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Vol. 15 - Issue 21 | Wednesday, May 27, 2026

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Fiddlers, Métis culture, and a do-not-miss inaugural experience coming to Whitecourt in July



Photo by albertametis.com

An inaugural event will wind down its trek across the province towards the end of July, wrapping up in Whitecourt. The music-filled, culturally rich evening promises to be special. Pictured are The Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizen's Council. See story page 2.



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Fiddlers, Métis culture, and a do-not-miss inaugural experience coming to Whitecourt in July

By **Serena Lapointe**

This summer, Festival Park will be home to many different events from Party in the Park to Canada Day celebrations and gatherings large and small, as community members and visitors alike enjoy one of the town's prettiest amenities. It will also be home to cultural events, recognizing and celebrating the history of those who live here. On July 26, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, which translates to "the people who own themselves," will be sharing its Kitchen Party Tour with the community. The event is part of a long-running series of concerts across the province, which began on May 19 and will wrap up in Whitecourt.

Other communities on the list include Edmonton, High River, Fort Chipewyan, St. Albert, St. Paul des Métis, Conklin, Lac La Biche, Grande Prairie, Peace River, Fort Vermillion, Medicine Hat, Airdrie, Rocky Moun-

tain House and Hinton.

This is the inaugural year for the event, which President of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Andrea Sandmaier said is a point of pride for the organization. "A kitchen party is a long-standing Métis tradition of informal, community-based gatherings, where people come together connect, celebrate, and unwind. For generations, our families gathered in kitchens, yards, and community spaces. After long days, our Métis parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, and friends would pull up chairs, play the fiddle, dance, and share stories," she explained in her President's Corner announcement last week.

"These were moments of celebration of our Métis identity, history, and people. They were also how we carried our culture forward, stayed connected, and held onto our identity, even when it was not always safe to do so. The Kitchen Par-

ty Tour is about bringing that spirit back, by creating space for Métis Citizens to come together to reconnect, to share our stories, and to celebrate who we are."

During the April 27 Regular Meeting of Council, members received a letter from the Otipemisiwak Métis Government inviting the municipality to collaborate with them for the event. "We believe this could further strengthen the event and highlight Whitecourt's commitment to cultural celebration and reconciliation-focused collaboration," wrote Mike Handy, Lac Ste. Anne District 8 Captain.

Angela Mitchell, FCSS Manager for the Town of Whitecourt & Area Family Support Program had partnered with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to support an Indigenous Artisan Market during the event. "Family Support Program staff will be in attendance to promote services and strengthen cultural con-

nections with attendees," she explained.

She said the goal of the event is to bring people together "In a positive, inclusive atmosphere." She said that everyone is welcome to attend. "Members of the community, allies, friends and family of all ages are invited to attend this free event."

Whitecourt Town Council provided support for the event, motioning in favour of having members attend. They also motioned in favour of sending a letter back to District Captain Mike Handy, thanking the Otipemisiwak Métis Government for the opportunity to collaborate.

For those unfamiliar with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Métis Citizens overwhelmingly ratified a constitution to establish the body in late 2022, with the first election held the following fall. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government is now the government of the Métis Nation within Alberta and is recognized

by the Government of Canada through a self-government agreement letter signed between the two parties in 2023, as per the Otipemisiwak Métis Government website.

"Whether you grew up with kitchen parties, are reconnecting with your Métis roots, or are joining for the first time, there is a place for you. Bring your family, bring a chair or blanket, pack a picnic, and take part in something that has always

been ours," said President Sandmaier, in her open invitation on the government's website.

"Our Métis culture is not something behind us. It is alive in our gatherings, in our stories, and in each other, and through the Kitchen Party Tour, we are strengthening it for future generations." Whitecourt's stop on the tour will take place on July 26 at Festival Park between 7 and 9 pm.

Mark your calendars!



Town of Whitecourt photos

Whitecourt RCMP recently visited École St. Anne School, where kindergarten students had the chance to explore a police vehicle and decorate it with colourful artwork during a hands-on activity. Earlier this month, the students also toured the Whitecourt RCMP Detachment to learn more about community safety and the role local police officers play in the community.

