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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



# The Press

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 14 - Issue 40 | Wednesday, October 22, 2025

## Citizens on Patrol volunteers needed to get the group back out on Whitecourt's streets

After a five- or so-year hiatus, the Citizens on Patrol Program is hoping to see a resurgence in Whitecourt. RCMP members held an introductory meeting last week, with twenty residents in attendance, and are hoping more people will come forward wanting to join. Pictured is an AB Citizens on Patrol group working with their local RCMP.



Photos - ACOPA

| By Serena Lapointe

On Wednesday last week, the Whitecourt RCMP held an introductory meeting for Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P.), a volunteer-based program where residents become the "eyes and ears" for their local detachment. The program was active before COVID, but then paused, with the intent to start it at a later date. With local crime at the

forefront of discussions lately, the Town and the RCMP saw

an opportunity to bring it back and hopefully encourage concerned citizens to join it.

Citizens on Patrol first began in Manitoba in 1991, before spreading across the country. Alberta has the highest number of groups, with nearly 50 active chapters listed

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Signage can help further deter crime.



## Youth and volunteer recognition, extended Twinkle Tours - all priorities for CSAB in 2026

| By Serena Lapointe

Each year, the Whitecourt Community Advisory Board (CSAB) holds a planning session where volunteers review existing facilities, programs, services and service levels to see where changes could or should be made and how best to tweak municipal amenities to serve

the local populace. The board also pinpoints different topics and priorities to look into and possibly implement in the next year or in the longer term.

Town Council also creates a planning document each year, in a similar format. The items brought forward by the CSAB align with

the priorities set by Council, in the hopes of assisting Council in achieving the strategic priorities they have set their focus on, creating synergy between the two entities.

During the October 14 Regular Meeting of Council, the final

continued on page 2



Town of Whitecourt photo

The Community Services Advisory Board recently presented its priorities for 2026. The volunteer group has selected eight priorities to focus on that include regional partnerships, information sharing and youth recognition. Pictured are seniors enjoying a guided walk during Seniors Week.



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continued from page 1

council meeting before the election, Brigette Moore, Vice-Chair of the CSAB, alongside Director of Community Services Chelsea Grande, presented the 2026 CSAB Priorities Report, outlining the board's eight priorities they hope to achieve next year.

Town Council's priorities are Economic Health, Livability, Organizational Excellence and Governance Excellence. Under Economic Health, the CSAB focused on the community's youth.

"It was brought up that perhaps highlighting our youth and the contributions they make in our community would be something to spotlight in the Community Spectrum. Maybe a few youth every issue, just so that people can see

how involved they are in the community, because we have some really great youth in our town," said Moore.

The CSAB also focused on youth under the Livability pillar. "We have two priorities. One, under Community Health/Wellness, is expanding programs for teens and adding resources for the teenage group," explained Moore. The second priority touched on the cultural/recreational side and had to do with enhancing the Party in the Park festivities.

Moore said they would like to expand the size of the "adults only" section at Party in the Park and add more tents to the public area, just in case the weather doesn't cooperate. "It seems like it doesn't matter what time of year Party in the Park is," chuckled

Moore. "We also want to include a Best Food Truck competition," she added.

Under Organizational Excellence, Moore said the CSAB had two priorities, one of which had to do with pool maintenance. "We have heard from a lot of people who get upset when the pool maintenance happens, so we looked into why and when it happens." She said they intend to release the information and expand on it, further detailing why the shutdown happens when it does. Every two years, starting around mid to late February, the pool closes and receives maintenance for several weeks.

Grande expanded on it. "It's very difficult to change the time of the pool maintenance because we've had it there for so long, and it's where we are slot-

ted in for different contractors to come in. It would also affect our lessons, and if we delay it, it will affect the Blue Dolphins. So, when you look at it, it's very difficult to have it in a different time of year. The board talked about really explaining that more to the public so that they understood it. There's no opportunity time. Any time is going to conflict with either school vacation, weekends, parties or someone's birthday or lessons. So, it's about making sure we advertise it early enough and that we explain why it's done during that time and why we do it every two years."

Secondly, the CSAB plans to expand the Twinkle Tours. "They are always popular, so we thought perhaps we could even have specialty tours for seniors that would maybe be a

little quieter and a bit earlier, so they don't have to stay up late, or whatever that might look like to better cater to them," explained Moore.

