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# The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 15 - Issue 24 | Wednesday, June 17, 2026



**A couple of the beloved water features at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre are set for replacement, and the characters coming in are going to become fast favourites of pool users. Pictured is the new Orca feature for the AJMC.**

## There's a whale of a change coming to the pool at the AJMC later this summer

**| By Serena Lapointe**

Since its grand opening in September 2008, the Allan & Jean Millar Centre has become a hub for the community, hosting a range of activities and events. When the doors are open, the spaces are bustling with people of all ages, from the upstairs gym and walking track to the fieldhouse

and hallway ping pong table.

One of the busiest spots is often the pool, where people can simultaneously be riding down the slide, swimming laps, diving, leisurely floating along, or playing in the shallow spaces with their youngsters. Part of the fun is the features like the rock wall in

the deep pool and the kid zone toys like the sprayer guns and waterfall.

After years of good use and enjoyment, some of the features have reached their end of life and need to be replaced. The three squirt toys in the tot pool, two water can-

**continued on page 2**

## Golden year-end wrap-up for the 721 Whitecourt Hawk Air Cadets

**| By Serena Lapointe**

On Wednesday evening, the youth who make up the 721 Whitecourt Hawk Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron performed before a crowd of parents, community supporters, and dignitaries for the club's 28th Annual Inspection. In attendance were Whitecourt Mayor Ray Hiltz, Fire Chief Aaron Floyd, who served as the evening's RO (Reviewing Officer), several firefighters in



**continued on page 3**



**The Whitecourt Air Cadets put on one heck of a show during the squadron's final parade night of the season. Dressed to impress and showing off a year's worth of hard work, determination and grit, the youth aged 12-18 showed what's possible when teamwork is the goal. Pictured are eight cadets were awarded for near perfect attendance by Mayor Ray Hiltz and the SSC Chair Jay Thebeau.**



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yons in the zero-depth area of the leisure pool and the blue rain grove in the zero-depth area of the leisure pool all need to be switched out for something new because they no longer work properly. Changes will give a whole new generation of youth new places to make fun memories inside the Pembina Gas Infrastructure Aquatic Centre.

During the June 8 Regular Meeting of Town Council, elected officials got to see what some of the replacements and new additions will look like. They also heard about how the process went in selecting the company for the job and when the changes are expected to take place.

Kelly Sadoway, Manager of Recreation, Arts and Culture for the

Town of Whitecourt, stepped in on behalf of Chelsea Grande, Director of Community Services, to share the news and provide tidbits. She said they put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) at the end of April, which closed at the end of May. One proposal was received by Reca Vinyl Works Inc, a manufacturer and installer of water features for aquatic facilities based out of Ontario. The company has previously worked with facilities in Bow Island and Stettler within the last year years.

Following the RFP process, a representative from Reca Vinyl Works visited Whitecourt to see the space at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre in person, allowing them to better create the water features, as well as better understand the liner

needs for when the new features are installed.

Sadoway explained that they originally planned on replacing the water canyons, but when they received the proposed design, that plan quickly changed. "When they proposed the design, we realized that the whale was really big. So, we thought, instead of replacing the water canyons, we would leave that space open for programming for Mom & Tot or for parent/tot lessons and for preschool swimming lessons. That happens near the Blue Rain Grove right now, and with that being replaced by a very cool Orca whale, there wasn't really another space open."

To replace the broken parts, add in the gigantic whale and plop in a few other new pieces, including little squirts around the kiddie pool

in the form of a baby manta ray, baby crab and a baby fish, the pool will need to be shut down. Each year, staff at the AJMC shut down the pool to perform regular maintenance and overall upkeep of the facility. This year's annual closure is slated to run from August 4 to September 11, and the hope is that the additions can be completed during that window of time.

The design of the Orca shows it seemingly jumping out of the water, which this reporter's millennial heart immediately links to a certain killer whale franchise with a whale that jumped over a rocky bank to freedom. (Free Willy, anyone?) Given the enjoyment that the current features provide to users, there's no doubt that Whitecourt's whale will do the same.