Renewing your mortgage? Shop around



(NC) Is the term on your mortgage ending? If you still have a balance to pay, it is time to renew. Your bank will remind you by sending a mortgage renewal statement. They are required to do so at least 21 days before your term ends. This statement includes all the important details about your mortgage, including its new interest rate. The rate will probably be higher than it used to be. Here are some tips to minimize the impact of this hike in your costs:

Explore your options You don't have to stick with the same lender. Do your research and compare rates with different ones. There may be better deals out there, but keep in mind that there could be charges or you may need to pay off other debts when switching lenders if, for instance, you have a home equity line of credit tied to the mortgage. Also be aware

of potential new insurance premiums when switching lenders.

Use your knowledge to your advantage

Use the insights you gained by shopping around to negotiate with your current lender for a potentially lower interest rate. By talking to your lender, you may learn that you qualify for a lower rate. In any case, you will want to take some action because doing nothing leads to an automatic renewal as outlined in the renewal statement.

Take stock of where you are

The time before a mortgage renewal is a good occasion to assess your financial situation and mortgage requirements. Does your budget allow for increased payments? Can you increase the payment frequency? This will allow you to pay your mortgage off sooner.

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Maverick is up to date on vaccinations and awaiting neuter surgery. Applications are being accepted now.

To learn more or book a meet-and-greet, call **Whitecourt Pound** at: **780-778-5767**



Is it currently feasible for a helipad to be built at the Whitecourt hospital?

A STARS crew in action.



Whitecourt Town Council recently learned a bit more about what it could cost to have a helipad at the Whitecourt Hospital. The group discussed current practices and heard about what other municipalities have done, including costs and a potential unintended consequence.

| By Serena Lapointe

Following a presentation by Glenda Farnden, Senior Municipal Relations Liaison for STARS Air Ambulance, in late January, Whitecourt Town Council considered the possibility of establishing a helipad for STARS to utilize within the community, specifically at or near the current hospital.

The elected officials asked their administration to examine whether or not it was actually a workable idea.

At the May 19 Policies and Priorities Meeting, Lee Hardman, Director of Community Safety, and Peter Smyl, Town of Whitecourt CAO, provided the committee with information on the current practices for STARS and the potential costs associated with a helipad project.

Two Alberta municipalities that have helipads at their hospitals are Valleyview and Innisfail. It is worth noting that having one inside a rural municipality is not common. Innisfail has had its facility since the late 1990s, but voluntarily closed it in 2020 because the helipad no longer met Transport Canada's regulations. After 29 months closed, it recently reopened with significant upgrades.

Valleyview's permanent helipad has been active for eleven years. The project was a collaboration between the Town of Valleyview, the M.D of Greenview, and the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, costing a reported \$200,000 at the time. Today's costs are significantly higher, as Hardman explained, a helipad in Whitecourt would likely fall in the ballpark of \$750,000 to one million dollars, with a yearly operating cost of around \$55,000.

Though the project has been successful in those two communities, there are others who have tried for years without success to have a helipad installed, simply due to the regulatory process that surrounds it. One such community is High Prairie.

The conversation around a helipad began in 2014, three years before their 228-million-dollar health complex was opened.

Current practice for STARS out of High Prairie is to use the airport, roughly seven kilometres away from the hospital. When the new hospital opened in 2017, Transport Canada approved a temporary landing site steps from the hospital, near-by in an open field. That

allowance remained for three years before it was shut down as it no longer met safety requirements and operational specifications.

Six years later, and the community is still advocating for its helipad project because the logistics of having an approved, dedicated helipad within a community are not for the faint of heart. Transport Canada has numerous regulations that need to be met, including physical dimensions, obstacle limitations, and visual/lighting aids. Helipads need to be properly designed and engineered for surface and load, able to support a minimum of 14,000 pounds, have proper fire protections, lighting, safety zones, and align with Alber-

ta Health Services guidelines. Then there are zoning requirements from government bodies and environmental impacts. And that's just a short list.

Another factor that comes into play is the distance from a municipality's hospital to a situated landing site, such as an airport, as well as any possible in-

terferences with travel, like a railway.

For Whitecourt, the airport is roughly twelve kilometres away from the hospital, and although an intersection with train tracks is near the access route, it doesn't cross the direct path.

"The current practice is that a patient has to be stabilized before transport via helicopter," explained Hardman. "They can land on a variety of different terrains, but they do not land within town. I am aware of a few instances in which they have landed in town, but it is not their standard practice. The common practice is to go to the airport," explained Hardman.

