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# The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 15 - Issue 2 | Wednesday, January 14, 2026



Google Earth

**A project a few years in the making is getting a headstart thanks to the opportunity of snagging provincial dollars. If completed, the project would allow Whitecourt to grow its industrial base for years to come. Pictured is 41 Avenue with 33 Street (right) and the future extension path on the left.**

## Industrial growth mindset as Council approves application to seek funding for street extension

| By Serena Lapointe

At the end of 2025, Town Council was asked by administration to support an application to the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) under the Resource Road Program

(RRP) stream for a project that would support industrial growth in Whitecourt. The project is specifically focused on extending 33 Street down to the CN train tracks, opening up more land for heavy industrial proj-

ects. If successful, the Town of Whitecourt could snag 50 percent of the project's cost, up to three million dollars.

Whitecourt's 50-Year Comprehensive

continued on page 5

## Communities in Bloom - 2025 successes and plans for 2026

By Serena Lapointe  
Towards the end of 2025, Whitecourt Town Council fielded several presentations from different committees, including Communities in Bloom (CIB). Ann Blackwell, who has been on the committee for eight or nine years, gave the presentation at the Forest Interpretive Centre, steps away from one of the CIB's proudest spots. "I'm very proud of the Forest Interpretive Centre garden," she began.

The John and Audrey Dahl Heritage Park Garden is one of several spots the committee takes care of and has become a favourite for lunch stops, a meeting place for friends, for photo ops, and out-of-town guests travelling through who stop and smell the flowers. At its center, the garden features a maple tree planted in honour of Canada's 150th Anniversary. Blackwell said CIB hopes to install solar lights on the tree this summer.

One of the most recent updates was brand new wooden flower

beds that are higher off the ground. Since engaging youth is one of the focuses for CIB, when it came time to fill the beds, the Whitecourt Taekwondo Club answered the call.

"They brought their kids, and there were like twenty people, and it took them maybe an hour and a half. It was a huge pile of dirt, and

continued on page 8



**When it comes to sprucing up the community, the Communities in Bloom Committee is one busy bunch. It was a skeleton crew over the last season, but thankfully, growing interest late in the 2025 season has brought more people to the table, interested in getting into the dirt for 2026. Pictured is Ann Blackwell alongside the beautiful new flower beds.**



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The Press

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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

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**Bullying can affect anyone: How to recognize it and take action**

**By Haylee Winger**

Bullying is more than just mean words or teasing. It is a pattern of repeated aggressive behavior used by one person to gain power or control over another, and it can have lasting emotional, social, and physical effects. While children are often the focus of discussions about bullying, adults can also be targets in workplaces, social settings, and other areas of life. Anyone who experiences bullying can feel trapped, powerless, and unsure how to protect themselves.

Recognizing bullying is the first step in addressing it. It usually involves an imbalance of power, harmful behavior, and repeated incidents. The actions may be physical, such as hitting, pushing, or kicking, or emotional, including name-calling, teasing, threats, or insults. Bullying can happen directly, face-to-face, or indirect-

ly behind someone's back through gossip, exclusion, or spreading rumors. Repetition is key; harmful behavior that continues over time makes it harder for the victim to escape or recover.

Parents and caregivers play a critical role in helping children navigate bullying. Open communication,

observing changes in behavior, and stepping in early can prevent harm from escalating. Discussing bullying openly, encouraging children to share their experiences, and maintaining regular contact with teachers or school counselors are practical ways adults can provide support. Quick inter-

vention can be very effective: research shows that when other children step in, bullying stops more than half the time within just 10 seconds.

Bullying continues to be a serious problem in Canada, according to research from Children First Canada, a charitable organization that advocates for the

rights and well-being of children across the country. According to the report, 71 percent of youth aged 12-17 reported experiencing bullying in the past year. While 71 percent of teachers say they act to prevent bullying, only 25 percent of students feel supported by adults at school. About one in four teens has

experienced cyberbullying in the last year. More than half of youth have witnessed racially motivated bullying at school, and 14 percent have experienced it themselves. These statistics show the ongoing need for awareness, intervention, and peer support. Bullying is not just a childhood problem; adults may encounter similar challenges, making prevention and understanding important for all ages.

If you, your child, a friend, or someone you know has experienced or witnessed bullying and would like to share their story anonymously, we'd love to hear from you. Your story can help raise awareness and make a difference. Please send submissions to thepresswtc@gmail.com, Attn: Haylee Winger. Together, we can help others understand the impact of bullying and take action to stop it.