### Meet Maverick

Maverick is a handsome one-year-old Rottweiler/German Shepherd cross looking for his forever home.



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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

### Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.71 US Dollar at an exchange rate of 0.7149 (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of June 17, 2026

*The Press* **Got a news tip?**  
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continued from page 1

full dress, members of the Whitecourt RCMP detachment, Branch #44 Royal Canadian Legion President Ralph Schutte and representatives from the Lions Club, as well as Air League and the squadron's leadership core.

The evening began with a booming call to attention, as the fourteen well-dressed youth lined up ready for inspection. RO Fire Chief Aaron Floyd, alongside Mayor Hilts and the squadron captains, CO Captain Westling and DCO Captain Mitchell Kasey, CD, slowly walked through the group of at-attention cadets, checking out their uniforms, asking questions and giving the squadron a once-over.

Once completed, the youth-led parade began, and, to the beat of the drum, they marched around the parade square, saluting the dignitaries as they passed by before taking a sharp left turn back to where they started. They then marched forward eight paces together as one unit, nailing the stop command in perfect unison.

To the youth standing at attention before him, Mayor Hilts said they should all be proud.

"You should be proud of what you have accomplished this year. Every parade night attended, every challenge overcome, and every goal achieved reflects your commitment and character. On behalf of the Town Council and the residents of Whitecourt, congratulations on a successful year. We are proud of each of you and grateful for the positive example you set in our com-

munity. Keep aiming high, working hard, and reaching for your goals."

He noted that being a cadet was about more than learning new skills. "It is about developing leadership, responsibility, teamwork and confidence, qualities that will serve you well throughout your lives, no matter what path you choose." He added that being there tonight was about recognizing their hard work, discipline and dedication.

RO Chief Floyd called the program a launchpad for life and pointed to four past cadets who've taken their youthful career all the way through into adulthood. "Before they ever slipped the surly bones of earth, Canadian astronauts like Chris Hadfield, Jeremy Hansen, and Joshua Kutryk were sitting exactly where you are now, wearing the same uniform, learning the same drills. And before soaring in tight formation, Captain Iain Muir first learned to march in step on a parade square at 577 Grande Prairie Royal Air Cadet Squadron before going on to fly the number 7 Snowbird jet," said Chief Floyd.

"Their trajectories didn't happen by accident. They reached the stars because they spent their youth building the rocket, laying an unshakable foundation of hard work, perseverance, and the courage to push themselves a little further each day. In the fire service, we see the same thing. The people who grow, who lead, who make a difference in their communities are the ones who build strong habits early; habits of team-



work, respect, responsibility, and service. And I see those same qualities in all of you," spoke Chief Floyd.

Whether the cadets before him decide to earn their wings, serve their country, answer the call for their community or chart a new course, Chief Floyd said the steps taken in the cadet hall would be lasting. "The compass you've built here will guide you. As those who have worn this uniform before you have shown, gravity is just a suggestion, and the sky is not your limit. It is just your gateway to the stars."

The following awards were presented: Top Gun Award SGT Thomas, N. Top Drill Award SGT Thebeau, E. Top Drill and Department Award FT CPL Soderquist, D and SGT Larsen, D. Most Improved Award SGT Lapointe, E. Leadership Award SGT Thebeau, E. CO's Award WO2 Astle, L. Cadet Choice Award FT SGT

Thomas, N.

Awards were also given out for high attendance. Two cadets, LAC Marcer, A and SGT Thebeau, E, were awarded for perfect attendance, while eight cadets were awarded for near-perfect attendance (F-CPL Lamontagne, SGT Schuurman, F-CPL Soderquist, SGT Sergeew, F-SGT Thomas, N, WO2 Astle, LAC La, SGT Lapointe).

The Level One cadet for 2026 is LAC Marcer, A. The Level Two cadet is LAC La, T. The Level Three cadet is SGT Sergeew, R. The Level Four/Five cadet is SGT Schuurman, E. The Legion Medal was presented to WO2 Thompson, L and the Lord Strathcona Medal of Excellence, the highest honour that can be awarded to a Canadian cadet or Junior Canadian Ranger, was presented to FT SGT Thomas, N.