"It does not guarantee service availability." He added that if the committee wanted to look into it further, the next step would be to have a study done.

The committee asked if this were a conversation that could be pinned to future talks about the hospital, to see if it's something that could be added to the project when the hospital is finally upgraded or replaced. It was also noted that an investment in a helipad before hospital upgrades occur could potentially jeopardize the hospital's advocacy efforts. "We don't want to build a helipad where it may be moved in the future, in regard to the

He said there were concerns about the hill itself and the tree line, one of which is easier to deal with than the other. "It would be something that we would like to incorporate into a recommendation if they're (the province) discussing the new hospital, to indicate that we'd still like the helipad."

It was questioned in the meeting if ambulances have any currently concerns getting to the Whitecourt Airport, including through the gate. Chair Councillor Bill McAree said that accessibility at the airport was better. He noted that ambulance drivers have access to

Photos by STARS



STARS Air Ambulance currently uses the airport to pick up patients.

On whether to move forward with the project at this time, Hardman said the administration was recommending against it.

design of a hospital," added Hardman. CAO Smyl said conversations around a helipad at Whitecourt's hospital go back twenty years.

the code and can get through it quickly. The committee accepted the report as information and will not be taking any steps forward at this time.

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Share your thoughts on the future of Blue Ridge!

Woodlands County is developing an Area Structure Plan (ASP) for the Hamlet of Blue Ridge and is inviting residents to provide input on this long-range community planning document.

The purpose of community engagement is to understand how residents want the Hamlet of Blue Ridge to look like over time. We want to learn what residents value about the community today and what they would like to see in the future.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPEN HOUSE May 26th!

Come learn about the project, ask questions, and share your input!

The purpose of this session is to:

- 1. Highlight survey results and share what the County heard at the first engagement session held on April 21, 2026
2. Present preliminary analysis findings from technical studies being conducted as part of the ASP project, noting that some studies are still ongoing.
3. Introduce concept plan ideas
4. Share high-level policy ideas developed from the "What We Heard" report
5. Allow residents to provide further feedback on the project.

Tuesday April 21, 2026
4:00pm to 7:30pm
Blue Ridge Community Hall & Community League, 304 2 Ave, Blue Ridge, AB T0E 0B0

It's a come-and-go session, and all Blue Ridge residents are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend, there will also be future open houses for residents to attend as we progress the project.

For more information, visit the Blue Ridge ASP Project webpage:
https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/blue-ridge-area-structure-plan

Contact the Planning Department if you have questions or feedback for the project team. Email planning@woodlands.ab.ca or call 780-778-8400.

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NOTICES OF DECISION

APPLICATION :26-DP-026
Location: NE 19-59-12 W5M Lot 5, Plan 9720727
Proposed Development: Secondary Suite, External
Decision Date: May 19, 2026
Appeal Deadline: June 9, 2026

APPLICATION :26-DP-027
Location: NW 28-59-12 W5M Lot 1, Block 2, Plan 0620123
Proposed Development: Accessory Structure with Variance to undeveloped road allowance from 30m to 7.3m
Decision Date: May 19, 2026
Appeal Deadline: June 9, 2026

APPLICATION :26-DP-028
Location: NW 31-58-10-W5M, Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 1525681
Proposed Development: Home Occupation Major: Contractor Services, Transport
Decision Date: May 11, 2026
Appeal Deadline: June 2, 2026

For full details on Development Permits visit

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



Residents of Fort Assiniboine & Blue Ridge, it's time for spring clean-up!

County crews will be collecting items placed at your regular household garbage collection point during Hamlet Clean Up Week.

Accepted items include:

- Household waste
• Yard waste
• "White" metals (small appliances, washers, dryers, BBQs, small fridges & freezers)

Please note:

- No vehicles or vehicle parts
• No large demolition or construction debris
• No items requiring a loader or crane
• Crews will not enter yards to collect items

For more information, please call 780-778-8400.

Please note, this event coincides with the Whitecourt Regional Landfill Clean Up Week. For more information on that free event, please visit: https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/regional-landfill



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- 🔍 Stay informed on zoning rules and timelines

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Or contact us at planning@woodlands.ab.ca 780-778-8400



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For more information:

Contact the Fire Chief at the station nearest you.

