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The Press

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Vol. 15 - Issue 25 | Wednesday, June 24, 2026

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Record-breaking call volume response for the Whitecourt Fire Department in 2025



Members of the Whitecourt Fire Department answered a record-breaking number of calls last year. The 40 volunteer firefighters, support staff, and leadership core worked hard to provide top-tier service to the community, bringing calm confidence to people on what could be their worst day. Pictured is a hose training. See story page 2.



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Record-breaking call volume response for the Whitecourt Fire Department in 2025



Photos Whitecourt Fire Department

Careful steps up the ladder into the department's training house which regularly gets set on fire.

| By Serena Lapointe

Last year was a busy one for the Whitecourt Fire Department. The majority volunteer base racked up hours through not only emergency response but also through hours of various training events and community education campaigns that the crew dedicated from their personal schedules to increase the community's protection. During a recent Whitecourt Town Council meeting, Fire Chief Aaron Floyd provided an overview

of the previous year's activities by his hard-working department.

In 2025, over 12,000 hours were spent serving Whitecourt and Woodlands County, with 4,206 of those hours wrapped up in emergency response. The department also spent nearly 400 hours providing public education through community events, like the trade show, park parties, and visiting students at area schools, sharing the all-important fire prevention message from

kindergarten through to high school. The last part of the breakdown of the year's 12,317 total hours is by far the biggest, with 7,719 hours spent training and preparing.

Members of the Whitecourt Fire Department have long prided themselves on the amount of time dedicated to learning, practicing, and adding skills to the toolbox to better serve residents. When just looking at hours spent training, 2025 encompassed



Cold water training at Festival Park Pond.

6,666 hours. The remaining 1,053 hours were spent in meetings, work parties and other preparation, totalling the 7,719.

Training events have included hose work, dealing with different emergency types, vehicle extrication, entering and moving through a burning building, water rescue, utilizing and familiarizing themselves with the vast equipment in the department's arsenal and much, much more. When compared to previous years, 2025 stands out as a behemoth. In 2023, the department spent 5,867 hours training, while in 2024, they spent 4,216.

For emergency response time, 2025 (4,206 hours) was higher than 2024 (3,459 hours) but lower than 2023 (6,766 hours). Of the 4,206 hours in 2025, 2,191.5 of them were spent responding to emergency calls in Whitecourt. The rest included calls inside Woodlands County Fire District 1 (1,182 hours), those outside that area (24.5 hours) and just over eight hundred hours for deployments.

The calls that the Whitecourt Fire Department faces range significantly from motor vehicle accidents to fire alarms, medical assists, structure fires, wildland/vegetation fires, hazardous materials incidents, vehicle fires, controlled burns, and trash and rubbish fires. In 2025, they answered 433 calls, the most ever for the department and 51 more than in 2024.

The vast majority of calls, 47 percent, are for alarms, with 191

alarm-specific calls last year, though they only accounted for 1.5 percent of total member hours. Medical calls accounted for 17 percent of calls and 10 percent of total member hours, while structure fires only accounted for 1.8 percent of calls, but nearly 10 percent of total member hours.

Though there were significantly more medical calls than structure fires, they both used the same amount of member hours, showing just how time-consuming structure fires are for the crew. The type of call that saw the most consumption of member hours was motor vehicle incidents, with 18 percent, making up 12 percent of call volume.

Random facts from last year include that Wednesdays are the day of the week calls were most likely to come in, and alarms due to cooking are most frequently between the hours of 4 pm-7 pm, lining up perfectly with supper time. On average, seven responders attended each call, and the median response times in Whitecourt and other areas decreased, meaning crews were getting on scene even quicker than they already were. The crew also upgraded its Sparky mascot, grabbing a new suit that is more animated and engaging, to help share the message of fire safety with youth in the community.

"With respect to public education, we are highly active, reinforcing our team with fire safety prevention and community engagements. The members delivered a wide range

of education activities throughout the year, targeting kindergarten students and all grade levels in various capacities. We had more than 200 kindergarten students come through the fire hall, with day-care groups and community organizations," explained Chief Floyd.

He said they also supported the grade nine RISK Program at the Town Shop, where members conducted a live vehicle extraction as students played the role of panicked survivors, injured friends and even a deceased passenger thrown from the vehicle, hammering home the sobering message on the life-changing dangers of driving impaired. The day also featured breakout sessions and an honest conversation with a panel of first responders, allowing students to ask questions.

For this year, Fire Chief Floyd said the department will continue to focus on the cornerstone of their success: training and professional development. "As emergency incidents become more complex, ongoing education and realistic training opportunities will ensure that we're really prepared to respond," he said.

As integral as training is for the membership, public education remains key for prevention. "The public education and community engagement will remain central for prevention efforts, for school programs, public awareness campaigns, fire prevention week initiatives and

continued on page 3



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continued from page 2

participation at community events while continuing to work on reducing risk and promoting a culture of safety throughout Whitecourt and the surrounding area," explained Chief Floyd.