The last pillar, Governance Excellence, included three priorities, of which two had to do with regional partnerships. The CSAB felt that bringing Woodlands County on board to host National Volunteer Week and Seniors' Week would enable Woodlands County residents to take part.

Moore said that county residents who volunteer in Whitecourt would then be able to be recognized by the municipality. She also said there could be cost-saving measures by jointly hosting. The board also proposed expanding the Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) department by

adding a Volunteer Coordinator position to help support the community's non-profits.

Other items discussed by the board but not deemed priorities for 2026 included water fountains at the Off Leash Dog Park, renovations to the women's change room in the McLeod Arena, opening the Pembina Gas Infrastructure Aquatic Centre early on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the summer, expanding transit service to Pat Hardy Elementary School, extending Dial-A-Bus hours, adding a swimsuit dryer to the pool change rooms, support for community groups that wish to hold hockey watch parties, and changing the level of diamond maintenance at Graham Acres. Items from the non-priority list could become priorities in future years.



Samantha Sharpe, along with friends and family, on a packed Twinkle Tour bus last year.



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continued from page 1

on the Alberta Citizens on Patrol Association website (www.acopa.ca). Saskatchewan is also active with well over a dozen groups, and Manitoba is still going strong with just under 40. As noted on the Canadian Citizens on Patrol website (www.ccopa.ca), there are no active groups in the territories or Newfoundland. Ontario has four active groups in Barrie, Brantford, St. Thomas and Sudbury.

Each group is different in how they approach the program, with some doing more than others.

Some groups stick with driving around the community for set shifts, while others also do speed checks where volunteers oversee school zones and other community areas, writing down license plates of those speeding and providing information to the RCMP. Groups that do these activities receive free flagger training from the Alberta Citizens on Patrol Association (ACOPA).

Each group is run by a local board made up of its volunteers, in conjunction with the RCMP and municipality, and sets the hours they volunteer, the communication equipment they use and the events they take part in. The introductory meeting for Whitecourt's group was held at the Forest Interpretive

Centre on Wednesday, October 15. A board has not yet been created.

Crime Prevention Liaison Kristen McLeod gave an overview of the program, with the requirements and expectations for volunteers. Members must be 18 years old, reside in or have a business in Whitecourt and be Canadian citizens. They must complete a criminal record and driving record check and commit to one shift a month, though members can volunteer as much as they like above that.

"It's all based on volunteers in local communities who help the RCMP, looking, hearing and seeing what's happening in neighbourhoods. The RCMP obviously can't be everywhere all the time, and sometimes there are less priority things that are happening that are great for other people to look out for and have those extra eyes and ears out in the community," explained McLeod. "If something appears to be criminal in nature or unusual, the volunteers will be the ones to notify local law enforcement and report what they are watching. It's essentially a see and watch type thing," she added.

The ACOPA oversees the chapters in the province and provides training and certain equipment.



Photo - ACOPA

A speed watch event in a school zone.

President Kimberly Hurst joined McLeod to answer questions at the meeting, chatting over speaker phone. She explained that members would be covered by liability insurance through their local C.O.P. group and that patrolling members should let their insurance companies know.

"Let them know clearly that you are not engaging (with anyone) in the process of being on patrol," she said.

McLeod said the goals of the C.O.P. start with deterrence. "Observing, documenting, reporting and providing that presence. Even just people knowing that C.O.P. is around will definitely help deter some of the things that happen." She said increasing awareness of suspicious, dangerous or unusual activities is another. "It's about

teaching people how to prevent it and the signs that things might happen soon."

Whitecourt RCMP Liaison to the C.O.P. committee, Constable Anthony Ahtom, said once out and volunteering, members shouldn't feel discouraged if they don't see anything during a shift. "With this program, the impact you can have, and the time and energy that you're willing to put into it, you can really immeasurably contribute to being proactive in your community. If you go out for a drive for three hours on a weekend and you see nothing, that doesn't mean that you didn't do anything, because if there's no crime in the areas that you went, I would say that it is time very well spent."

He said when officers go out, it can be

the same thing. "We don't know how many bad guys or people that maybe were just about to do something, but see the police car and think, now's not the night. We can't measure that with crime. We're reactive, so we can measure what's happened, but we don't have the means to measure what we've prevented."