Scan the QR Code, or go to:

<https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/volunteer-firefighter-faqs>



Please note: Fort Assiniboine Station 2 is currently not accepting new members, but they are happy to accept applications for future consideration. For more info, contact Fire Chief Devin Williams: 780-305-4183.

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to access crisis support by phone, in French or English: toll-free **1-833-456-4566** Available 24/7

Crisis Text Line (Powered by Kids Help Phone) Canada Wide free, 24/7 texting service is accessible immediately to youth

anywhere in Canada by texting TALK to **686868** to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to **686868** to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/SMS enabled cell phone.

KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under in

Canada **1-800-668-6868** (Online or on the Phone). First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness 24/7 Help Line **1-855-242-3310**

Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line **1-866-925-4419**

Trans LifeLine – All Ages **1-877-330-6366**

Putting a face on suicide



Danelle Cox

Age 15

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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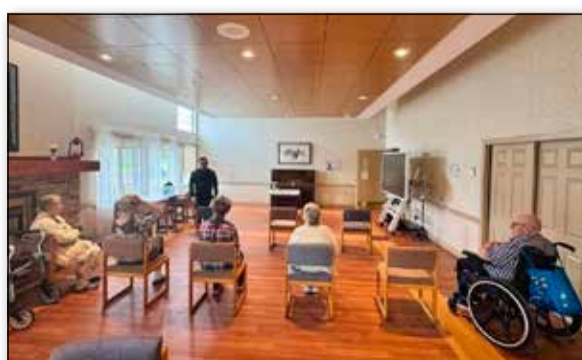


Spruce View Lodge photos



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.



Spruce View Lodge residents went for their first spring walk of the season and enjoyed the fresh warm air. Later that day their Catholic Mass service was held, uplifting the attendees.

Alberta RCMP removes 122 impaired drivers from Alberta roadways over Victoria Day long weekend

| Alberta RCMP Release
From May 15-18, 2026, over the Victoria Day long weekend, the Alberta RCMP conducted enhanced traffic enforcement to target impaired drivers and unsafe driving prac-

tices. As a result, 122 total drivers were removed from the roads for being impaired due to drugs or alcohol. The 122 total removed drivers included the following Immediate Roadside

- Sanctions (IRS):
- Nine drivers received IRS 24-hour suspensions;
 - 37 drivers received IRS WARNS;
 - 71 drivers received IRS FAILS; and
 - Five novice/com-

mercial drivers were removed for IRS ZEROS. Additionally, 1,204 total tickets were issued, including 26 tickets for distracted driving, 1,142 speeding tickets, and 36

tickets for seatbelt infractions. Sadly, there were 25 injury collisions and six fatalities. "The Alberta RCMP will continue to have an enhanced presence on provincial

roadways every long weekend," says Sgt. Darrin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "Everyone has a role to play—choices like driving sober, staying focused, and buckling up can save lives." For more traffic safety information, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and X @RCMPAlberta.

How do your health risks change after 50?

(NC) It's often said that "age is just a number," though some of those numbers may matter more for our health than others. Keeping up physical activity and a positive outlook can make a real difference at any age, but the body goes through changes around the age of 50 that can affect your risk of several health issues. Here are a few to be aware of:

Bone health. They may be solid and mineralized, but bones are still living tissue. Your body needs to replenish that tissue continually. As you age, the rate of replacement slows down. According to the Bone Health and Osteoporosis Foundation, one in two women and up to one in four men over the age of 50 will break a bone due to osteoporosis. There are things you can do to lower your risk and protect your bone health, including getting enough calcium

and vitamin D, eating a well-balanced diet and engaging in regular exercise. Heart disease. Age can bring on changes in the heart and blood vessels that may increase the risk of heart disease and stroke. For instance, arterial plaque and cholesterol may build up over time, and heart valves can also become thicker and less flexible. There are things you can do to help keep your heart healthy, such as regular

movement, maintaining a healthy weight, managing stress and choosing foods that are low in saturated fats, added sugars and salt. Shingles. If you're one of the 90 per cent of Canadians who've had chicken pox, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada, you're at risk of shingles. It typically shows up as a painful, blistering rash caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus, which lies dormant

in the nervous system after having chicken pox. Reactivation can happen years later, when the immune system weakens as a result of age, stress or certain health conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes or heart disease. Age is an important risk factor for shingles, with the disease being most common in people aged 50 or older. According to the National Advisory Com-

mittee on Immunization, up to 40 per cent of people who experience shingles report at least one complication, such as post-herpetic neuralgia, which is nerve pain that can persist for months or even years. The good news is shingles can be prevented and vaccination is broadly available. If you're 50 or older, you can speak with your healthcare provider about reducing your risk of these and other health issues.