## Got a news tip?

Call Valerie Winger at 780.706.1858  
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The Press

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Dollar Values as of January 14, 2026

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A look at the local weather	Wed., Jan. 14	Thu., Jan. 15	Fri., Jan. 16	Sat., Jan. 17	Sun., Jan. 18
P.O.P.	30%	20%	30%	20%	20%
High	8°C	0°C	-3°C	-1°C	-6°C
Low	0°C	-7°C	-3°C	-7°C	-11°C
Wind	SW 21 km/h	NW 25 km/h	W 11 km/h	W 7 km/h	W 23 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	-	-	-	-	-

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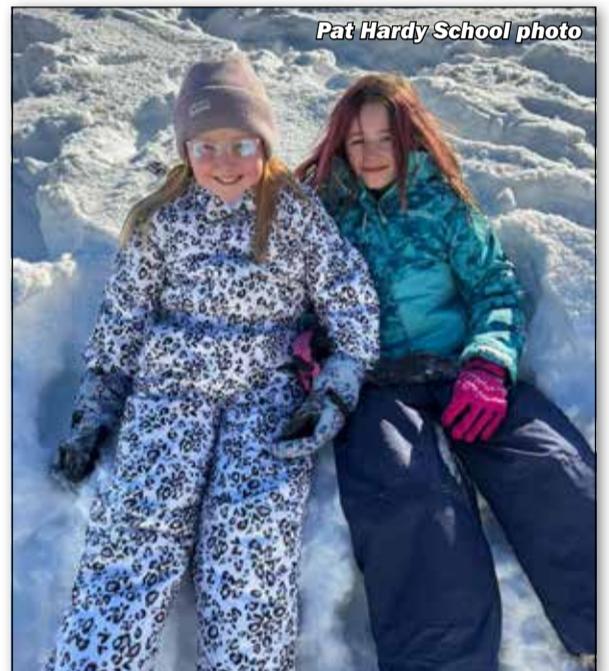
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SCHOOL NEWS



Pat Hardy School photo

Students from Pat Hardy School make the most of winter weather, laughing and playing in the snow during recess.

Thank You

Thank you to whomever shovelled my driveway on Lyons Crescent. It was greatly appreciated!!

Please recycle this paper



Last week, students from the Grade 1/2 Klassen at Pat Hardy School made a splash during a fun-filled swimming outing.

continued from page 1

Growth Study pinpointed that the most urgently needed land use for the community was industrial land, highlighting that current vacancies for industrial parcels and shop vacancies are low. Given the community's landscape and size of industrial zones that flank it, Whitecourt does not have many spaces left to place large industrial projects or to create a new industrial zone.

Along with the growth study, the project also aligns with the Town's Municipal Development

Plan, which lists having land identified for industrial development as a main goal. It also aims to prioritize the provision of services for the development of industry and the promotion of the community as a great spot for industries to do business, giving the community longevity for years to come.

The parcel of land north of 41 Avenue at the 33 Street intersection, west of Eastlink Park and across the road from the Transfer Station, could open up more land for industrial projects with the extension of 33 Street acting

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STIP funding is specifically for maintaining and developing local transportation infrastructure, and the project fits those parameters. Jeannine Loberg, Director of Planning and Development, explained that the application is part of getting prepared for the next phase of industry development in Whitecourt.

"With the STIP funding, there is a Resource Road Program for projects such as this that

fund roads for industrial purposes. The 33 Street extension wasn't anticipated in our plan until about 2028 or 2029, however we are working with a developer who has indicated they may need this road sooner to bring on industrial development in that area," explained Loberg.

She said that getting ready and seeking out funding ahead of time enables the community to be poised and ready to take advantage of opportunities as they come, rather than being held back.

"That is our next phase for industrial development, and it is important that we are ready to capture those

opportunities should they arise," added Loberg.

The 50 percent remaining cost to the municipality is encouraged by STIP to be split between the town and the private sector that directly benefits from the road's creation. If the Town of Whitecourt is successful in securing STIP funding for the 33 Street extension project, a cost-sharing plan will be brought back to a future Council meeting, along with a development agreement with the private developer. Information surrounding the developer remains minimal, outside of the extension project and interest in that area

of the community. As the planning gets closer to fruition, more information will be shared with the public.

