecourt.ca/your-town/election.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION – CANDIDATE OFFICIAL RESULTS

Woodlands County received the following official candidates for the 2025 Municipal Election:

Division 2:	Whitecourt West	Burrows, John Michael	
Division 4:	Whitecourt East	MacNeil, Patricia Ray	
		Burgoyne, Andrew	
		Edney, Deb	
		Sergeew, Jeremy James	
Division 5:	Blue Ridge	St. Martin, Karen	
		Exley, Chris	
		Haydock, Robert William	
Division 7:	Fort Assiniboine/Timeu	Wright, Jenna	
		Kluin, Dale	
		Whitten, Benny	
Division 1:	Anselmo	Dave Kush	Acclaimed
Division 3:	Whitecourt Central	Alan Deane	Acclaimed
Division 6:	Goose Lake/Freeman River	Peter Kuelken	Acclaimed

Information on special ballots and dates and times for the advance and general vote will be posted on www.woodlands.ab.ca/p/2025-election.

WOODLANDS COUNTY BENEFITS PROGRAM

The Benefits Program is designed to provide meaningful assistance to all County residents.

Under this program residents of Woodlands County can apply for 3 benefits:

- Tax Rebate: \$150 flat rebate if you own your own home.
- Transportation grant: up to a maximum of \$300 per year per person to travel for health-related appointments.
- Snowplow flags: 3 free snow plow flags per season. (\$50 per flag)

Applicants only need to meet one of the following requirements :

- Seniors - 65 years or older
- Resident with physical or mental disabilities
- Resident that is low-income

Low-income residents must provide a copy of their Tax Notice of Assessment from Canada Revenue Agency for the current year and have an income below the following amounts:

- 1 person \$ 30,000
- 2 persons \$ 40,000
- 3 persons \$ 42,500
- per dependent after \$ 2,500

The Policy guides this program and applications can be found on our website at woodlands.ab.ca or at either municipal office. If you have any questions, please contact our Community Services department at 1-888-870-6315.

DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

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

If you have any comment or concern regarding this proposal you may provide a written statement via email to planning@woodlands.ab.ca prior to 4:30 p.m., October 9th, 2025. The Development Authority will be making a decision on the following development permit application following this deadline.

Comments received will be taken into consideration by the Development Authority.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	APPLICATION NUMBER	PROPOSED USE
SE 23-56-10-W5M	15-076-2025	Small Animal Boarding & Breeding

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 pm, October 9th, 2025**.

Attention: planning@woodlands.ab.ca
 Woodlands County
 Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3
 Telephone: 780-778-8400
 Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315

NOTICE OF ELECTION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTER IDENTIFICATION FORM 7 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTION ACT (SECTIONS 12, 35, 46, 53)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: WOODLANDS COUNTY
 PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

ELECTION DAY: MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held for the filling of the following offices:

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Division Number
COUNCILLOR, WHITECOURT WEST	1	2
Councillor, Whitecourt East	1	4
Councillor, Blue Ridge	1	5
Councillor, Fort Assiniboine/ Timeu	1	7

Voting will take place on the **20th of October 2025** between the hours of **10:00 am and 8:00 pm**. Voting stations will be located at:

DIVISION 2 Whitecourt West DIVISION 4 Whitecourt East	DIVISION 5 Blue Ridge	DIVISION 7 Fort Assiniboine/Timeu
WOODLANDS COUNTY MUNICIPAL OFFICE #1 WOODLANDS LANE WHITECOURT, ALBERTA	BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY HALL 304 VETERANS AVENUE BLUE RIDGE, ALBERTA	Fort Assiniboine Regional Municipal Office 61053A Hwy 33 Fort Assiniboine, Alberta

Advance Vote Dates are as follows:

Thursday, October 16th, 2025 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday, October 18th, 2025 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Divisions and Locations for the Advance Vote:

DIVISION 2, Whitecourt West`
DIVISION 4 Whitecourt East
DIVISION 5 Blue Ridge
 Woodlands County
 Municipal Office
 #1 Woodlands Lane
 Whitecourt, Alberta