A look at the local weather	Wed., May 27	Thu., May 28	Fri., May 29	Fri., May 30	Sun., May 31
P.O.P.	40%	40%	40%	20%	20%
High	19°C	22°C	22°C	19°C	16°C
Low	10°C	11°C	11°C	8°C	7°C
Wind	NW 19 km/h	NW 17 km/h	E 20 km/h	NW 18 km/h	E 19 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	<1mm	~1mm	~1mm	~1mm	-

Canadian inflation: Spike but no (rate) hike...yet

By Mark Parsons, ATB ECONOMICS

Canadian inflation: Spike but no (rate) hike...yet
The cost-of-living jumped last month, as the War in Iran and blockade of the Strait of Hormuz caused gasoline prices to spike. The national consumer price index (CPI) rose 2.8% in April on a year-over-year (y/y) basis. That's the largest gain in nearly two years. Gasoline prices leaped 29% over April 2025, pushing headline inflation higher. * The good news? So far, the energy price spike has not been accompanied by broader increases in the CPI basket of goods and services. Excluding gasoline prices, the CPI rose 2% y/y, a deceleration from the 2.2% pace set in March. Further, the core inflation metrics used by the Bank of Canada to gauge underlying

inflation are (so far) cooperating. Both the median (2.1% y/y) and trim (2.0% y/y) eased to their lowest levels since 2021. * Even the old-fashioned core metric - CPI excluding food and energy - rose 1.5% y/y for its smallest annual gain since March 2021. ** So, what's been keeping inflation (excluding gasoline) at bay? Here are a few key examples:

- Food inflation, while stubbornly high, eased to 3.5% y/y from 4% in March.
- Rents for accommodation have been another inflation culprit, but its rate also came down last month to a four-year low of 3.5% y/y. We expect this downward trend to continue, as it takes time for the declines in asking rents to show up in average rents paid.
- Mortgage interest costs were a mas-

sive inflation driver during the rate hiking cycle but fell (-0.1% y/y) for the first time since 2022. Every province excluding B.C. (smaller rent increases) saw its inflation rate accelerate last month. Alberta's inflation rate came in at 3.2% y/y—its first reading above the national rate since March 2025. The Bank of Canada will not be surprised by today's report, which was anticipated in the last Monetary Policy Report (indeed, they forecast that inflation "peaks at roughly 3% in April"). If anything, they will take comfort in the milder core inflation readings, which reinforces our view that inflation was cooperating pre-war. The key line from the last rate announcement is this: "Governing Council is looking through the war's im-

mediate impact on inflation but will not let higher energy prices become persistent inflation". In other words, it's all about duration. If oil prices fall back, as expected in the futures market, the Bank of Canada will likely stay on hold as it balances a weak economy with the new inflation pressures. But if oil prices remain high, and more im-

portantly spill into the broader inflation basket (or in the words of the Bank, inflation becomes "generalized"), the Bank has been clear they will need to raise rates. The bottom line is the Bank will stay in 'wait-and-see' mode. This report on its own should not raise any alarms and, combined with a sluggish labour market, should keep them on

hold at the next meeting scheduled for June 10. *The carbon tax removal (starting April 2025) of 17.6 cents per litre is out of the base period and no longer influencing the annual inflation rate. The federal gasoline tax temporary removal of 10 cents per litre (April 20 until Labour Day) will provide a partial offset in the months ahead.



HELP WANTED

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

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Whitecourt, AB | Whitecourt, AB



Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce photo

Representatives from the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce joined staff at Hear Canada Whitecourt for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the business's grand opening in Whitecourt on May 14.