"The nice thing about this 33 Street extension project is that it is shovel-ready. We've got some preliminary engineering done, so it is an easy grant submission to apply for under this stream of funding. Administration is looking for Council's support to proceed with the application," said Loberg. Before making the motion, Councillor Braden Lanctot said, "I see no reason why we wouldn't do this." His colleagues agreed, passing the motion unanimously.



Teamwork was on display as students from the Grade 2 Turcotte class at Pat Hardy School collaborated to build quinzhees (snow huts) during outdoor learning.



Thirty-third Street (bottom middle, vertical) would cross 41 Avenue into the forest.

## Alberta RCMP urge caution after rise in fatal winter crashes

| By Haylee Winger

Alberta RCMP are advising motorists to take extra care on provincial highways following an increase in deadly collisions over the winter months.

Early figures indicate that 20 fatal crashes occurred across K Division in December, exceeding the 10-year average of 16.7. Police say winter driving

conditions, including snow and icy roads, are believed to have played a role in many of these incidents.

The trend has continued into the start of the new year. In the first four days of January, four fatal collisions were reported in Alberta, resulting in four deaths. Weather conditions are suspected to be a contributing factor

in three of the crashes, although investigations are still underway.

RCMP remind drivers to reduce speed, increase following distance, and allow extra time to reach their destinations during winter travel. Police also note that postponing travel until road conditions improve can help reduce the risk of serious collisions.

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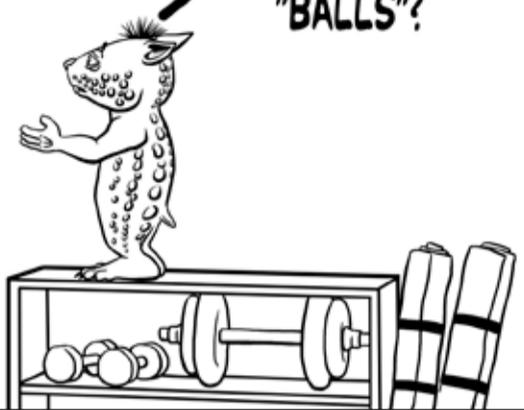
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- Fridays 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Baptist Church in person only.

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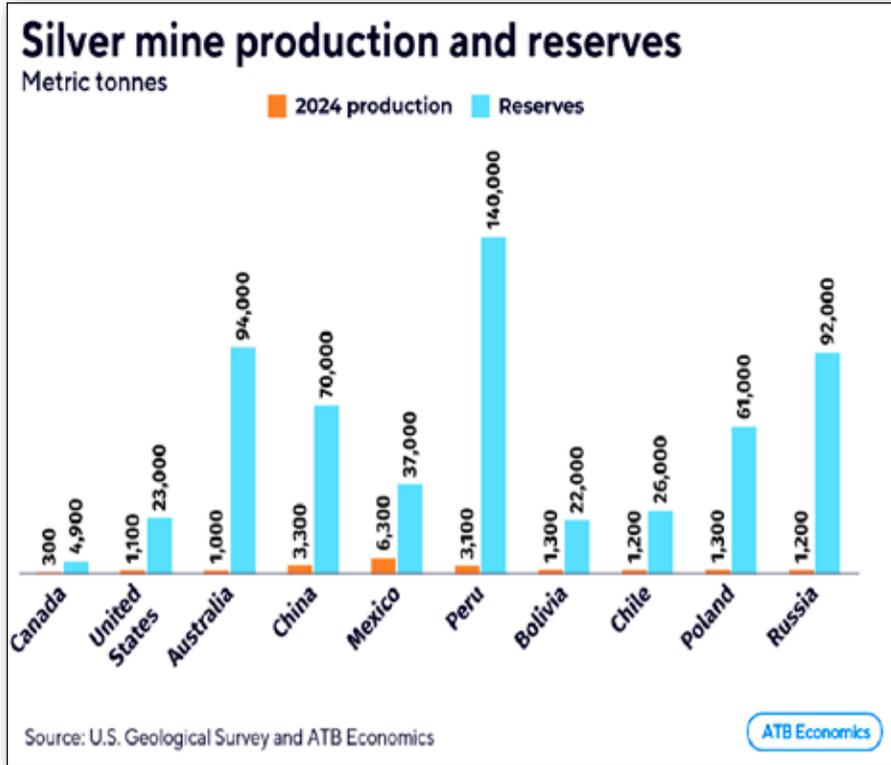


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- Health Link 811



## Silver linings: A look into what's driving silver's outperformance

| By Carol Kamel  
ATB ECONOMICS

A few months back, I highlighted gold's ascent amid a year defined by volatility. I want to pivot to the asset that has arguably stolen the show. In this edition of the Twenty-Four, we examine what's behind silver's remarkable run.

