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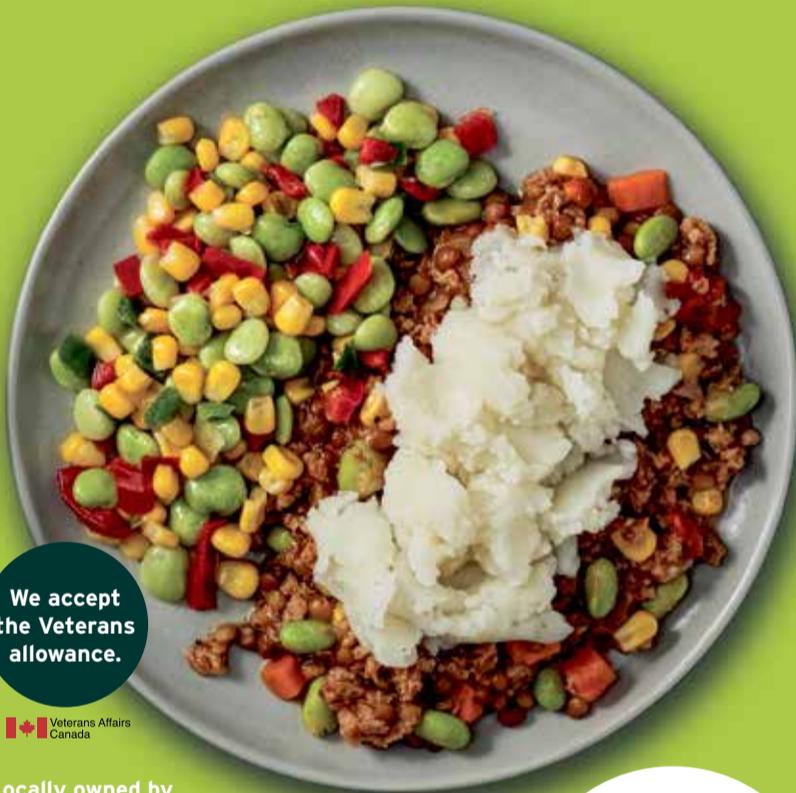
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Vol. 14 - Issue 43 | Wednesday, November 12, 2025

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## We don't want to forget, ever"

### The importance of Remembrance Day at local schools



The air cadets lined up and ready to march.

Most schools held Remembrance Day ceremonies last week, pausing the daily grind to reflect, remember and acknowledge. Members of the Whitecourt Air Cadets joined legion members to make the ceremonies special.

| By Serena Lapointe

Leading up to Remembrance Day, five of the community's schools held ceremonies, bringing together students, teachers, legion members and youth from the Whitecourt Air Cadets. Each ceremony was a bit different from the others, with different imagery, music and presentations. School ceremonies

began on Wednesday, November 5, at Ecole St. Anne Catholic School. Six cadets provided a colour party to start the event, marching forward with a Canadian flag and a provincial flag, as the crowd of young students

watched intently. The group remained in sync as they took their positions at the front of the assembly.

Flight Corporal Sergeew, 14, was one of the six cadets that morning. She called the experience a good one. "It was nice to see



A cross with a poppy and handprints.

continued on page 2



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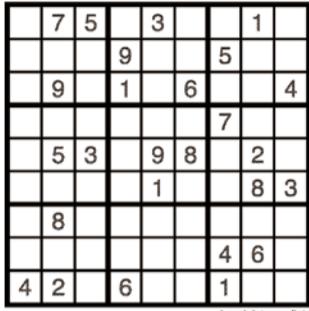
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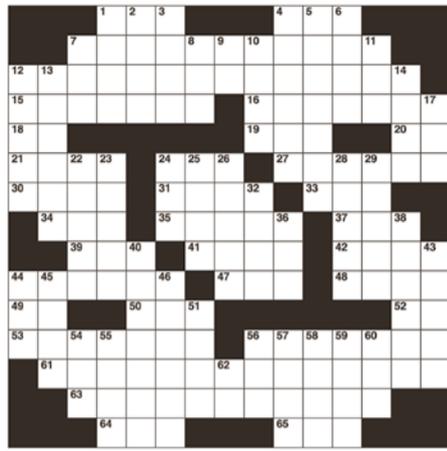


SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 11

# SUDOKU CROSSWORDS



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



**Here's How It Works:**

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

## Crossword Clues

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Expression of surprise
- 4. Keyboard key
- 7. One who works on lights
- 12. Notable children's story
- 15. Fall back into a bad pattern
- 16. Eye parts
- 18. Atomic #18
- 19. Of she
- 20. Farm state
- 21. One point south of southeast
- 24. British media entity
- 27. Asian garment
- 30. Drench
- 31. Expressions of pleasure
- 33. Turf
- 34. UK trade union (abbr.)
- 35. Bleated
- 37. Fifth note of a major scale
- 39. Paddle
- 41. Monetary unit of Italy
- 42. American classical pianist
- 44. Shuts down for the day