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 positions:

Job#: 26-041 – Landfill Operator I – Permanent -Part-Time – Closes June 5, 2026

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



FREE CLEAN UP WEEK

JUNE 3-6, 2026

To assist you with your spring cleaning, we will be offering free disposal at the Whitecourt Regional Landfill from June 3-6, 2026. FREE Clean Up Week is jointly offered to Whitecourt and Woodlands County residents. Excludes industrial and commercial customers.

DROP OFF DAY PREP

Residents will be required to show their Landfill Access Tag to receive free disposal. Two pieces of identification showing your residential address will also be accepted (i.e. driver's licence, tax notice, utility bill, etc.).

All items must be sorted, and bagged or bundled for disposal. Residents will be responsible for unpacking and placing items in designated areas at the Landfill so be sure to wear appropriate footwear for the Landfill.

DROP OFF HOURS

At the Whitecourt Regional Landfill
Located 17kms east of Whitecourt
on Highway 43.

Wednesday, June 3 to
Saturday, June 6
9:00am to 4:00pm

Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.72 US Dollar
at an exchange rate of **0.7237** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of May 27, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- 2026-05-07: Transit Stop Enhancement Program. Closes: June 5, 2026 at 2:00pm
- 2026-05-15: Street Improvement Program. Closes: June 1, 2026 at 2:00pm
- 2026-05-20: Whitecourt Landfill Cell 2B Expansion. Closes: June 10, 2026 at 2:00pm

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

Alberta Rural Health Week

May 25 – 29, 2026

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize May 25 – 29 as Alberta Rural Health Week. Rural Health providers are essential in ensuring the strength and well-being of our communities

During Alberta Rural Health Week, we encourage you to recognize and celebrate the individuals and teams who bring care closer to home and contribute to a strong future for rural healthcare.

Senior's Week 2026

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize June 1 – 6 as Seniors' Week. Seniors' Week honours and celebrates seniors for their many contributions to our community and province. Celebrate Seniors' Week with the Town of Whitecourt and join the many activities scheduled throughout the community. Details on events and activities can be found on www.whitecourt.ca.



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WHITECOURT: 780-779-2533 | MAYERTHORPE: 780-786-2533

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NO SPRAY AGREEMENTS

WOODLANDS COUNTY

Woodlands County residents can apply for a No Spray Agreement for eligible road rights-of-way adjacent to their property.

Participants agree to maintain the area free of noxious weeds and brush, while opting out of herbicide application along the designated roadside area.

No Spray signs are provided at no cost in your first year of participation, and agreements can be completed at either County office.

Learn more or apply today: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/weed-control>

SHELTERBELT PROGRAM SURVEY

WOODLANDS COUNTY

Woodlands County is exploring the potential development of a Shelterbelt Program to support agricultural producers and rural landowners. Shelterbelts can help reduce wind erosion, manage snow, improve soil health, and enhance wildlife habitat.



Your feedback will help shape program design, funding, and services to best meet local needs.

Access the survey by scanning the QR code or go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L3SHLMV>

This survey will take approximately 5–7 minutes to complete. All responses are confidential.

DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

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

If you have any comment or concern regarding this proposal you may provide a written statement via email to planning@woodlands.ab.ca prior to **4:30 p.m., June 4, 2026**. The Development Authority will be making a decision on the following development permit applications following this deadline.

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

Legal Description	Development Permit Application Number	Proposal
SW 33-58-13 W5M, LOT 2 BLOCK 1 PLAN 032-5035	26-DP-041	Secondary Suite, External

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 p.m., June 4, 2026**.

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

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGE:

The Regular Council Meeting for Thursday, June 4, 2026 has been cancelled and rescheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

JOIN US! Meetings are open to the public and are live streamed on the Woodlands County YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/WoodlandsCounty

Access meeting schedules, agenda packages, minutes, and more through our CivicWeb Portal: woodlands.civicweb.net/Portal/



Town of Whitecourt photo

École St. Anne kindergarten students pose with members of the Whitecourt RCMP beside a police vehicle they helped decorate during a recent hands-on community safety activity in Whitecourt. Earlier this month, the students also toured the Whitecourt RCMP detachment to learn more about policing and staying safe in the community.