Silver is often dismissed as the cheaper, more volatile relative of gold, but at US\$77 an ounce (as of this morning) and a record rally of ~140% in 2025, it demands more attention. Although down from its December high of US\$84, the precious metal has received a boost from the latest whirlwind of geopolitical events that have unfolded - most recently, the capture of Venezuelan President Maduro and Greenland annexation headlines. For context, an ounce of silver now costs more than a barrel of oil, a rarity we haven't seen since 1980.

### A safe haven asset

Like gold, silver is a safe haven asset, meaning it tends to attract investors in times of uncertainty and concern surrounding fiscal sustainability. It also benefits from lower interest rates (which reduces the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets) and a weaker U.S. dollar (silver is priced in U.S. dollars,

a weaker greenback makes the metal cheaper for international buyers). Silver has also attracted investors who are increasingly reluctant to chase gold at its current record highs, leading to spillover demand into other precious metals.

### A conductor - enabling electrification

But, perhaps most importantly, silver's price is also determined by what happens on factory floors where it is used to make a wide variety of products including circuit boards, solar panels and medical supplies.

As such, silver occupies a unique position in global markets, straddling the line between monetary assets and industrial inputs. It is treated like a safe haven in periods of uncertainty, and it is simultaneously a critical physical resource for the modern economy. As the most conductive metal on Earth, silver is extensively utilized in electric vehicles, solar panels, and the infrastructure that underpins AI data centres.

### A shortage of this critical metal

One of the main price drivers of silver is the narrative that there is a global shortage. According to the 2025 World Silver Survey, the market is now in its fifth consecutive year of structural supply

deficits, with inventories at multi-decade lows. This imbalance is difficult to resolve, in large part because more than 70% of silver mining supply is a result of byproduct mining, meaning it is extracted as a byproduct of mining other metals like copper, gold, zinc, and lead. Currently Peru leads the world in silver reserves, but Mexico leads in production with China coming in second.

### A strategic asset

Concurrently, governments are increasingly viewing key industrial metals through a strategic lens. Most recently, China, the world's second largest exporter of the metal, has tightened controls on silver exports in 2026, citing national security. This recent action draws comparisons to the country's earlier restrictions on rare earth minerals.

### The bottom line

What sets silver apart in this cycle is that its strength is not purely speculative. It reflects a convergence of declining confidence in fiat currencies, structural supply constraints, and rising industrial demand. As we move into 2026, silver will be worth watching not only for what it says about investor sentiment but also what it reveals about where strategic resource policy is headed next.

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Brooklyn, a Woodlands County employee, stands ready to work before heading out to clear and sand County roads.



One of 53 Love Your Yard signs placed last summer.

continued from page 1

there was nothing left after.” Blackwell said she loves the committee and called it her passion. “It’s very exciting to see the flowers grow and all that colour.” She said they spent 2025 focusing on building up programs and encouraging residents to step forward and volunteer with the group. “It has been myself this year, as the only member, of course, with the town helping me out a great deal.” Councillor Tara Baker is the committee’s council representative.

“I’ve been working on recruitment, and we had approximately

eleven people at our last meeting, which was the first time we had that many come. Councillor Baker was elated to see that many volunteers at the table,” said Blackwell, adding that she hopes to foster awareness of CIB at their upcoming planting events and meet new people.

One of the CIB projects that residents might’ve seen while out in the community was the Love Your Yard Campaign, which continues to grow each year. “We put up signs to encourage the community to beautify Whitecourt, and the town also has tours of these yards. Homeowners who beautified their

yards had the opportunity to be recognized, and those who received Love Your Yard signs expressed that they felt honoured to be nominated,” said Blackwell.

Over the summer of 2025, 53 signs were planted in beautiful yards throughout Whitecourt, the fourth year for the recognition program. “We ordered 40 more signs. It is rewarding for both the CIB and the patrons who have the signs planted in their yards, and it also helps people recognize our presence,” said Blackwell, noting that signs need to be returned to the AJMC in the fall so they can be reused.