- 47. Seize
- 48. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 49. Greeting
- 50. Some cars still need it
- 52. Atomic #22
- 53. Let go
- 56. Marched in public
- 61. U.S. residents, Mexicans and Canadians
- 63. Hostilities
- 64. Speak aloud
- 65. River in NE Scotland

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Razorbill genus
- 2. Longtime Baltimore tight end
- 3. Performs on stage
- 4. Supports a sentiment
- 5. Rugged mountain ranges
- 6. Broadway songwriter Sammy
- 7. Snakelike fish
- 8. Men's fashion accessory
- 9. Hospital worker
- 10. Something to scratch
- 11. No (Scottish)
- 12. Volcanic ash
- 13. Of this
- 14. American jazz drummer Watts
- 17. Drop down
- 22. English dialect
- 23. Predatory seabirds
- 24. Imams' deputies
- 25. Fertility god
- 26. Fence material
- 28. Parks and DeLauro are two
- 29. Distinctive smell (Brit.)
- 32. Protein-rich liquids
- 36. Touch lightly
- 38. Season for Catholics
- 40. Boat race
- 43. Police actions
- 44. Chinese river
- 45. Waterfall (Scottish)
- 46. Walk ostentatiously
- 51. Type of carpet
- 54. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- 55. Sea eagles
- 56. An enclosure for confining livestock
- 57. Dry
- 58. An increase in price or value
- 59. The highest point of something
- 60. Government lawyers
- 62. Larry and Curly's pal



The St Anne's student body, the air cadets standing in formation and a Legion representative seated (far right).

**continued from page 1**

all the kids taking part in the Remembrance Day ceremony, and that people can come together and recognize and remember those who have fought for us in the wars. I thought it was pretty cool to have them see us helping out. I appreciate getting to give back to my community and being able to do so in a recognized way.”

Flight Corporal Thebeau, almost 15, said it feels special to wear the uniform and to help

remind people of the soldiers who fought for everyone. “I like the opportunities we get to take part in and the honour of the uniform that we get to wear, and taking part in Remembrance Day ceremonies. This uniform helps remind people of the soldiers that fought for us, and it’s good for them to remember and reflect on that.”

Corporal Soderquist, 14, said even though the crowd was young, having the ceremony and bringing in the cadets and legion mem-

bers is a good opportunity for the students to begin to understand what Remembrance Day is about. “It’s a good opportunity for education and helps them realize and recognize the importance of this day, and why we do this.”

LAC Lefort, 12, is one of the squadron’s newest cadets, and it was his first Remembrance Day ceremony as a cadet. He said having the kids look up to him and the others was

**continued on page 3**

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

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

**WORDS**

- ARCHIPELAGO
- BASIN
- CONTINENT
- DELTA
- DESERT
- EQUATOR
- EROSION
- GLACIER
- HEMISPHERE
- ISTHMUS
- LATITUDE
- LONGITUDE
- MOUNTAIN RANGE
- PENINSULA
- PLATEAU
- PRIME MERIDIAN
- RAINFOREST
- RIVERS
- SAVANNA
- TOPOGRAPHY
- TUNDRA
- VALLEY
- WATERSHED
- WEATHER

continued from page 2

a cool experience. "It feels nice to have them look up to us. It shows them what cadets do, and maybe they will want to be like us one day. The kids were all trying to salute us because we were saluting, which was cool. I'm glad lots of kids attended. It's good for them to take part in these ceremonies because it's important to remember what it's for, what it means, and not to forget that soldiers fought for our peace."

During one of the segments at St. Anne's, a video was played which showed students answering what peace means to them. One by one, the youngsters highlighted things like sleeping in, playing, being with their families and hanging out with their pets and friends. The answers were pure and innocent.

Upon reflection, Warrant Officer First Class Lapointe said the moment was very emotional. "Seeing little kids say the things they did, about what peace is for them, and knowing that in a different world they would quite possibly not be here, shows why it's important to do this, for them." Her eyes welled up as she explained her thoughts. "Their view of peace is so innocent, and they are blessed to live where they do because they don't have to wish for those things. They already have them. The fact that they exist at all means a lot. We must remember that."

Lapointe has been in the program for six years, having started when she was 12. She said she remembers being scared the first time she took part in a Remembrance Day ceremony as a cadet, instead of watching from the audience. "There is a lot of expectation put on you. You're representing, in people's minds, what it looks like to serve, even though you're just a kid. A lot of people have never seen a soldier or known a soldier other than seeing them in movies. So, even though you're just a cadet, when you're in your uniform and acting seriously, it doesn't look like that. You're holding people's expectations for how they see the military."

She said bringing the cadet experience to schools and helping add to Remembrance Day ceremonies is something she sees as very important. "Getting to put on a performance of sorts can interest them and show them that there are kids just like them taking the holiday seriously and showing their appreciation. I hope that seeing that makes them want to take it more seriously, too, because it does matter. And doing this reminds them of that," explained Lapointe.