Hurst agreed. "You are a positive set of headlights in your community. Just because you saw nothing doesn't mean you didn't deter something from happening. It's so important for them to be out at any time of the day." She also added that checking the Alberta RCMP crime map app before heading out can help volunteers pick patrol spots.

Funding for local C.O.P. groups comes

through the municipality; however, they can also fundraise through different community initiatives, which can help develop the program beyond what is provided, allowing a board to engage in educational events for residents or upgrade equipment, for example.

Though the purpose of the group is serious, McLeod said it's also about working with other like-minded residents, building relationships with the community and working with and getting to know the local RCMP members. "It's about having fun too," she said. Residents interested in joining Whitecourt's Citizens on Patrol are encouraged to connect with Crime Prevention Liaison Kristen McLeod at kristen.mcleod@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

# Three AI-powered scams to watch out for

(NC) One of the biggest transformations artificial intelligence (AI) is driving is in the area of fraud. AI lets fraudsters impersonate more easily, personalize their scams and move faster than ever before. According to Mastercard, here are three scams where it's playing a major role, and ways to keep yourself safe.

The grandparent scam: This is a good example of how fraudsters can use AI to personalize their scams

like never before. Fraudsters will target seniors with a phone call when they're off-guard or vulnerable. Using AI they will alter their voice to sound like a family member in distress who needs money right away.

Calls like this are meant to play on your emotions, so listen to your instincts. Ask yourself: Why would money be what they need, instead of help in some other way? If you are unsure, call them

back using the number you have for them. Also, consider having a "secret word" that only family members know, to help verify identity.

The fake order: This is a type of phishing scam, where fraudsters send a message designed to look like it's coming from a legitimate source, in order to get sensitive information or login credentials from you. A common version is sending a fake invoice or confirmation for an online order.

Treat any unexpected messages like this with suspicion. Fraudsters often pose as businesses you trust. Never click on links or use any contact information from this type of message. Reach out to the business yourself through the phone number or contact form on the company's website. They're victims of the scam, too, and can work with you to get to the truth.

Authorized push payment (APP) fraud:

AI tools can let fraudsters ask you for legitimate-seeming fast payments that often go through before your financial institution can react. They usually focus on impersonating quick but necessary payments, such as Canada Revenue Agency back taxes, bank overdraft fees or credit card bills.

Thanks to the speed of AI, all it takes is a moment's lapse in attention for someone to send what could be an irreversible payment.

But, AI is also being used to strengthen fraud prevention. Payment providers, like Mastercard, have developed tools that work in the background while you complete a purchase. These systems are designed to detect this type of fraud automatically, in real-time and stop the fraudulent transaction in its tracks.

It's up to all of us to be more cyber safe—better cybersecurity makes for a safer community.

A look at the local weather		Wed., Oct. 22	Thu., Oct. 23	Fri., Oct. 24	Sat., Oct. 25	Sun., Oct. 26
	Mix of sun and clouds	Mainly sunny	Mainly cloudy	Showers	Mainly sunny	
P.O.P.	20%	20%	30%	60%	10%	
High	9°C	12°C	9°C	6°C	5°C	
Low	3°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	0°C	
Wind	SE 9 km/h	W 11 km/h	SW 8 km/h	E 9 km/h	E 5 km/h	
24-Hr Rain / Snow	-	-	-	~1mm	-	



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The Woodlands County Planning Department is here to help you every step of the way.



For more information, please visit our website at: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/planning-and-development](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/planning-and-development)  
Or contact us at [planning@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:planning@woodlands.ab.ca) or 780-778-8400

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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 TEXT 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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SOURCES

<sup>1</sup> Annual Report on Government of Canada Advertising Activities 2023-2024, combined with proprietary industry data.  
<sup>2</sup> Totum Research Canada, January 2025. Canadians 18+, n=2418.; Pollara for the Dais, 2025 Survey of Online Harms, Canadians 16+, n=2502.

Community Futures Yellowhead East (CFYE) proudly announces Nick Gelych as the recipient of the 2025 Community Futures Network of Alberta - Volunteer of the Year Award, recognizing exceptional dedication, compassion, and service to the region.

Selected among other inspiring nominees, Gelych has contributed many hours of volunteer work this year and it does not go unrecognized.

"Nick has been an incredible advocate

for local business and community development. He leads with respect, brings people together, and consistently goes above and beyond to support the success of others" said CFYE Executive Director, Michelle Jones.