Councillor Tara Baker said she is happy they will have more signs to put out this summer, and that they will also have double-sided signs, creating more options for sign placement. “There’s no shortage of nominations. It’s hard not to pick the one right next to it when you’re dropping one off, so I think the idea of having more is a good thing.”

Although the Community Garden and the CIB are different entities, members of the CIB tend to several plots at the garden and donate what they grow. “CIB has been recog-

continued on page 9

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- **Regional Municipal Office, Fort Assiniboine:** Sand bin located near the front door.

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- Give plows plenty of space.
- Stay out of blind spots and never tailgate.
- Be patient—operators may make wide turns or sudden stops.

Your awareness helps keep everyone safe on the roads this winter.

**PRIVATE SNOW CLEARING REMINDER:** This is a kind reminder to please avoid pushing or blowing snow from your property onto or across public roads.

Following this community standard helps prevent hazardous ice buildup and protects gravel surfaces, keeping the roads safer for everyone. The county monitors adherence to this community standard under Bylaw 520/19, Section 10.1. For full details, visit: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/bylaws-policies](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/bylaws-policies)

**SERVICE REQUESTS, REPORTS & KUDOS**

Have a road maintenance issue to report, a road service request, or just want to say thank you? Fill out a **Service Request:** [woodlands.ab.ca/p/service-request](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/service-request).

For **after hours** road or public works emergencies, please call 1-888-870-6315 and follow the voice prompts.

**2026 ANNUAL EQUIPMENT & TRUCK REGISTRATION REMINDER**

Starting **January 2, 2026**, registration packages for the supply of equipment and/or gravel trucks will be available.

Applicants can pick up registration packages at either Municipal Office, or download registrations forms at: [www.woodlands.ab.ca](http://www.woodlands.ab.ca)

A copy of valid insurance must be attached, with Woodlands County added to your insurance, as additionally insured. Registrations are effective until December 31, 2026.

For further information: Email: [admin@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:admin@woodlands.ab.ca), Phone: 780-778-8400

**BULK WATER STATIONS - PREPAID ONLINE ACCOUNTS**

REMINDER! JANUARY 23 to JANUARY 26, all Bulk Water Fill Stations will upgrade to a prepaid online account system. During this 4-day window, there will be service disruptions and access to water may be unavailable.

IMPORTANT! BEFORE JANUARY 26, contact either County Office to create an online account. It will be required for access to all Bulk Water Fill Stations.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this transition!

Whitecourt Office: 780-778-8400, Fort Assiniboine Office: 780-584-3866 [utilities@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:utilities@woodlands.ab.ca)

For more info: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/water-fill-stations](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/water-fill-stations)



Woodlands County has some exciting job opportunities!

Community Ambassadors, Seasonal Labourers & Human Resources Coordinator For more information on these postings and to apply: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/careers](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/careers)



**DAVE KUSCH**  
Reeve, Division 1 – Anselmo  
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780-778-9337



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Councillor, Division 4 -  
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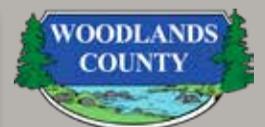
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780-305-4655



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Whitecourt,  
AB T7S 1N3

continued from page 8

nized by the local food bank and Tennille's Hope for donating produce grown in the Community Garden, supporting the fight against food insecurity within the community. I had five plots this year at the Community Garden, and I was able to donate potatoes and lettuce," said Blackwell.

One of the programs CIB offers that Blackwell hopes will see use in 2026 has to do with graffiti.

"We are hoping to get business owners and residents to use the graffiti removal kits, which continues to be a challenge for us. They are available for free at the AJMC." Blackwell explained that CIB asks kit users to provide before and after pictures to help encourage more

use of the kits.

Other spots in town where the CIB presence can be felt include the living wall at the Allan & Jean Millar Center, seasonal workshops and plant swap events. Heading into the 2026 season, the CIB theme is "Therapeutic Gardening," and Blackwell said she looks forward to seeing what the committee comes up with.

"Currently, there isn't a program to help residents handle household compost beyond yard waste. It is not collected, and there isn't a place for it to be taken for processing. This is a barrier for those who would like to start composting. CIB members are interested in learning about it and would be willing to research," she explained. They plan to hold another composting workshop

this spring, as past ones have proved very popular, and are also planning a mushroom foraging workshop.