She added that Remembrance Day doesn't come with expectations. "You can just show up to a ceremony, and you've already participated in a

meaningful way. You don't have to buy anything.

You just have to show up and listen to people's stories or stand in recognition or wear a poppy. It's not a lot to do and yet it means so much."

The President of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 44, Ralph Schutte, was on hand for the ceremony at Percy Baxter on Friday morning. He spoke highly of the schools for putting on events and of the cadets. "As a soldier for a long time, I've always attended

the flags. A lot of us are older now, and there aren't many of us in uniform, so the cadets doing that bit is really helpful for us. They also help us with poppy displays and presentations, which is really good."

Speaking to the importance of continuing to have ceremonies, Schutte did not mince words.

"We don't want to forget, ever. If you've ever been to a warzone, you do not want to go there again. You want to remember that that's not what we want to have happen. It's just indescribable horrors in warzones. If we can manage to convince our youth of that, and also that they may need to participate if the situation arises, then they won't forget that."

Schutte served 32 years in regular service (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry & the Airborne Regiment) and twelve years in the cadet reserve service. He commanded the Second Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment before retiring. He said it's im-



A video of St. Anne's students explaining what peace means to them.



A beautiful wreath.

Remembrance Day ceremonies, and I'm really happy that the schools are carrying it forward, and it's great to see the cadets involved. The cadets do a big job for us at the November 11 ceremony because they carry

portant to note that he and his fellow soldiers were volunteers for their country, including those who joined the Airborne Regiment and jumped out of planes, as he did.

Schutte said that more people volunteered to be in the Canadian military for WWII without being forced (i.e. drafted) than in any other country. The Canadian military was

entirely voluntary until 1944, when the fear of high casualties brought in the implementation of conscription. He also noted that 1.1 million Canadians served during WWII, which works out to ten percent of the population at that time, and only a small portion of those were conscripted. To them we owe all.

We will remember them.



Students at St. Anne's placing poppy artwork on the wall.

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**Dollar Values as of November 12, 2025**

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P.O.P.	Mix of sun and clouds	Flurries	Chance of flurries	Mainly sunny	Chance of flurries
High	30%	40%	40%	20%	70%
Low	3°C	1°C	1°C	0°C	0°C
Wind	-3°C	-2°C	-6°C	-2°C	-5°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow	W 11 km/h	E 10 km/h	NW 20 km/h	SE 13 km/h	NW 7 km/h
	-	-	<1cm	-	1-3cm

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## TAKE PART! GIVE BACK! Opportunity for Public Participation

The Town of Whitecourt has an opening on its Protective Services Committee as follows:

### Protective Services Committee

**"To ensure that police needs of the community are met."**

(1) Member – term to expire in October 2028

Applications will be accepted from both Town of Whitecourt and Woodlands County residents. Applicants must submit a criminal record check with their application (an authorization letter will be provided upon request). The successful candidate will be required to undergo an enhanced security check.

If being on a Council Committee interests you, please complete an application form which can be found on the Whitecourt website at <https://www.whitecourt.ca/your-town/mayor-council/public-participation> or picked up at the Town Office. Applications must be received before 12:00 noon, Monday, February 3, 2025 to:

Whitecourt Town Administration Office  
Attention: Executive Assistant  
5004 - 52 Avenue, Box 509  
WHITECOURT, AB T7S 1N6  
email: [administration@whitecourt.ca](mailto:administration@whitecourt.ca)

You can also scan the QR code for a direct link to the application form:



### Questions?

Contact our Administration Department at 780.778.2273 or email [administration@whitecourt.ca](mailto:administration@whitecourt.ca).



A freshly handmade poppy.

## Handmade poppies



Photo Spruce View Lodge

The knitting club at Spruce View Lodge was busy making poppies last week. As the group began completing the beautifully knitted flowers, their creations began popping up on the shirts of staff and residents.



### PUBLIC NOTICE – PEMBINA COMMUNICATION TOWER

#### PROPOSED PEMBINA PIPELINE CORPORATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY

Pembina Pipeline Corporation (Pembina) is a leading pipeline transportation and midstream service provider that has been serving North America's energy industry for over 70 years. As a trusted member of the communities in which we operate, Pembina is committed to safe, responsible and reliable operations.

Pembina is proposing to install a new approximately 45-metre tall communication tower at Pembina's approved Virginia Hills pump station facility within 03-27-61-15 W5M. The new tower is required to provide the radio communications necessary to operate and monitor Pembina's equipment in the area.

Tower Height/Type:	Land Description:	Tower Coordinates:
45m self-support lattice	SW 27-61-15 W5M	Lat: 54.299119° Long: -116.166292°



Feedback with respect to this project can be submitted via mail, phone, or email by end of day **Friday, December 19, 2025**, as follows:

**Pembina Pipeline Corporation c/o Synergy Land Services Ltd.**  
Attn: Tanya Elchuk, Division Manager, Telecommunications  
124, 885 – 42 Avenue SE, Calgary, Alberta, T2G 5N9  
Main Office: 403-283-4400 | Direct: 403-930-3309  
Email: [virginiahillscommtower@synergyland.ca](mailto:virginiahillscommtower@synergyland.ca)



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The Remembrance Day crosswalk.