DIVISION 7 Fort Assiniboine/Timeu
 Fort Assiniboine Regional Municipal Office
 61053A Hwy. 33
 Fort Assiniboine, Alberta

In order to vote, you must produce identification for inspection. The identification must be one government issued photo identification with name and address such as driver's license, or any of the following with name and address: bank/credit card statement or personal cheque, tax assessment notice, insurance policy or coverage card, pension plan statement, residential lease or mortgage statement, utility bill and vehicle ownership, registration, or insurance certificate. **For a more complete list visit our website at: woodlands.ab.ca**

DATED AT THE TOWN OF WHITECOURT, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA THIS 24TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025.

Returning Officer, Tracy Mindus



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



JOHN BURROWS
Councillor for Whitecourt West
 Division 2
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 Phone: 780-706-4747



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Councillor for Whitecourt
 Central Division 3
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JEREMY WILHELM
Councillor for
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BRUCE PRESTIDGE
Councillor for Blue Ridge
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 Phone: 780-779-3917



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor for Goose Lake/
 Freeman River Division 6
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 Phone: 780-264-2425



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



FORM 7 - NOTICE OF ELECTION and REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTER IDENTIFICATION Local Authorities Election Act, (Sections 12, 35, 46, 53)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: TOWN OF WHITECOURT, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held for the filling of the following offices:

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies
Mayor	1
Councillor	6

Voting will take place on the 20 day of October, 2025, between the hours of 10:00am and 8:00pm. The Voting Station will be located at:

St. Joseph Parish Hall
5538 Mink Creek Road
Whitecourt, AB

If you are unable to attend the Voting Station on October 20, you can attend an Advance Vote on either October 14, 2025 or October 18, 2025. Advance Voting Stations have been scheduled from 10:00am to 7:00pm at:

St. Joseph Parish Hall
5538 Mink Creek Road
Whitecourt, AB

To vote, you **MUST** produce for inspection one or more of the acceptable forms of identification required by Section 53 of the Local Authorities Election Act.

DATED at the Town of Whitecourt, in the Province of Alberta, this 23 day of September, 2025.

Marlene Kellier-Pinchbeck
Returning Officer

GONE ON ELECTION DAY? Apply for Your Special Ballot!

Are you a student attending school outside of Whitecourt? Are you a snowbird, or do you have a vacation planned in October?

If you are unable to attend either of the Town's Advance Votes on October 14 or 18; or the General Municipal Election on October 20, you may be eligible to receive a SPECIAL BALLOT.

Voter identification must be submitted as set out in the instructions which will be included in the Special Ballot package.

Requests for Special Ballots MUST be made **before 12 Noon on Friday, October 17** and can be made in person, in writing, or by email:

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

Special Ballots MUST be delivered to the Town Office by 12 Noon on Monday, October 20, 2025 to be deemed valid.

For more information on Special Ballots, contact Tara Gallant at the Town Office at 780.778.2273 or by email at election@whitecourt.ca.

For further information on the 2025 Election, visit www.whitecourt.ca.



Spruce View Lodge photo

Putting their best foot forward- residents and staff at Spruce View Lodge traded in sneakers for red high heels during the 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' campaign, to support the fight against gender-based violence.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

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

Job#: 25-052, Energy Manager, Full-time, Contract Position

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



Answering the call: Health Link 811 celebrates 25 years

Health Link 811 turned 25 years old this month. Over this quarter century registered nurses and other health professionals have received 27 million calls, providing Albertans across the province with trusted and accurate health information and advice.

“Many things have changed over the years but our commitment to trusted health supports has remained constant,” says Primary Care Alberta CEO Kim Simmonds. “Our strong and mighty team of around 800 professionals is here to support Albertans live their best lives — and is always a call away.”