Five-year goals include launching a successful composting program locally, building up the Love Your Yard Campaign, growing and expanding the John and Audrey Dahl Heritage Park Garden, decreasing graffiti

through removal and prevention, and distributing blue recycling bins with information stickers on them to let residents know what can and cannot go in them. She said they will be looking into grants to support their endeavours. "We want to expand partnership opportunities and share knowledge," said Blackwell.



The living wall at the AJMC.



Working hard to fill the new beds.



Whitecourt Taekwondo volunteers at the FIC garden.

# Just Peachy

## ARTS AND CRAFTS

Locally owned and operated indoor artisan market. At Just Peachy, you will find over 100 artisans selling their creations. Everything from pottery and paintings to soaps and sun-catchers. @ @ @ **780-778-1051**  
5014 50 St, Whitecourt

Contact us about our workshops

**justpeachyarts@outlook.com**



## 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#: 25-064** – Energy Manager – Contract Position – Closes January 15, 2026

Please visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) for all employment opportunities and details on how to apply.



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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



## Christmas Tree Pick Up

Starting on Monday, January 5, crews will be picking up trees from across the community on a weekly basis throughout the month of January as time permits. There will be no set schedule, and pick up may be delayed due to snow or other higher priority tasks.

Please place your tree where you would normally place your garbage. For those residents in cul-de-sacs who place their garbage further out into the street, please don't place your tree where it will obstruct traffic.

**Trees must be free of all decorations and tinsel.** Please do not place the tree in garbage or tree bags.

The Whitecourt Regional Landfill also has a drop-off area for you to dispose of your tree. The Whitecourt Regional Landfill is open Monday to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. has the right to appeal prior to the above date.

## NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application No. 25-145 – Discretionary Use – Home Occupation, General Aesthetics at 1 Park Close – Approved with conditions.

**Date of Decision:** January 8, 2026

**Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** January 29, 2026

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$315) 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.

# Flu activity in Alberta shows signs of peaking after intense early season

By Haylee Winger

This winter's influenza season has had a serious impact on Albertans, with provincial health data showing unusually high numbers of deaths and hospital admissions linked to the virus.

Health officials now report that 130 people across the province have died from influenza since the start of the 2025–26 season in August. During that same period, more than 2,700 patients have been admitted to hospital with flu-related illness, placing sustained pressure on the health-care system.

While flu severity varies year to year, this season stands out when compared to recent trends. At a similar point last winter, fewer than half as many deaths had been reported, with most occurring later in January. Earlier seasons also saw fluctuating outcomes: the winter of 2023–24 recorded a higher death count by late December, while the 2022–23 season reported slightly

fewer fatalities around the same time. The mildest recent season occurred in 2021–22, when flu-related deaths were not documented until spring.

Despite the heavy burden so far, provincial surveillance suggests the worst of the flu wave may have passed. After weeks of rapid growth, the number of confirmed cases and positive test results has stabilized. Hospital admissions declined sharply in the latest reporting period, falling by more than half compared with the previous week.

Vaccination coverage, however, remains modest. Roughly one in five Albertans has received a flu shot this season, amounting to just under one million people province-wide. In Calgary, uptake is slightly higher but still lags behind levels seen earlier in the decade. By comparison, vaccination rates during the 2020–21 season were nearly double current levels.

Public health officials continue to urge residents to get immunized, noting that vaccination remains the most reliable way to reduce severe illness and complications. Alberta's chief medical officer of health has previously pointed to the dominance of Influenza A as a key factor behind the elevated hospitalization rates observed this year.

Experts from the University of Alberta and the Institute of Health Economics say shifts in circulating flu strains have made this season harder to predict. Although models correctly anticipated when activity would crest, actual case counts exceeded expectations. Data shows infections peaked in mid-December before beginning a gradual decline.

Even with signs of improvement, health officials warn that hospitals and emergency departments are likely to remain busy as respiratory viruses continue circulating through the winter months.



## Woodlands County Council recap

Woodlands County Council discussed the following items at their Regular Council Meeting held on December 18th:

Council received the 2025 Q4 Community Services Operational Report for information. 2025 Q4 focused on strengthening public safety through training initiatives, completing several strategic infrastructure and planning projects, and advancing consultant-led initiatives tied to Council priorities.