The roadway in front of Midtown Mall was painted just in time for Remembrance Day. Volunteers from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 44, with generous support from K&C Graphics and Home Hardware and approval from the Town of Whitecourt, painted the crosswalk on Sunday, November 2. The crosswalk features four red maple leaves, the silhouette of a soldier in the middle and "Lest we forget" at both ends.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
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**AVIS PUBLIC – TOUR DE COMMUNICATION DE PEMBINA**

**PROJET D'INSTALLATION DE TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS DE PEMBINA PIPELINE CORPORATION**

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Pembina projette l'installation d'une nouvelle tour de transmission d'environ 45 mètres de hauteur à la station de pompage approuvée de Virginia Hills, située dans la zone de 03-27-61-15 W5M. Cette nouvelle tour est nécessaire pour assurer les radiocommunications indispensables à l'exploitation et à la surveillance des installations de Pembina dans le secteur.

<b>Hauteur/Type de tour:</b> Treillis autoportant de 45 m	<b>Description du terrain:</b> SW 27-61-15 W5M	<b>Coordonnées de la tour:</b> Lat: 54.299119° Long: -116.166292°
--	---	---



Les commentaires relatifs à ce projet peuvent être soumis par courrier, téléphone ou courriel avant la fin de la journée du **vendredi 19 décembre 2025**, comme suit :

**Pembina Pipeline Corporation a/s Synergy Land Services Ltd.**  
À l'attention de: **Tanya Elchuk, Chef de division, Télécommunications**  
124, 885 – 42e Avenue SE, Calgary, Alberta, T2G 5N9  
Bureau principal: 403-283-4400 | Ligne directe : 403-930-3309  
Courriel: [virginiahillscommtower@synergyland.ca](mailto:virginiahillscommtower@synergyland.ca)

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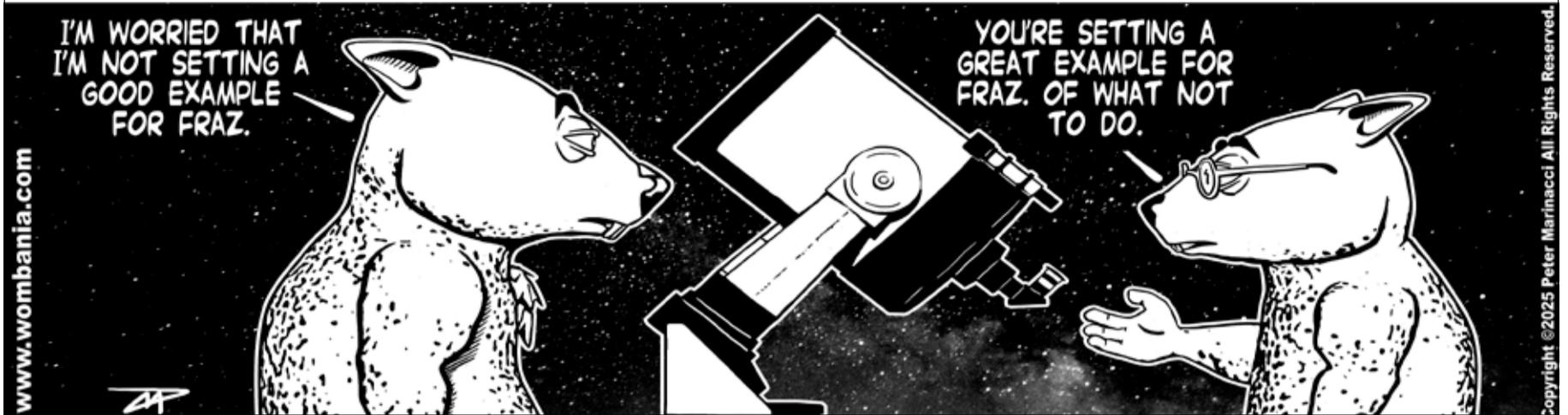
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## Small town, big dreams:

### Whitecourt's Emily Hicks kicks toward National Gold

| By Haylee Winger

What began as a childhood curiosity sparked by a school demonstration has grown into a national-level pursuit for 15-year-old Whitecourt athlete Emily Hicks. At just seven years old, a visit from Whitecourt Taekwondo to her school inspired her to give the sport a try. "They let us each break a board," Emily recalled. "I took home their card that day and asked my parents to sign me up right away."

Emily began her journey with Whitecourt Taekwondo Club (WTC TKD) under Master Jim Rennie. As her passion and skill grew, so did her ambitions. The local club

supported her decision to join AB Taekwondo in Slave Lake, where she could receive the high-performance training needed to compete at an elite level.