Health Link launched on Sept. 19, 2000, with 40 employees serving callers in the Edmonton and surrounding areas. Three

years later, Health Link expanded to serve Albertans across the province and, in 2015, the service adopted the easy-to-remember 811 number.

Over the years, Health Link 811 has added specialized supports for dementia, parents and newborns, addiction and mental health, nutrition and rehabilitation. In 2022, the Virtual MD program launched to connect some Health Link 811 callers directly with physicians to reduce unnecessary emergency department visits. Similarly, 911 callers who don't need an ambulance or emergency care are directed to Health Link 811 nurses.

Health Link 811 has also played a key role in supporting Albertans during disas-

ters and emergencies. The service is often a first point of contact to the healthcare system for Albertans during wildfires and floods. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Albertans relied on Health Link 811 to get trusted health information during an unprecedented public health crisis. Health Link 811 staff answered more than 248,000 calls in a single month, peaking at 12,000 calls in one day.

As the service has grown, so has its usage. In 2024-25, more than 1.2 million calls were made to Health Link 811, a 350 per cent increase from about 277,000 calls in its first fiscal year. Nursing triage services, routine immunization bookings, and information and referral services

are currently the most common reasons Albertans call Health Link 811.

Yvonne Ewanicke is a registered nurse who started with the Health Link 811 team in 2001. She remembers the excitement of being part of a ground-breaking new service.

“Health Link 811 started as this little unknown program 25 years ago and today it is an essential part of the resources Albertans have to take care of themselves and their loved ones,” says Ewanicke, who is now

one of Health Link 811's directors. “What started as a nursing service for one city is now available to every Albertan and supports almost every aspect of their health care journey.”

For Albertans like Melissa McLeod, Health Link 811 is a lifeline. She initially called Health Link 811 because she thought she might be having a heart attack. After talking about her symptoms with a registered nurse, McLeod learned she was having a panic attack

and was given strategies to help her relax. They worked, but she quickly called Health Link 811 back again to manage a new metallic taste she couldn't get rid of.

“I was worried I might die,” said McLeod. “These nurses gave me strategies and support to help me manage my symptoms at home. I commend these amazingly compassionate and helpful angels for this support as they truly are life savers,” explained McLeod.

Primary Care Alberta is a made-in-Alberta solution to improve access to the primary care services Albertans rely on. By delivering coordinated services, Primary Care Alberta allows for valued healthcare professionals to do what they do best care for you. Together, we are creating a future where compassionate, timely and effective healthcare is available to every Albertan at every stage of life.



CATS Football



Try as they might, these two were not budging CATS #66.



Take down at the 50-yard line.



Let's go!



He might be a cat, but #27 is flying like a bird.



Four against 1? Bring it on.

The hardworking youth from CATS Football were in action Thursday evening at Graham Acres, taking on Sexsmith. With a large crowd of fans cheering them on, the team pushed back against the Sexsmith team's advancement, doing their best to remain focused even when a play didn't go their way. CATS Football has a lot of younger players this year, and the team is using every game as a learning opportunity to grow stronger. Though the score (58-13) didn't go the way the CATS would've liked, the crew did a great job against the bigger team. Go CATS!

continued from page 1

collected twelve fun facts about each vendor's business. We then picked twelve random ones from different businesses and made a couple of different versions of a bingo card. The students had to read the fun fact, find the booth it belonged to, and if they were right, the booth exhibitor would give them a sticker. Once they fill out their card, they are entered to win \$1,000 cash," explained Lillian Wisser, Community Economic Development Coordinator and Project Coordinator for Community Futures Yellowhead East.

She added that Hilltop High School students helped create one of the important pieces. "We partnered with the students to create the stickers that the vendors used, and they got credits towards it. We put their logo on the cards, showing who it was in partnership with, so that way if any vendors need stickers; they could reach out to the high school to hire the students."

Wisser said getting the chance to meet kids face-to-face and discuss the opportunities they offer at Community Futures is important because many students are unaware of them. "We are letting them know that we have a youth program and that we can help them develop business plans, start new businesses and that we also have lending opportunities to give them the support that businesses in our area need and have."