Council authorized the Reeve and Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a four-year agreement with the Woodlands Express, to December 30, 2029, in the amount of \$16,000 per year, subject to confirmation of advertising deliverables and reporting expectations to be incorporated into the agreement. This is an increase from the previous \$15,000 a year agreement which was put in place by Council resolution on June 8, 2022.

Council endorsed holding a Joint Re-

gional Collaboration Session with the Town of Whitecourt, to focus on establishing shared vision, goals, and key objectives for regional collaboration. Councillors from both municipalities and Administrations have expressed interest in holding a joint session to support this priority. As such, Council directed Administration to work with the Town of Whitecourt to coordinate the scheduling, logistics, and preparation of materials for the session.

Council received a letter from Pembina Hills School Division requesting un-allocated funding of \$10,000 to enhance the safety of their school buses and transportations routes. Council received the letter for information.

Council reaffirmed the Minimum Municipal Tax of \$50 per parcel for all taxable properties for the 2026 taxation year, and directed Administration to bring back more information on properties that are affected by the minimum tax; further assessing

impacts across all property classes, providing stability and predictability for ratepayers, while maintaining the underlying principles of fairness, equity, and cost recovery.

Council approved the 2026 Interim Operating Budget, 2026 Capital Budget and 5-year Capital Plan.

### Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, January 15 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, January 29 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, February 12 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Governance & Priorities Meeting – Wednesday, February 18 @ 5:00 p.m.

Meetings are held in-person at the Woodlands County Municipal Office in Whitecourt and live-streamed on the Woodlands County YouTube channel. Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

## Flipi Gas-Fired Generation Project

Comments invited and funding available

**January 7, 2026** — TransAlta Corporation is proposing to develop a new power-generating facility fueled by natural gas, located approximately 18 kilometres southwest of Rimbey, Alberta.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) invites Indigenous Peoples and the public to review the summary of the Initial Project Description and provide comments on the proposed project. This feedback will help IAAC prepare a summary of issues that will be given to the proponent.

Visit the project homepage on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry ([canada.ca/ciar](https://canada.ca/ciar)), reference number 90120, to:

- ✓ Learn more about the project.
- ✓ Submit your comments online by **11:59 p.m. on January 27, 2026**. All comments will be published to the Registry.
- ✓ Apply for participant funding by **February 6, 2026**.
- ✓ Participate in an information session to learn more about the project and the impact assessment process.



Scan the QR-Code to visit the project homepage.

### Have a question?

Write to us at [Flipi@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Flipi@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) or visit our website at [canada.ca/ciar](https://canada.ca/ciar).

For media inquiries contact [media@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:media@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).



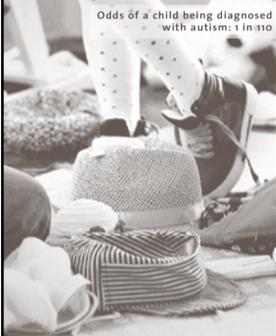
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### Announcements

"THINKING OF YOUR DREAM VACATION?" How about the Knights of Columbus Airdrie Dream Vacation Raffle. BUY YOUR TICKET TODAY! at [airdriedreamvacation.ca](http://airdriedreamvacation.ca)"

### Auctions

Ward's and Bud Haynes FIREARMS AUCTION. January 31st in Edmonton. Firearms, Ammo, Accessories. Call Brad Ward, 780-940-8378 to consign your items or collection. [FirearmsAuction.ca](http://FirearmsAuction.ca).

### Autos

BLANKET THE PROVINCE with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach 75 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903; [www.awna.com](http://www.awna.com); email [classifieds@awna.com](mailto:classifieds@awna.com).

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# Frozen beauty

A little hoar frost on a chilly evening made for a stunning display on this beautifully dressed evergreen in the Central School parking lot around New Year's.

### 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.



Repeat Boutique photo

Thanks to proceeds from the Repeat Boutique, the Friends of Whitecourt purchased this \$6,000 ice machine for the hospital. Pictured, Tyler Radke gives a thumbs up at the new machine, which will provide ice for patients.

**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)

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**WOODLANDS COUNTY**

**2026 Groat Creek Group Camping**

Reservations open January 5th for the 2026 camping season

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[WWW.LETSCAMP.CA](http://WWW.LETSCAMP.CA)

Campground open May long weekend to October long weekend

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