One of the familiar faces watching from the sidelines was that of

Captain (Retired) Louise Meier CD, CTD, who has been volunteering within the cadet organization since her son first entered when he was 12 years old. "He's 43 now, you do the math," chuckled Meier, who chose to stay involved because she believes so highly in what the program offers youth. She said the annual inspection night is a big deal.

"This is the culmination of their year of training. It's what they work towards every year, the awards and recognition and having their families and their community here to watch what they've done. To put their best bib and tucker on, right? To polish up their boots and get their hair cut. They are so proud to be in that uniform, and it showed tonight," said Meier.

Looking out at the hall of conversations and celebrations following the parade, as guests enjoyed snacks together, Meier said

the experience of the evening will follow the kids into the next year. "The kids are so proud of being recognized for what they've done, and that spills over into the rest of their lives. I just can't talk enough about what this program does for you as an adult. My son told me that so much of what he has and what he's done has come out of this program, and he's been out of it for a lot of years.

He still has friends from cadets now."

The evening was not only a win for the cadets but for the squadron as a whole. One of the firefighters in attendance said he wants to join the ranks as a volunteer, and Chief Floyd mentioned wanting to have the cadet band march with the firefighters. "It's fantastic. We also have a retired cadet coming back to volunteer. It takes a village, and that's what we're doing here; we're raising good Canadians, one cadet at a time."

## WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI



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## Notice to Town of Whitecourt Ratepayers

The 2026 Combined Assessment and Tax Notices for the Town of Whitecourt were mailed on May 8, 2026. Please see [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) for further details. If you have not yet received your notice please contact the Tax Department at 780-778-2273, as you are still responsible for the timely payment of your taxes.

### Important Dates to Remember:

**June 30, 2026**, with the exception of those ratepayers on the Tax Installment Plan, full payment of your taxes must be received at the Town Office, or postmarked prior to 4:30 p.m., to avoid penalties. Please make payment in person, by mail or through your banking institution.

**July 14, 2026**, is the deadline to submit your assessment complaint. Written complaints must be submitted on the prescribed form and accompanied with the appropriate fee to the Town Office by 4:00 p.m. It is strongly advised that you speak with the Assessor to answer any questions you might have regarding your assessment prior to submitting a formal assessment complaint.



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Whitecourt celebrates Seniors' Week with a full schedule of activities



Town of Whitecourt photos



By Haylee Winger

Whitecourt's seniors were celebrated in style during Seniors' Week, a community-wide event that brought residents together through a variety of activities, educational opportunities, and social gatherings from June 1 to 6.

The week highlighted the important role seniors play in the community, recognizing their wisdom, resilience, and ongoing contributions to local life. Organized through the Town of Whitecourt and supported by community partners, the event featured something for everyone, from recreational activities and learning sessions to community outings and entertainment.

One of the week's highlights was the Seniors' Week Resource Trade Fair, where local seniors had the opportunity to connect with organizations, service providers, and community groups. The event offered valuable information about programs, services, and resources available throughout the region, helping attendees discover new opportunities.

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SCHOOL NEWS



Whitecourt Central School photo

Whitecourt Central School kindergarten students celebrate their graduation during a ceremony held June 10. Families, caregivers and staff gathered to recognize the students as they prepare to move on to Grade 1.



Pat Hardy School photo

Curiosity in action—students participated in a nature hunt on June 9, using their five senses to explore and document Earth's systems.

continued from page 1

ties for support, recreation, and engagement.

The success of the trade fair and the week's events was made possible through the efforts of numerous sponsors, organizations, schools, and volunteers. Their contributions helped create a welcoming atmosphere where seniors could gather, learn, and build connections with others in the community.