LIVE AUCTION FOR EDENS

LOCATED: (FROM CHERHILL JUNCTION OF HWY 43 AND HWY 764. GO 2 MILES E TO RR51. TURN S THEN W) (FROM DARWELL JUNCTION OF HWY 43 AND HWY 765. GO 1 MILE W ON HWY 43 TO RR51. TURN S THEN W)

THURSDAY JUNE 4 AT 6 PM

INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURE * D7-17A Crawler w Dozer Blade * Ford Industrial Yard Tractor w 3 cyl, FE Loader, bucket, forks * 40 ft Hi Boy for Farm Use * Nice 1988 GMC 7000 Truck w (35,000 mi Showing) 5 spd, gas, 12 T Winch, Hide Away 5th W * 6 ft Dozer Blade * Frame w hoist * High Lift - Motor Lift Rolling Yard Chain Hoist * Plus More Unique Items * MF 65 diesel Tractor w 3 pt * 6 ft Trailing PTO 6 ft Rough Cut Mower * Rolling Swath Depressor 8 ft *

ROLLING STORAGE SHEDS 6 of 40 ft Highway Trailer Vans * Some with Roof Sky Light Installed * Some sold w Contents * Some Empty, Clean + Neat

10 DUAL AXLE TRAILERS * Big to Small / Good for Personal and/or On Farm Requirements * 25 ft Norbert GN Trailer w 2 dual W Axles * Nice 12 ft 2 axle Hyd Tilt Trailer * 16 ft, 20 ft, 24 ft BH Trailers * 20 ft 5th W Trailer * Other Trailers Great for Water Tanks, Welders or Other Use * 35 ft Reagon 5th W Holiday Trailer

LOTS OF USABLE YARD, LIVESTOCK, FARM ITEMS 3 Rolls New Barb Wire * 5 Rolls Chain Link Fencing w 4 Panels + Plus Variety of Used Pet, Animal, Chicken Fence * Large Pile of Orange Plastic Snow Fence * Variety of Lumber, Poles and Posts * Good 4 ft Grass Sweep * Much More

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PLEASE NOTE This Property has been SOLD * This will be a fast moving sale. All Items must be removed by June 21. Come and Enjoy Some Friendship.

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www.parsonsauctions.com

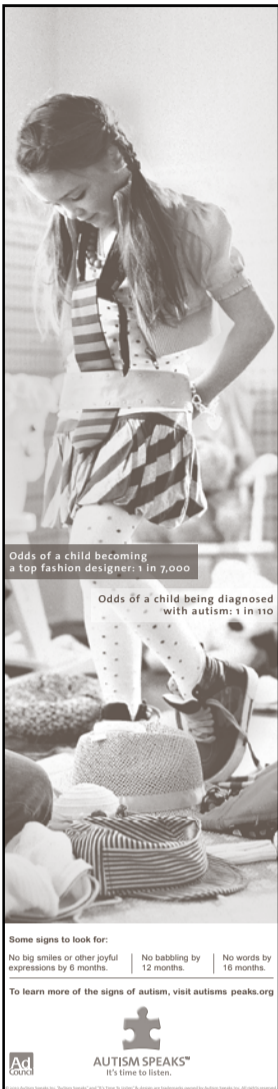


JEFF PARSONS:
780-305-4328



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Alberta and NWT for \$269 (up to 25 words) \$8.00 each additional word. These ads are placed in over 100 community newspapers throughout Alberta. We can also place ads in other provinces throughout Canada.



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

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 50

Some signs to look for:
No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months. No babbling by 12 months. No words by 18 months.

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org



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WHITE SPRUCE TREES: 5' average \$50. Installation ONLY \$19. Includes: hole augered, Wurzel Dip enzyme injection, bark mulch application, staking. Minimum order 25. One-time fuel charge: \$150 - 300. Crystal Springs. 403-820-0961. Quality guaranteed.

albertasprucetrees.com.

Heavy Equipment For Sale

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; email classifieds@awna.com.

Services

PRIVATE MORTGAGE LENDER. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. 403-543-0927; www.firststandsecondmortgages.ca.

Travel

OSOYOOS LAKESHORE VILLA: Executive villa in Osoyoos, BC, breathtaking lake views, just 3 minutes from town. Vacation in Canada's warmest destination. Or warmer weather, two luxurious 5-star resort units in Phoenix, Arizona. Doug 306-716-2671 or visit osoyooslakevilla.com.