The Volunteer of the Year Award is presented annually to an individual who demonstrates outstanding service, leadership, and a sustained commitment to the mission of the CFYE Region.

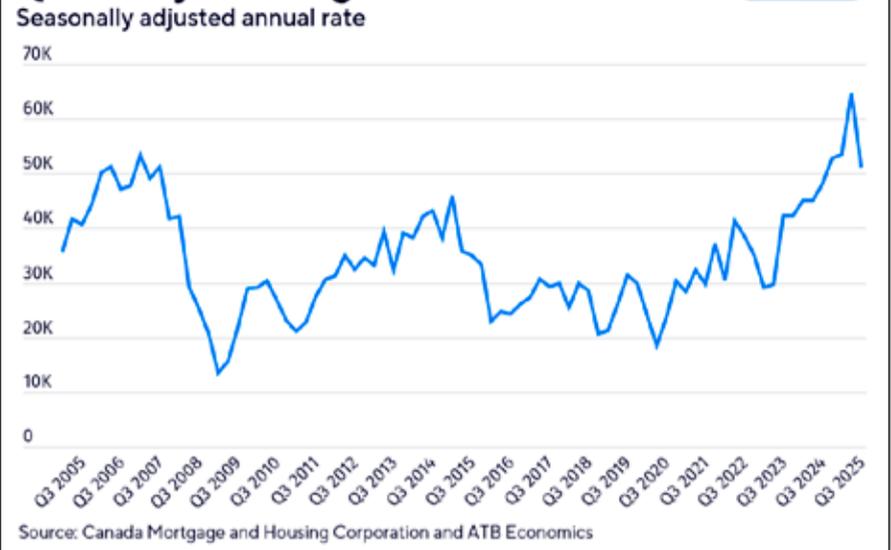
This year's award was formally presented



at the Community Futures Network of Alberta on September 17th in Red Deer, where Community Futures members, partners, and supporters gathered to celebrate volunteerism and impact.

### Quarterly housing starts in Alberta

ATB Economics



## Strong but signs of slowing: New residential construction in Alberta

By Siddhartha Bhattacharya  
ATB ECONOMICS

Strong but signs of slowing: New residential construction in Alberta

Despite rising in September, the latest numbers on housing starts point to some moderation in new home construction in Alberta.

Alberta's housing starts averaged almost 51,000\*\* units in the third quarter (July-September), down 22% from the previous quarter and the first significant quarterly drop since 2023.

Starts are, however, still strong compared

to last year with year-to-date (YTD) starts up 22% compared to the same nine months in 2024. The growth was largely fueled by a 29% surge in multi-unit dwellings, with single-unit builds rising 8%.

In urban areas (populations over 50,000), purpose-built rental unit construction posted a 43% YTD increase, mirroring a national trend. Alberta, however, stands out with a 9% YTD increase in starts intended for the owner-occupied market compared to a 5% decline in the rest of Canada.

Although 2025 is

projected to set a new record for annual housing starts in Alberta, the momentum is anticipated to slow next year due to cooling population growth.

\*A housing start is defined as the beginning of construction work on the building where the dwelling unit will be located. This can be described in two ways: 1) The stage when the concrete has been poured for the whole of the footing around the structure. 2) An equivalent stage where a basement will not be part of the structure.\*\*\*- Seasonally adjusted annual rate.

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Teachers and community members gathered at the Carbonex Contractors Centre in Whitecourt on Oct. 14 for the "Walk for Public Education." Organized by educators from both Catholic and Northern Gateway Public Schools, the event was held to show unity during the teachers' strike and draw attention to issues impacting public classrooms.



Melissa Baker Photography photo

A Whitecourt Wolverines player battles for the puck against a Camrose Kodiaks opponent during AJHL action Friday, Oct. 11 in Whitecourt. The Wolverines skated to a 7-3 victory.