Throughout the week, participants enjoyed a wide range of activities, including a kick-off pancake breakfast, tabletop curling, a communi-

ty tour, bingo, smartphone fundamentals workshops, a nature walk, intergenerational LEGO cart races, a cornhole tournament, and a dinner and dance. Each event encouraged social interaction while celebrating the vibrant and active senior population that continues to shape Whitecourt.

The inclusion of activities that brought together different generations also helped strengthen community ties, creating opportunities for younger residents to interact with and learn from local seniors.

As Seniors' Week drew to a close, organizers expressed ap-

preciation to everyone who participated, volunteered, sponsored events, and helped make the celebration possible. The week served as a reminder of the lasting impact seniors have on the community and the importance of creating opportunities for them to remain connected, active, and engaged.

Through events such as the Resource Trade Fair and the many activities offered throughout the week, Whitecourt once again demonstrated its commitment to recognizing and supporting the seniors who are an essential part of the community's foundation.

# Pat Hardy Ninja Course



Pat Hardy School photos

Pat Hardy students put their skills to the test during their Fitset Ninja obstacle course. The activity challenged students to climb, balance and move through obstacles while enjoying plenty of laughs and excitement along the way.

### A look at the local weather

P.O.P.  
High  
Low  
Wind  
24-Hr Rain / Snow



**Wed., June 17**  
Cloudy with showers  
70%  
16°C  
8°C  
W 28 km/h  
1-3mm



**Thu., June 18**  
Chance of shower  
40%  
17°C  
8°C  
N 12 km/h  
<1mm



**Fri., June 19**  
Mainly sunny  
30%  
18°C  
8°C  
E 12 km/h  
-



**Sat., June 20**  
Cloudy with showers  
60%  
15°C  
8°C  
NW 9 km/h  
1-3mm



**Sun., June 21**  
Cloudy with showers  
60%  
15°C  
8°C  
E 11 km/h  
~5mm

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If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, you need to know that you're not alone. You can also call if you are not in crisis, seeking additional information. The new Canada Suicide Prevention Service (CSPS), by Crisis Services Canada, enables callers anywhere in Canada

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

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

anywhere in Canada by texting TALK to **686868** to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and 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



Marcus James Hill

Age 17

*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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## Whitecourt RCMP report 164 calls for service while continuing community safety and school engagement efforts



By Haylee Winger

The Whitecourt RCMP responded to 164 occurrences over the most recent reporting period, with the majority of calls for service involving well-being checks, traffic collisions and traffic-related offences, general assistance to the public, and animal-related concerns. Members also continued proactive patrols in locations identified through the Community Priorities Plan Survey, focusing on areas

highlighted by residents as needing attention.

Community engagement activities were also a focus during this time. Over the past two weeks, Whitecourt RCMP partnered with the Whitecourt Mountain Bike Association, Town of Whitecourt councillors, the Crime Prevention Liaison, and municipal by-law officers to deliver four Bicycle Rodeo events. These sessions were held at Pat Hardy School, Whitecourt Central School, and École St. Anne School, where students participated in bicycle safe-

ty activities designed to promote safe riding habits. Organizers expressed appreciation to the students, parents, and school staff who attended and supported the events.

During the program, the Whitecourt Mountain Bike Association's Mike Braun and Tyler Braun were presented with Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their contributions to the planning and delivery of the Bicycle Rodeos, which were considered a strong success through their involvement and support. Alongside these initia-

tives, RCMP members also completed routine visits to local schools and businesses as part of their ongoing community presence. Residents are encouraged to contact the detachment with any questions or concerns by reaching out to Crime Prevention Liaison Kristen McLeod at [kristen.mcleod@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:kristen.mcleod@rcmp-grc.gc.ca) or Staff Sergeant Matthew Clarke at [matthew.clarke@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:matthew.clarke@rcmp-grc.gc.ca). In case of emergency, the public should call 911, while non-emergency police assistance remains available at 310-RCMP (7267).