She said becoming an entrepreneur is possible, and letting students and the general public

know about the different lending streams they offer can make all the difference as they plan their next steps as high school seniors or someone looking for something new to get into. She said the bingo game gave students a reason to walk up and talk.

Rhonda Woods, Economic Development Officer for the Town of Whitecourt, agreed. "The bingo game is a really good idea because often kids are shy and aren't sure how to ask a question, but when they have an incentive behind it and they are looking at you with their bingo card, it encourages them to ask. It lets vendors interact with the kids as they try to figure out who's who," she said.

Woods explained that showing the possibilities at the Town of Whitecourt helps open doors. "I think it's so important to show what we have in our own backyard. Many people don't realize it.

Even working for the municipality and learning what the major jobs are, and it's more than a lot of the students and people think."

Along with the booths from colleges and universities, industries such as forestry, oil & gas, health care, aviation, retail, financial services and government, the event also featured a job fair with several companies actively seeking employees, giving attendees the chance to meet a potential employer on the spot and hand in their resume.

An event that features over 40 vendors and lots of moving parts requires volunteers. James Rennie, a



A friendly contingent of RCMP officers ready to talk about recruitment



Getting a bingo sticker at the Flint booth.



Northern Lakes College.

Each fall, a group of entities from government to education and business come together to put on the Career and Education Expo, a one-day event for students and the general public to learn about the possibilities closer to home.

fifteen-year-old grade ten student who attends Hilltop High School, was one of them.

He and his classmates in Hilltop's Leadership Class were volunteering throughout the day, helping the event run smoothly.

Rennie said the event offers different things for different people. "I believe it offers a lot of opportunities for not only seeing the po-

tential of jobs but also for understanding the community and getting started in potential careers. Alberta Forestry is advertising camps you can attend during the summer, and Twice Is Nice is offering volunteer applications, which is good, because it's a way to give back to the community."

He said speaking with someone at the Alberta Forestry booth, where

Alberta Wildfire was set up, he learned that the camps available for youth and young adults in the summer were a stepping stone for the staff member working the booth. It helped them get into the industry, showcasing a different way to enter the workforce. "It was interesting," said Rennie.

He said that he and his peers also loved all the swag available at the

booths. From pens and pencils to keychains, clips, measuring tapes, stuffed animals and pins. "Canfor is giving out charcuterie boards and sauce. That's pretty cool," said Rennie with a smile. Students were seen entering the AJMC throughout the day, taking the time to explore the event and grab information from the booths that interested them.

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1-877-303-2642
- Addiction Helpline
1-866-332-2322 •
Health Link 811

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



Jameel A Sargent
Age 24

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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PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed 45.0m Communications Tower Site AB5494 Whitecourt Located at 590233A Range Road 113, Whitecourt

Xplore Inc. has proposed a 45.0m tall lite duty steel lattice style communication tower and related radio equipment on private property at 590233A Range Road 113, Whitecourt, AB. The proposed structure will enhance internet/data coverage and capacity for the southeast and surrounding areas of the Town of Whitecourt.

The geographic coordinates for the proposed site are as follows: Latitude: **54.098918** & Longitude: **-115.625999**. The facility is proposed on the western edge of the property and will occupy a ground area of approximately 3m x 3m.

THIS NOTICE serves as an invitation to any interested members of the public to submit comments/ questions to the individuals listed below by **October 31st, 2025**.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the approval of this site and its design is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Government of Canada through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). For more information on the federal process pertaining to these installations please contact the local ISED office at: spectrumedmonton-edmontonspectre@ised-isde.gc.ca

FB CONNECT:

Sarah Duncan
Suite 130, 482 South Service Rd E
Oakville, Ontario, L6J 2X6
Tel: (587) 894-0773
Fax: (888) 622-4939
Email: sduncan@forbesbrosLtd.ca

WOODLANDS COUNTY

Planning Department
PO Box 60,
1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3
Tel: (780) 778-8400
Fax: (780) 778-8402
Email: planning@woodlands.ab.ca



Town of Whitecourt photo

Soccer coach Jason Mayo scores big during National Coaches Week, earning praise from athletes for his guidance and support.