Even as her training expanded beyond her hometown, Emily remains deeply appreciative of the foundation she built under Master Rennie's guidance and the encouragement she continues to receive from her home club. Although she now trains primarily in Slave Lake, she keeps in touch with everyone in Whitecourt and visits whenever she can. When time allows, she enjoys helping teach the younger students — a role that lets her give back to the community

that first inspired her.

"Master Jim Rennie has been such an important part of my journey," Emily said. "Even though I barely train with him anymore due to my busy schedule, I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for all the years I spent at Whitecourt Taekwondo. He encouraged me to start teaching and is responsible for the confidence I have today, teaching younger students."

Now, Emily is preparing for her third trip to Nationals, which will be held this year in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her previous national results include a bronze medal in Winnipeg (2024) and a silver medal in Montreal

(2025). This time, she's aiming for gold — a victory that would earn her a place on Team Canada and the chance to compete at the Pan American Championships.

Emily's dedication to training is unwavering. Her family leaves Whitecourt around 3:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to make the drive to Slave Lake, where classes run from 6 to 9 p.m. Twice a month, she also trains there on Saturdays for two to four hours. On days she's not in Slave Lake, Emily runs three to five kilometres and works out at Studio 83. She regularly travels to Edmonton, Red Deer, and Calgary for additional training sessions — and has even gone as far as Missoula, Montana.

In addition to her training, Emily recently competed in Edmonton on October 18, winning gold in her division, and she's set to compete again at the Calgary Open on November 15. Looking ahead, she'll represent Alberta at the Canada Open Championships, an international event being held in Calgary in February 2026, and she has her sights set on competing at the U.S. Open in Las Vegas in March 2026.

Behind every great athlete is a team of supporters — and Emily's journey has been powered by her community. When the costs of travel and training began to grow, her family organized fundraisers to help offset expenses. "Last year, WTC TKD members donated their bottles, and so



did people from our neighbourhood," said Loretta, Emily's mom. "We reached out to local businesses for silent auction items, and the generosity was incredible. We received everything from Sportsnet Club seats and a set of tires to gifts from local home-based businesses."

The outpouring of encouragement from Whitecourt residents was equally touching. "One day, I was shoveling my driveway when a woman stopped and handed me a cash donation for Emily," Loretta recalled. "People we didn't even know would stop us in town to say how proud they were of her and how she's become such a great role model. The community spirit and support for Emily is amazing."

Local businesses have also stepped up to help cover the costs of Emily's memberships and registration fees for upcoming competitions. The family hopes other businesses will continue to support through sponsorships or donations to future silent auctions. "She has been working incredibly hard over the last couple of years and has made such a significant commitment to achieving her taekwondo goals," Loretta said. "She is my hero."

Emily's dedication has even inspired others. Evan Hicks, who also trained at Whitecourt Taekwondo, was encouraged by Emily to pursue high-performance sparring in Slave Lake.

The families now share driving duties through a carpooling system, with Evan's parents taking Wednesdays. Evan has since earned a spot on the AB Taekwondo High Performance Team and will join Emily in Halifax for Nationals.

Despite her growing success, Emily remains humble and focused on what matters most — hard work, perseverance, and community pride. "You have to be comfortable with being uncomfortable," she said. "The only way to improve is to challenge yourself. It's not supposed to be easy — but if you keep showing up and giving your best, that's what makes you great."

As she continues her journey toward national gold, Emily carries with her the unwavering support of her family, her teammates, and the Whitecourt community. "I'm honoured to represent my hometown," she said. "It means everything to know that so many people believe in me."



Emily Hicks poses during the 40th Annual K.H. Min Invitational Taekwondo Championship, held October 18, 2025, at Edmonton's Kinsmen Sports Centre. The 15-year-old Whitecourt athlete captured gold in her division, showcasing her dedication and skill as she continues to prepare for Nationals in Halifax.



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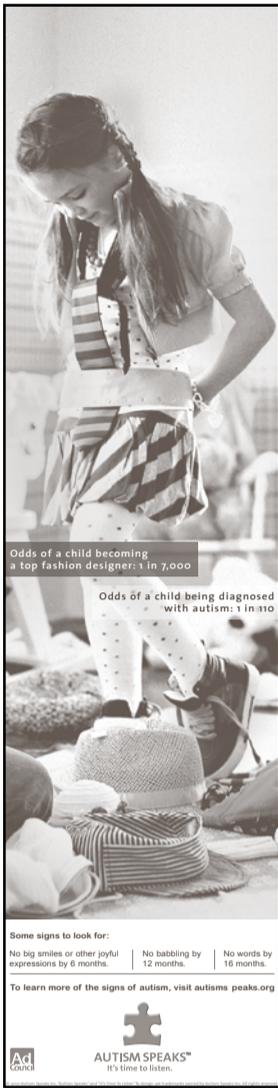
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The Press welcomes readers to write letters to the Editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not necessary. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject 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  
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# Whitecourt Food Bank preparing for busiest season

By Haylee Winger

The Whitecourt Food Bank continues to provide vital support to local families, relying on donations and volunteer help from the community throughout the year. As the busiest season approaches, residents are encouraged to lend a hand by donating food, funds, or their time.