## 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).



### WOODLANDS COUNTY BENEFITS PROGRAM – IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**HEALTH-RELATED TRAVEL COSTS REIMBURSEMENT:** Deadline June 30, 2026  
Please submit your reimbursement applications for any health-related travel costs incurred from January 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026, by June 30, 2026. (This is the primary intake period. Applications are processed twice per year following each intake period.)

**PROPERTY TAX REBATE:** Starting July 1, 2026.  
Property owners can apply to receive a flat rebate of \$150.00.

For full program details and forms, visit [woodlands.ab.ca/p/benefits-program](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/benefits-program), or call Community Services at 780-778-8400.

**ABOUT THE BENEFITS PROGRAM:**

Woodlands County's Benefits Program helps eligible low-income, senior, or disabled residents by offering the following:

- Health-related travel cost reimbursement: \$0.50/km, up to \$300 per person, per year.
- Property tax rebate: \$150 flat rebate if you own your own home.
- Up to 3 free snowplow flags per residence.



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.



**Did you know? All properties with a residence in Woodlands County must have a blue rural address sign,** with one sign required for each residence. These rural addresses help emergency services quickly locate property access points.

For more information or to request a sign, contact the Woodlands County office in Whitecourt at 780-778-8400.

Learn more: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/blue-rural-address-signs>

Or scan the QR Code with your phone:



Woodlands County coordinates the assignment, ordering, and installation of blue rural address signs.

If your sign is faded, incorrect, or no longer needed, please contact the County. Blue rural address signs are also available (optional) for recreational properties without a residence.

### CANADA DAY OFFICE CLOSURES & SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS:

Wednesday, July 1, all Waste Transfer Stations and both Municipal Offices will be closed. Offices will reopen Thursday, July 2, for regular hours.

### 2026 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT DEADLINE JUNE 30

2026 Property Tax Notices were mailed on Friday, May 15, and payments are due June 30.

For more information about taxes, payments, assessments, and reviews, please visit <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/corporate-services>, or call 780-778-8400

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## NOTICE TO READERS

Please note that we will not be publishing our July 1<sup>st</sup> edition this year due to the Canada Day holiday. Our next regular edition will resume the following week.

— Management & Staff

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**2027 BUDGET SURVEY**

Your voice matters! In 15 minutes, you can help shape the 2027 budget priorities.



Scan the QR code, or go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7KWGCPF>

For hard copies of the survey, please call our offices 780-778-8400, and we'll mail you one, or pick one up at front reception.

Survey deadline is June 30, 2026. Stay tuned to our website and social media for details on upcoming public engagement open houses.

WOODLANDS.AB.CA/P/BUDGETS

**RURAL BEAUTIFICATION NOMINATIONS**

**Woodlands County Agriculture Services Board (ASB) would like to recognize individuals who take pride in their property!**

The Rural Beautification Awards recognize individuals who, through yard maintenance and property beautification, foster civic pride, environmental awareness, and municipal beautification.

Nominating someone is a great way to acknowledge the countless hours spent landscaping, maintaining, and enhancing a valued part of our County.

One agricultural and one non-agricultural recipient will be selected from each County Division. Awards will be presented at the Annual Agriculture Services Supper.

**Nomination forms are available at both County offices and online at [www.woodlands.ab.ca](http://www.woodlands.ab.ca).**

Nominations must include two photographs of the nominated property.

**Submit your nomination forms:**

Emailed to: [agservices@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:agservices@woodlands.ab.ca) Dropped off at either County office.

Or mailed to: Woodlands County, Box 33, Fort Assiniboine, AB. T0G 1A0 Attn: Manager, Ag Services

**NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JULY 31, 2026**

**NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 26-DP-041**

**Location:** SW 33-58-13 W5M Lot 2 Block 1 Plan 0325035  
**Proposed Development:** Secondary Suite, External  
**Decision Date:** June 8, 2026  
**Appeal Deadline:** June 29, 2026

**NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 26-DP-045**

**Location:** SW 18-62-06 W5M  
**Proposed Development:** Home Occupation, Major  
**Decision Date:** June 8, 2026  
**Appeal Deadline:** June 29, 2026

**For full details on Development Permits visit**  
<https://woodlands.ab.ca/>  
**Email:** [planning@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:planning@woodlands.ab.ca)  
**Call:** 1-888-870-6315

**YOUTH PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUPPORT!**

Do you have a youth aged 4–18 who could use a little financial help to join a recreation, sports, art, or culture program?