# 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 Govern-

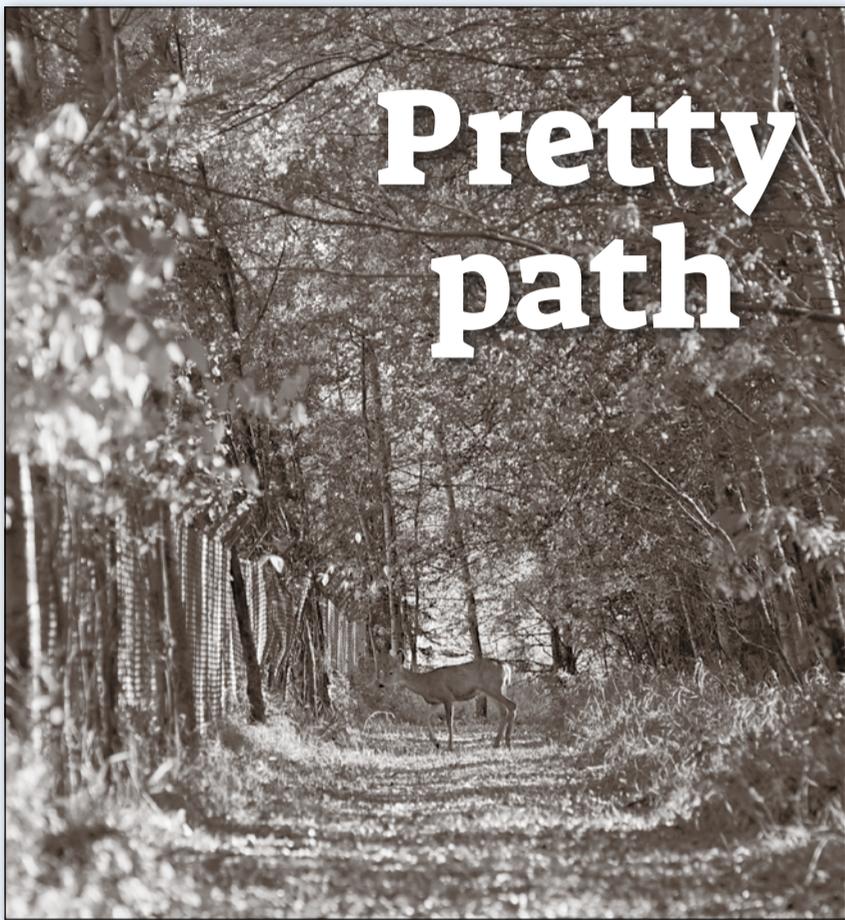
ment of Canada, advise against it.

### 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](http://canada.ca/money).



## Pretty path

The walking path that extends from the end of 52nd Street, to the left of the blue Air Cadets building and exits into Festival Park on the west side of the pond, is a short but beautiful walk under a thick canopy of trees. Though it is a lovely walk at any time of the year, it is especially beautiful in the fall, before all the leaves have fallen. On this day, a deer was sharing the path, enjoying a snack amongst the sunny rays streaming in from between the trees.

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The Press

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**Notice of application to be filed for approval to amend franchise fee for Town of Whitecourt and FortisAlberta Inc.**

**Application summary**

FortisAlberta Inc. will file an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission, requesting acknowledgement of the new franchise fee of 7.09 per cent for the Town of Whitecourt.

The current franchise fee of 5.34 per cent will change to 7.09 per cent, effective **January 1, 2026**. The franchise fee percentage is applied to the distribution tariff, typically consisting of both distribution and transmission charges. Based on the typical monthly consumption of 625 kilowatt hours, the average monthly franchise fee paid by an average residential customer is expected to increase to \$1.42.

The franchise fee is charged in accordance with the franchise agreement between the Town of Whitecourt and FortisAlberta Inc., approved by the Commission in Decision 2014-152.

You may send your objections, concerns about, or support for the application in writing to FortisAlberta or the Town of Whitecourt on or before October 29, 2025, at:

FortisAlberta Inc.  
Mr. Ralph Leriger, Manager, Stakeholder Engagement  
100 Chippewa Road, Sherwood Park, Alberta, T8A 4H4  
email: stakeholderrelations@fortisalberta.com

Town of Whitecourt  
Judy Barney, Director of Corporate Services  
5004 – 52 Avenue, Box 509, Whitecourt, Alberta, T7S 1N6  
Judybarney@whitecourt.ca

Except for information designated confidential by the Commission, any information or materials, including personal information, that are provided as part of a Commission proceeding will become part of the public record.

If no submissions are received, or if submissions are received from a party not directly affected, or if submissions are frivolous, vexatious or of little merit, the Commission may render a decision on the application without further notice or without a public hearing.

**For more information**

For more information on how to file a submission, please contact the Commission directly at 310 4282 (in Alberta) or 1 833 511 4282 (outside Alberta), or by email at [info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca). An information package, providing an explanation of the process and assistance on how to participate in the proceeding, will be immediately provided to any person who inquires with the Commission.