In 2024, the Food Bank served 2,626 people — an increase of 23 percent from the previous year. With demand continuing to rise, community support is more important than ever.

Donations can be dropped off at the Food Bank, located in the Carlan Services Community Resource Centre, by calling 780-778-

2341 to arrange a time. Perishable Boxes are available at noon on the days the Food Bank is open. These boxes are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with no ID required. Anyone hoping to receive one is encouraged to arrive around 11:30 a.m. as demand is high.

A special fundraising event, Light Up the Tree for the Food Bank, will take place at the Town Office on November 15, 2025, at 5:15 p.m. A tree will be lit in support of the Food Bank, and residents can help by purchasing a bulb for \$20. Payments can be made by cash or cheque at the Town Office, located at 5004 52 Avenue. Tax receipts are available

for donations over \$20. If you're planning to donate, the Food Bank has shared a list of items that are needed most at this time of year.

### Most-needed donation items include:

- Cereal
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Big soups
- Canned meat
- Pasta sauce
- Hamburger Helper
- Stovetop and Side-kicks meals
- Toiletries such as deodorant, razors, feminine products, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and toilet paper

The Whitecourt Food Bank remains a corner-

stone of community support. Every donation and volunteer effort helps ensure local families have access to the resources they need, especially during the holiday season.



Town of Whitecourt photo

# How our farms are getting more sustainable

(NC) Businesses across every industry are taking a longer-term view of how they operate. Sustainability has become a bit of a buzzword for large businesses, but for farmers it's always been an essential consideration. Avoiding soil fatigue and erosion, minimizing water use and producing more with less takes a willingness to innovate that's always been a key asset of Canadian farmers.

Farms are getting smarter. Farmers are embracing the newest technology to help them produce larger yields with fewer resources. Some are AI-powering their strategic planning, using data models to better set out planting, watering, pest control and harvesting schedules.

The data for those platforms comes in via sensors placed out in

the field, on equipment or in buildings, that also let farmers monitor conditions across their business in real time and react more efficiently to problems as they come up.

New crops are fueling farm sustainability. Crop development has always been an important aspect of Canada's farm industry—Canola was a Canadian invention that took careful breeding and a scientific approach. That tradition continues with new crops serving as biofuels, helping the

agriculture sector, and industry at large, reduce its dependence on fossil fuels.

Farmers are reaping the benefits of strategic planning. More farmers are taking a strategic approach to managing their business, from their seed stock to their balance sheets. For instance, scenario planning can help a farm better weather storms, flooding or drought.

"Many farmers are taking advantage of resources geared to their businesses through

available partnerships," says Lorna McKercher, national director, agriculture at RBC. "They're reaching out to get risk management advice and financing options that can help their farms operate for generations to come."

By taking a strategic, forward-thinking approach, farmers are helping ensure their businesses—and the food they produce—are sustainable and available for Canadians in the long term.

Learn more at [rbc.com/agriculture](http://rbc.com/agriculture).



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We're seeking a dedicated Woodlands County resident to serve on the SDAB – the board that hears and decides appeals on decisions made by the County's development authority.

Apply today and contribute your perspective to this important decision-making body!

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### UNABLE TO CLEAR YOUR DRIVEWAY?

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**STEP 2:** When you want your driveway cleared, simply place the flag in a visible location beside the entrance of your driveway. When the grader operator finishes plowing your driveway, they will collect the flag.

For more information: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/winter-operations](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/winter-operations)

*Do you or a neighbour need help covering the cost of snow clearing?*

Residents who are senior citizens, have low-income, or physical or mental disabilities may qualify to receive up to 3 snowplow flags per year per residence.

For more information, please visit: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/benefits-program](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/benefits-program)



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# 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 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

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Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line

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## Putting a face on suicide



Taylor Morgan Barnett

Age 21

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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Xplore Inc. has proposed a 45.0m tall lite duty steel lattice style communication tower and related radio equipment on private property at 592023A/B Range Road 115, 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 **December 13<sup>th</sup>, 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: [spectrum@edmonton-edmontonspectre@ised-isde.gc.ca](mailto:spectrum@edmonton-edmontonspectre@ised-isde.gc.ca)

#### FB CONNECT:

Sarah Duncan  
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Tel: (587) 894-0773  
Fax: (888) 622-4939  
Email: [sduncan@forbesbrostd.ca](mailto:sduncan@forbesbrostd.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](mailto:planning@woodlands.ab.ca)