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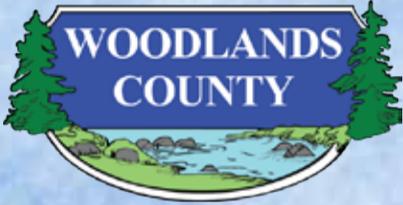


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Must be enrolled full-time in a post-secondary institution

Deadline: October 15, 2025

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\$1,500 for first-year
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Must be enrolled in a provincially recognized apprenticeship program

Deadline: Accepted throughout the year

AGRICULTURE BURSARY

\$500 awarded to 1 student annually

Must be enrolled full-time in an **Agriculture or Environmental Science program** at a post-secondary institution in Alberta

Deadline: October 15, 2025

Contact Us
 p. 780-778-8400
 e. dawn.fortin@woodlands.ab.ca
 e. communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca
 w. woodlands.ab.ca/p/bursaries
 w. woodlands.ab.ca/p/ag-bursary

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- Tax program & Bag Lunch Program

5027 - 51 Avenue, Open: Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm **780-396-8777**



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**



WHITECOURT
CANCER & WELLNESS SOCIETY

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

This can include help with parking costs for hospital visits, living expenses and unforeseen medical expenses. Applications can be made through the Drs at both Whitecourt Medical Clinics or (office hours, can leave a message): **Kim Nendsa** (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) **780-778-0932** **Aimee Grierson** **780-262-0222** <https://wctcancerwellness.com/>



General Meeting notice, Thursday October 9th at 7:00 in the Legion Hall. All members are welcome to attend. Many interesting items on the agenda!



"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

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Child Support Program:

Child Care & After School Programs - Age Appropriate Programs & Support for Children Who Have Been Affected By Family Violence

Preventative Education:

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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

www.whitecourtshester.ca



Support group on Tuesdays 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, September 16 – December 2, Crossroads Community Church, 4719 44 Avenue

Mayerthorpe, Pre-registration is required

CALL Ruth 780-674-7182

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)

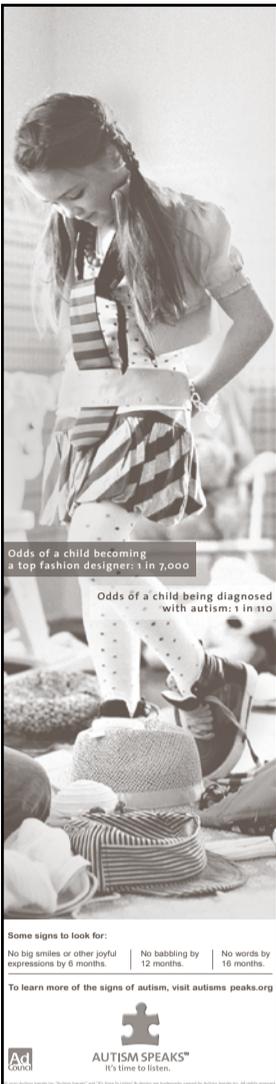
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Letter to the Editor policy

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.



Shoppers grand opening



On September 26th, the ribbon at Shoppers Drug Mart was officially cut, marking the grand opening of Whitecourt's newest place to shop. A large group of shoppers attended the ceremony, along with several members of upper management from the company's headquarters. Store owner, Margo Hana, surrounded by her family, staff, Shoppers colleagues, Deputy Mayor Derek Schlosser and Elder Kootenay, who offered a prayer and smudging alongside her grandson Declan, cut the ribbon shortly after 11 am.

The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

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.

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Fort Saskatchewan T: 780-992-0266	Evansburg T: 780-727-2017	

TOLL FREE: 1-877-489-9606 METRIXGROUP.CA

The Press

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