For a paper copy of the franchise agreement, please contact either the applicant or the municipality at:

FortisAlberta Inc.  
Mr. Ralph Leriger, Manager, Stakeholder Engagement  
100 Chippewa Road, Sherwood Park, Alberta, T8A 4H4  
email: stakeholderrelations@fortisalberta.com

Town of Whitecourt  
Judy Barney, Director of Corporate Services  
5004 – 52 Avenue, Box 509  
Whitecourt, Alberta  
T7S 1N6  
Judybarney@whitecourt.ca

The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory body responsible for making decisions about utility-related applications.

Issued on October 15, 2025.

Alberta Utilities Commission

**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 | 4216 Elko Drive  
Whitecourt, AB | Whitecourt, AB

**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**

**BOOK YOUR AD NOW**

The Press

24/7/365

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

NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 15-018-2024

Location: SE 23-56-10-W5M
Proposed Development: Small Animal Boarding & Grooming
Decision Date: Oct 14, 2025
Appeal Deadline: Nov 4, 2025

For full details on Development Permits visit woodlands.ab.ca or contact below

Email: planning@woodlands.ab.ca
Call: 1-888-870-6315



DAVE KUSCH
Councillor for Area 10
Division 1
Phone: 780-778-9337



To be announced
Division 2



ALAN DEANE
Councillor for Whitecourt
Central Division 3
Phone: 780-775-2054



To be announced
Division 4



To be announced
Division 5



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor for Goose Lake/
Freeman River Division 6
Phone: 780-284-2425



To be announced
Division 7



The fantastic four



Pictures provided by Jen LaFrance

From the left, Maddox Mills, 10 (#8 - U11 Team 1), his sister, Madelyn Mills, 7 (#61 - U9 Team 2), and their friends Maron Rogers, 9 (#2 - U11 Team 1) and her little brother, Boden Rogers, 6 (#6 - U7 Team 2) are a fun-loving sibling friend group that love hockey. The foursome recently posed for a group shot before hitting the ice at JDA Place and ended up having a ridiculously cute giggle together.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decision was made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application No. 25-097 – Discretionary Use Application for Commercial School for Massage Therapy at 3808 38 Avenue – Was refused.

The reasons for refusal are listed as follows:

- 1. A Commercial School for massage therapy does not meet the purpose or intent of the M-1 Service Industrial land use district as per Section 10.20.2 in Land Use Bylaw 1577 for the following reasons:
a. it does not provide services to the adjacent industrial area, and
b. It would be more appropriately located in a C-1 or C-5 district.
2. A Commercial School for massage therapy is a better fit within a commercial district due to the client visit portion of the business that aligns with the Health Services definition under Land Use Bylaw 1577.
3. One of the industrial goals of the Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 1576 is to maintain the integrity of industrial nodes by limiting non-industrial activities in this area to those which are compatible with industrial uses. Prescribed uses within the M-1 Service Industrial land use district may not be compatible with a commercial school for massage therapy.
4. As per Policy 8.2.7 within Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 1576, Whitecourt should maintain the service industrial nature of Hilltop Industrial and should restrict nonindustrial uses in the area to only those that can readily coexist with industrial activities. Prescribed uses within the M-1 Service Industrial land use district may not be able to coexist with a commercial school for massage therapy.

Date of Decision: October 9, 2025

Appeal Closes at 4:00pm: October 30, 2025

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$310.00) 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:

- Project Number 2025-01-10: Utilities Master Plan. Closes: November 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. MST.

For further details on any of these opportunities visit www.whitecourt.ca and search the project title.

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**Soaring Eagle Support Society**

Offering support services for marginalized individuals

- Outreach worker, laundry and shower facilities by appt
- 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**



"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**

*is transitional housing for men.*

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

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



WHITECOURT  
**CANCER & WELLNESS SOCIETY**

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

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

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



24/7 CRISIS LINE  
**780.778.6209**  
**1.800.467.4049**



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**Shelter:**

Wellspring Provides a Safe, Short Term, Supportive Residential Environment for Women With or Without Children, Fleeing Family Violence & Experiencing Crisis.