Woodlands County's Youth Enrichment Subsidy (YES) can provide up to \$600 per year to help cover program costs – and it can be used for multiple programs!

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More info & applications: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/yes-program](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/yes-program)

Help your youth explore, create, and play!



**DAVE KUSCH**  
 Reeve, Division 1 – Anselmo  
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**ALAN DEANE**  
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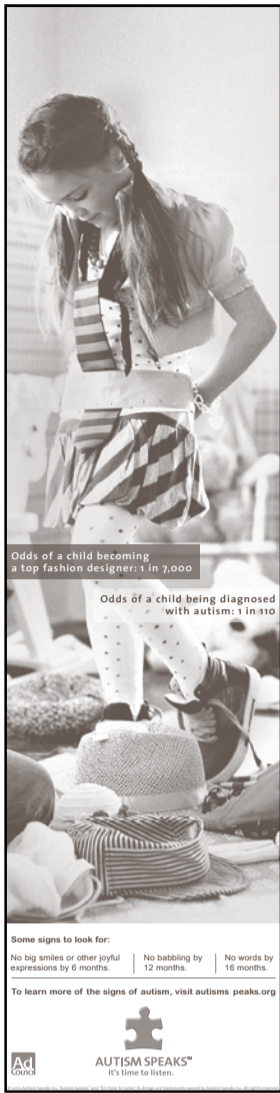
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## Whitecourt town council update

### Press release

The Government of Alberta is expected to submit a proposal for the West Coast Oil Pipeline project by the end of June.

The project would significantly increase market access of Alberta's oil products to Asian markets. Whitecourt has agreed to participate in a joint letter of support for the project with Woodlands County and other regional municipalities.

The Whitecourt Fire Department presented its 2025 Annual Fire Report, and provided the following highlights:

- The Whitecourt Fire Department responded to 433 calls in our region.
- Members logged 12,317 hours responding to incidents, and attending public events, meetings and training.

Whitecourt recently completed the 2025 FireSmart Alberta

Community Scorecard which is a self-assessment tool that provides guidance on how our community can strengthen our resilience to wildland fire. Whitecourt's overall score was an A-, up from the previous score of B- in 2024, and insights gained from the process will help identify new opportunities to strengthen wildfire mitigation and preparedness.

The Pembina Gas Infrastructure Aquatic Centre at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre will be getting new in-pool water features. The new in-pool fountain feature will be installed during the scheduled facility closure in August 2026.

The rates for the Canfor Culture & Events Centre have been adopted, and bookings are being scheduled. The Centre is scheduled to open in the fall of 2026 and more information can be found on our web-

site. E Construction has been awarded the contract do the 2026 Street Improvement Program. Work this year includes over lay and concrete work at various locations throughout town, as well as utility cut restoration, catch basin replacement, pathway construction and an intersection reconstruction. Construction schedules are being finalized, and further information will be provided to the community once confirmed.

The 2025 Collision Report has been prepared and will be forwarded to the Whitecourt Protective Services Committee and Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors as information. Overall, traffic incidents are comparable to 2024 statistics, despite an increase in traffic volumes. The number of collisions continue to remain lower than the 5-year average.

Council scheduled a workshop on June 9 to review the 20 Year Capital and Life Cycle Plan. Whitecourt will be sponsoring the dinner and a hole at the "Swinging for a Cause" Charity Golf Tournament. The tournament is scheduled for August 27 and is raising funds for the CT Scanner campaign led by the Friends of Whitecourt Society.

Council has authorized entering into an agreement with 489007 Alberta Ltd. for the purchase of Lot 6, Block 1, Plan 132 4870 and Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 012 5578.

Council has authorized entering into an agreement with Ember Limited Partnerships for the conditional sale of the Town Office property.