## SCHOOL NEWS



Pat Hardy School photo

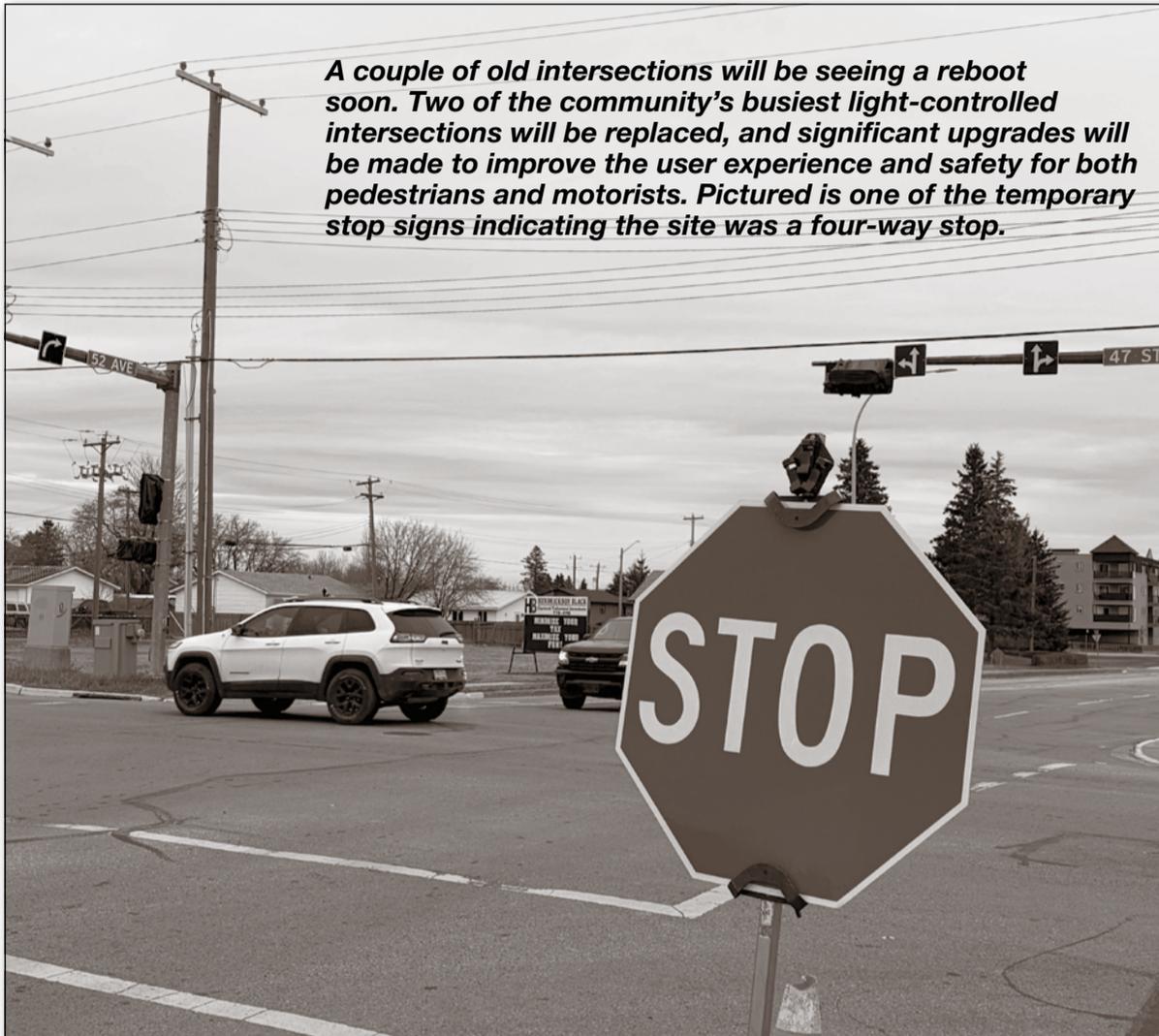
Students in 1Rivard at Pat Hardy School put their STEM skills to the test by rebuilding Bonaparte after reading Bonaparte Falls Apart! The hands-on activity helped students explore engineering and problem-solving in a fun, creative way.

**Local news printed on local newsprint**



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# Traffic signal upgrades coming up for two community spots



*A couple of old intersections will be seeing a reboot soon. Two of the community's busiest light-controlled intersections will be replaced, and significant upgrades will be made to improve the user experience and safety for both pedestrians and motorists. Pictured is one of the temporary stop signs indicating the site was a four-way stop.*

**| By Serena Lapointe**

Two of Whitecourt's light-controlled intersections have aging infrastructure and need replacement. On October 27, at the first meeting since the election for the newly elected council, Drew Hadfield, Director of Infrastructure Services, brought everyone up to speed.

As identified in the 2025 Capital & Major Maintenance Plan, the intersections at 49 Avenue and 51 Street (IGA and Home Hardware) and 52 Avenue and 47 Street (near Central School) were reviewed. These two locations were picked due to increased traffic volumes, concerns over the efficiency of the current setup and aging infrastructure, as both lights have been in use for many years.