**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)



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)

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



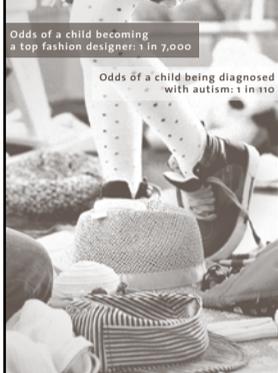
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Odds of a child becoming a top fashion designer: 1 in 7,000



Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 110

Some signs to look for:

No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 9 months.	No babbling by 12 months.	No words by 18 months.
--	---------------------------	------------------------

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)



### Autos

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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.

### For Sale

PROMOTE YOUR MESSAGE THROUGHOUT Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds or Value Ads connect with more than 500,000 readers in the province each week. Choose from three packages beginning at \$269, \$299 or \$599 to share your message in over 70 Weekly Community Newspapers. Contact THIS NEWSPAPER today or email [classifieds@awna.com](mailto:classifieds@awna.com) for more information.

Call 1-800-282-6903 or 780-434-8746 or visit [www.awna.com](http://www.awna.com).

WHITE SPRUCE TREES: 5' average \$50. Installation ONLY \$19. Includes: hole augered, Wurzel Dip enzymes injection, bark mulch application, staking. Minimum order 25. One-time fuel charge:

\$150 - 250. Crystal Springs. 403-820-0961. [albertasprucetrees.com](http://albertasprucetrees.com).

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### Wanted

WANTED: Looking for 1970-1971 Barracudas and 1969-1970 Chargers, in any condition. Running or not. TOP PRICE PAID for 6-pack or Hemi car. Call 306-221-5908.

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## Falcon Equipment Rentals celebrates grand opening in Whitecourt



Falcon Equipment Rentals recently celebrated the grand opening of its newest branch in Whitecourt, marking the company's fifth location in Northern Alberta. Other branches are located in Slave Lake, Peace River, Athabasca, and High Prairie.

The event brought together members of the community for a day of food, prizes, and great company. Guests enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, and the opportunity to meet the Falcon team.

"We're excited to be part of the Whitecourt community," said a Falcon Equipment Rentals representative. "We look forward to providing reliable equipment, trusted support, and a strong commitment to our customers."

With this new branch, Falcon Equipment Rentals continues to expand its reach and reputation for dependable service throughout the region.



A custom TruFloat cooler was the grand prize giveaway at the Falcon Equipment Rentals grand opening in Whitecourt.

### 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](mailto:wctpress@gmail.com).



*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](mailto:wctpress@telus.net)



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

## Whitecourt Town Council Update

The Whitecourt Community Services Advisory Board recently met for a planning session to review current town programs and services and to identify priorities for the upcoming year. Recommendations from the board will be presented to Town Council for consideration during the 2026

budget deliberations. As part of Family Violence Prevention Month this November, the Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative will be hosting several community events and activities. These include the Shine A Light Event on November 1, Family Violence Business Connect on November 7, a Candlelight Vigil

on November 14, and the #GoPurpleAB campaign on November 21. More information about each event can be found on the Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative Facebook page. Council has scheduled a special meeting for December 10 at 4:00 p.m. to review the 2026 budget. The Town

is also preparing for a tax sale in March 2026, where two properties will be offered for sale by public auction. In other business, Council approved a development agreement with Nerval Construction Inc. for servicing work related to a new commercial development located at 3547 Caxton Street.

**Whitecourt Veterinary Clinic 4439 - 52 Ave**

Thank you to all those loving families who've adopted the pets at the Whitecourt Vet Clinic.

Career ads, online at: [www.whitecourtpress.com](http://www.whitecourtpress.com)

**Leanne Gould**  
Mortgage Associate

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403.505.9906  
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780-778-3981 [mreschke@rflp.ca](mailto:mreschke@rflp.ca)

**Notice of Correction**

In our advertisement published last week regarding Small Business Week, the dates were listed incorrectly. The ad stated October 12 to 18, which was an error. The correct dates for Small Business Week are October 20 to 24.

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Small Business Week October 20-24, 2025

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Thank you, small business owners!

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Economic Development  
Naturally Economic!

**WOODLANDS COUNTY**

If you have questions or need support navigating local, provincial, or federal business programs, we can help you overcome challenges and access the resources you need to succeed.

Contact:  
Bert Roach, Economic Development Officer, 780-779-3557

[www.woodlands.ab.ca](http://www.woodlands.ab.ca)