For more information, please contact:

Tara Gallant, Legislative Manager  
Town of Whitecourt  
[taragallant@whitecourt.ca](mailto:taragallant@whitecourt.ca)

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**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

**GRIEF SHARE** **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

# Whitecourt property owners reminded of June 30 tax deadline



By Haylee Winger

Whitecourt property owners are being encouraged to make plans for their annual property tax payment as the June 30 deadline approaches.

Property taxes for 2026 are due by 4:30 p.m. on June 30. Residents who miss the deadline may be subject to penalties on outstanding balances,

regardless of whether they received a tax notice in the mail.

Alongside its annual tax notices, the Town of Whitecourt recently shared information explaining how property tax dollars are distributed. While taxpayers receive a single bill, the funds are divided among several organizations and services.

According to the town, approximately 74 per cent of every property tax dollar remains in Whitecourt and sup-

ports municipal operations and community services. These include road maintenance, recreation facilities, parks and culture programs, fire protection, emergency management, transit services, planning and development, and other municipal programs.

Another 24 per cent is collected on behalf of the Government of Alberta through the education requisition, which helps fund kindergarten through

Grade 12 education across the province. In 2026, Whitecourt is expected to collect more than \$5.9 million for education funding.

The remaining two per cent is allocated to the Lac Ste. Anne Foundation requisition, which supports social and seniors' housing throughout the region. This year, the town is expected to collect more than \$464,000 on the foundation's behalf.

Residents have several options available

when it comes to paying their property taxes. Payments can be made through online banking, at most financial institutions, by mail, or in person at the Town Office. Property owners may also choose to enroll in the town's monthly Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP), which allows taxes to be paid through automatic monthly withdrawals rather than a single annual payment.

Property owners who

have not received a tax notice are encouraged to contact the Town of Whitecourt to obtain a copy. Proof of ownership may be required. The town notes that not receiving a tax notice does not exempt property owners from payment deadlines or late-payment penalties.

More information about property taxes, assessments, payment options, and municipal finances is available through the Town of Whitecourt website.

# BOOK YOUR AD NOW

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**James William Butterfield**  
February 26, 1942 – April 22, 2026

It is with heavy hearts, that the family announce the passing of, James Butterfield on April 22, 2026, at the age of 84 years old. As a man whom loved to travel, he has now taken his final trip to a place full of wonder, sights to behold, and endless highways to turn into a journey.

By all who've known James, they would describe him as a man who's love for his family drove him to be the best in whichever activity he set out to do. Such as his career, in which he showed a relentless work ethic, from wrenching on vehicles to becoming a wheelman delivering shipments behind the wheel of a Kenworth, his favorite. James would also be known to tinker with anything mechanical, if something had moving parts, you can bet that James would be at-the-ready to tinker if a fault were to arise. James was a man of honesty, whether that be speaking his mind or stating his current opinions while partaking, in a cup of green tea which he held dear. He was a man that liked what he liked, plain and simple, doesn't matter what

it may be, movies like Spiderman or Despicable Me, or just driving with no destination in mind. His spirit shined, and will continue to grow through the people that will remember him at his best, and will keep his memory in their hearts. James will live on, through his son Mike, and his special partner Carol. James was predeceased by his brother, Trevor; parents, Gertrude and William Butterfield; his sister-in-Law Darlene, and his niece Tracy.

The family of James Butterfield, would like to grant a special word of thanks to the brilliant nurses at the Whitecourt Hospital, along with all the nurses present in the Dialysis Unit for their compassionate care during his time with them.

A Funeral Service to celebrate James's life will be held on Saturday, July 4, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Senior's Circle in Whitecourt, Alberta. Interment will follow at Whitecourt Cemetery, Columbarium #155. Family and friends are invited to join in a reception immediately following the interment at Senior's Circle.

Condolences may be sent to [www.affinityfuneralservice.ca](http://www.affinityfuneralservice.ca).  
Funeral Arrangements in the care of Terri Shimenosky at:

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