To determine what changes were needed,

the Town of Whitecourt hired Invistec Consulting Ltd, a group specializing in traffic management, to provide an in-depth review of both intersections.

"They took a look at the intersections and traffic flows and looked at it with a lens of how we could improve them for both pedestrians and the traffic at those locations, and identify upgrades associated with that," explained Hadfield.

The findings from the review were clear; both intersections required upgrades. "We broke this into two parts. The first phase is the design and installation of the traffic signals. The second phase is the civil work, the groundwork, which includes the road improvements, curb and gutter, sidewalks and improvements to go along with the changes to the traffic

lights," he detailed.

In the Request for Decision before Council, it detailed some of the improvements recommended for the new

traffic signals, including adaptive signal technology to reduce delays and pedestrian-friendly options such as audible crossing signals and



**Bagged stoplights.**

countdown timers, to let people know how long they have before the light changes.

In Phase Two, some of the proposed changes include widening the roadway to better allow for turning movements, which would help clear up congestion, updating pavement markings and signs to improve visibility, and improving the ability for large vehicles to maneuver through the two intersections.

The Town of Whitecourt sought tenders for the traffic signal upgrade component of the project through the Alberta Purchasing Connection, with a deadline for submissions of interest of early September. "We had a lot of interested parties, but a lot of the traffic light installers are busy throughout the province," said Hadfield, adding that one bid was received for the project.

He said the contractor that put in the bid, Can-Traffic Services Ltd., has done work within the municipality. "They are a qualified bidder, and they've done work within the town before, so we would be happy to move forward with them as the contractor," said Hadfield. Invistec Consulting Ltd. also reviewed the bid from Can-Traffic Services Ltd. and recommended that they be awarded the contract.

Can-Traffic Services Ltd bid on Phase One of the project for \$529,536.66. The intersection near Central School (52 Ave & 47 St) is the pricier of the two, costing just shy of \$290,000. The intersection at 49 Ave and 51 Street by IGA came in just above \$240,000.

Town Administra-

tion applied for funding through the Canada Public Fund – Rural Transit Solutions Fund (RTSF) and was successful. A large chunk of the cost, 80 per cent, will be funded through the RTSF, with the remaining 20 per cent coming from the Town's Infrastructure Reserve.

The second half of the project, widening, markings and turning improvements, will be tendered in the spring, along with the projects in the 2026 Street Improvement Program. The hope, read the RFD, is that the Town will secure savings by bidding out both projects together.

At the end of October and into early November, the lights at the intersection by Central School were out, making the busy intersection a temporary four-way stop. Hadfield explained that the power poles on the southeast and northeast corners needed to be moved and that while Fortis was doing the work, the power to the site was down.

"Part of this intersection upgrade is identified as needing additional corner cuts. The apartment building on the southeast corner, we're taking a chunk of land associated with that. To do that, we have to move the power poles out of the way. We are doing the same thing on the northeast corner. The power pole that is currently right beside the ramp will be moved further to the north and out of the way of the future traffic lights," explained Hadfield. Whitecourt Town Council voted in favour of awarding the contract for the Traffic Signal Upgrade to Can-Traffic Services Ltd.

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

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

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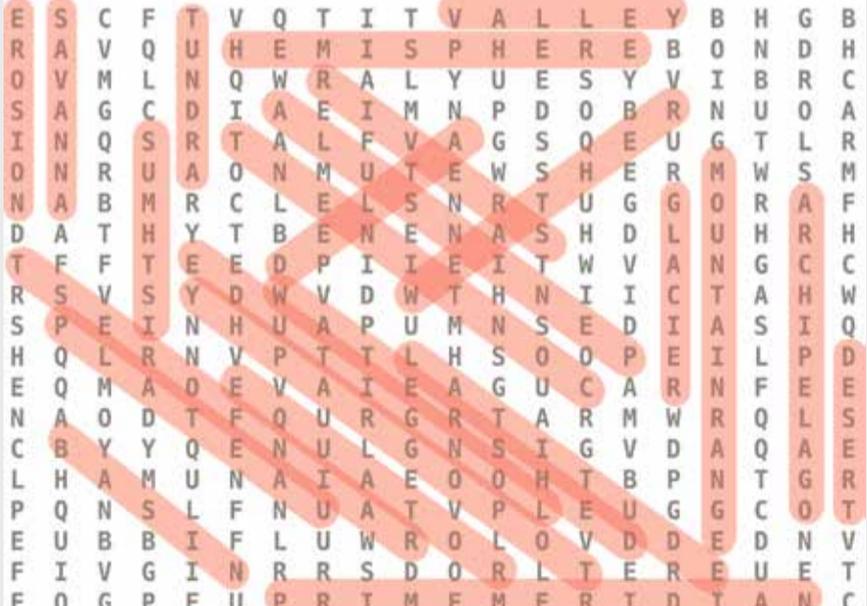
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Mayor Ray Hilts of Whitecourt receives the first poppy of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #44 campaign, which raises funds to support Veterans and their families.

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