Wanted

WANTED: Collector paying top prices: old advertising signs, gas pumps, Red Indian, White Rose, Buffalo, Ford Dodge, GM. 1968-70 Chargers, 1970-71 Barracuda's. Running or not. 306-221-5908.

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Alberta RCMP gives tips to curb auto-related theft

In 2025, there were 7,214 motor vehicles stolen in Alberta RCMP jurisdiction, and 5,134 thefts from vehicles. Half-ton trucks were the most stolen type of vehicle. Help avoid becoming a victim of this type of crime by following these basic habits and routines:

- Never leave your vehicle unattended if the keys are in it.
- Always lock your vehicle, even if you are just stepping out for a moment.
- Never leave keys, ga-

rage door openers, or important documents with personal identifying information in your vehicle. Garage door openers or keys can be stolen, along with personal identifying documents, to enter your home.

- When leaving your vehicle, always close the windows, even when it's hot outside.
- Park your vehicle in a locked garage. If unable to do so, try parking within sight and in a well-

lit area. This may mean leaving outdoor lights on.

- Ensure personal belongings, loose change, and valuables are not stored in your vehicle. These items can entice opportunistic thieves.

While auto-related theft continues to be prevalent, by following auto theft safety, you can help avoid becoming a victim.

For more information on preventing theft of, and from, vehicles,

please follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta, X @RCMPAlberta, and on YouTube @RCMP-GRC Alberta. If you see something suspicious, report it to your local police service. If you see a crime in progress, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

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

Kim Nendsa (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society)
780-778-0932 **Aimee Grierson** 780-262-0222 <https://wctcancerwellness.com/>



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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



Recover Out Loud

- Mondays are in person, at the Family Worship Center upstairs, and online (hybrid) at 7:30pm
 - Fridays 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Baptist Church in person only.
- ZOOM ID: 818 413 483 PASSWORD: **gratitude**

Whitecourt 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



CALL Ruth
780-674-7182

Support group on Tuesdays, February 17 to May 5.
Crossroads Community Church, 4719 44 Avenue
Mayerthorpe, Pre-registration is required

Emergency responders recognized for wildfire support



Woodlands County photos

Woodlands County recently extended its appreciation to the Alberta RCMP Traffic – Whitecourt Unit, Whitecourt RCMP Detachment and Lac Ste. Anne County Community Peace Officers for their assistance during recent wildfire response efforts. During the emergency response, officers helped maintain public safety by staffing barricades, monitoring detour routes and assisting in the protection of evacuated areas and residents. Responders also helped ensure pets and livestock were cared for throughout the wildfire situation. County officials recognized the dedication, professionalism and compassion shown by emergency personnel during the response efforts.

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

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

Visit www.whitecourtpress.com

Maurice Evan Duncan
"Papa"

March 25, 1948 - May 7, 2026

On Thursday May 7, 2026, Maurice passed away peacefully with his family by his side at the age of 78. He will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Maurice will be lovingly remembered by his daughters, Lisa and Tanya (Mike); his six grandchildren, Colten, Riel, Paige; and Jenna (Brandon), Logan, Sean (Tiana); and his siblings Robert and Rhonda Duncan.

He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Gayle; his parents, Rhoda and Don Duncan; and son-in-law Owen Ostopchuk.

Maurice was a quiet, reserved, and gentle soul. He felt most at home with his family and valued many lifelong friendships. Maurice will be remembered not for grand gestures or loud words, but for the goodness in his heart and the way he treated others. Maurice's first and greatest love was his wife, Gayle, and the family they built together. A Red Seal journeyman carpenter and skilled welder, Maurice was a true "Mr. Fix-It." If you could imagine it, he could build it. Maurice was a man who liked to stay busy and never idled for long. In quieter moments, he enjoyed spending time with his dogs, Meggie and Emily, and found peace in the outdoors.

The family would like to thank the staff at The Whitecourt Manor for their kind and compassionate care. For three years, he made The Manor his home, where everyone lovingly called him "Papa".

As per Maurice's wish, there will be no formal service, and he will join Gayle in the Whitecourt Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Maurice's memory to the Friends of Whitecourt Society.

To send condolences, please visit Affinity Funeral Service's website. **Funeral Arrangements in the care of Terri Shimenosky at:**

Affinity Funeral Service 780.778.3330
#1 4105 41st Avenue, Whitecourt, Alberta