One of the emerging trends mentioned in the yearly presentation to Town Council was that the department is working towards dealing with batteries and their proper disposal. "It is an emerging threat that we are facing. You drive into a school zone, and there are a lot of people on

e-scooters and e-bikes. It's not necessarily the batteries that come with these devices, but it's the Amazon batteries from China and other countries that aren't tested to the same certification requirements. They're starting to cause a lot of problems," explained Chief Floyd.

When cells are damaged or overcharged, especially in large batteries, they can cause structure fires, and inappropriately discarded batteries can cause significant issues at landfills, eating up hours of the department's time to handle.

"It's something we're trying to stay on top of," he added.

Fire Chief Floyd said they are also looking into options for safe disposal because there are many factors at play, including the safety of firefighters dealing with fires involving large batteries that are not made to Canada's safety specification, and environmental hazards from improper handling after use. He noted that Staples offers a disposal location for used household batteries and that large batteries can be dropped off at the Transfer Station.



Photo Whitecourt Fire Department

Working as a team to remove the roof of a donated vehicle.

Alberta RCMP gives reminders for sharing roadways with commercial vehicles

| RCMP Press Release

As traffic increases over the summer months, the Alberta RCMP would like to remind commercial and passenger-vehicle motorists how to share our provincial roads responsibly. Sharing roadways with, or operating, semi-trucks, tractor-trailers, buses, or other commercial vehicles, requires extra caution, especially during summer months when traffic increases.

Help avoid a collision involving a commercial vehicle by following the below tips: **Commercial vehicle drivers:**

- Always complete trip inspections to

ensure your vehicle is in proper operating condition.

- Always carry the required inspection certificates.
- Stay alert while driving and pull over when tired.
- Pre-plan your trip and help ensure your safety by staying updated on road, traffic, construction, and weather conditions.
- Maintain a safe following distance with other vehicles.
- Be aware of blind spots and make wide turns safely.
- If you are hauling or transporting cargo, ensure that it is properly secured.

Passenger vehicle

drivers:

- Stay far enough behind big trucks to see both of its side mirrors. If you can't see the truck driver, they can't see you.
- Increase your following distance behind larger vehicles to see oncoming traffic.
- Oncoming commercial vehicles can create strong wind gusts, large splashes in wet conditions, or sprays of rocks and debris. Practice defensive driving and brace when they are passing.
- Leave extra space when passing or changing lanes in front of a commercial vehicle as they

require more time to slow down or come to a stop.

- Stay back when large vehicles are indicating right or left, as they require a wide turning radius.

"A variety of vehicles share our roadways every day, and it's everyone's responsibility to keep each other safe," says Sgt. Darrin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "Commercial vehicles need more time and space to operate safely due to their size and weight. Help avoid a collision with one of these vehicles by practicing extra caution around them and by giving them extra space."

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his sweet boy loves attention, belly rubs, and being by your side. He appears calm around other dogs and has a playful, affectionate personality.

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 = 0.70 US Dollar
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Dollar Values as of June 24, 2026

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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#: 26-044 – Front of House Coordinator – Permanent, Full-Time Position
Job#: 26-045 – Theatre Technician – Permanent, Full-Time Position
Job#: 26-046 – Community Peace Officer I – Permanent, Full-Time Position
Job#: 26-047 – Manager of Utilities – Permanent, Full-Time Position

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

Career Ads, affordable price, with print ad, receive free online job posting at... WWW.WHITECOURTPRESS.COM

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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 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.

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, 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.

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.

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During our Store Renovations Caine's Jewellers' commitment to serving and meeting the Jewellery needs of our community and area still remains.

Starting July 6, 2026, if your Jewellery is in need of repair, or you need a battery for your watch, you can drop it off with our sales associates who will gladly take care of it for you. We can be found through the side entrance of the Whitecourt and District Chamber of Commerce building at **4907 – 52nd Avenue in Whitecourt Unit #7.** Monday – Friday 11am-3pm

You can also follow us on our Facebook page (facebook.com/cjewellers) for updated news as our renovation progresses.

If you are needing an item for a special occasion, please reach out via text to **Kandice @ 780-778-3302** or email at wckandice@cainesjewellers.com.

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- ✓ Avoid costly delays or penalties
- ✓ Support smart, sustainable community growth

Woodlands County Planning Department is here to guide you through the process every step of the way:

- 📍 Learn what permits you need
- 📄 Get step-by-step application support
- 🔍 Stay informed on zoning rules and timelines

For more information, please visit our website at: woodlands.ab.ca/p/planning-and-development Or contact us at planning@woodlands.ab.ca 780-778-8400



Alberta & Canada MOU and what it means for Albertans

| By Serena Lapointe

An energy-heavy landmark agreement between the Province of Alberta and the federal government, signed in late November, was implemented with a detailed agreement on May 15. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines cooperation between the two governments for things like natural resource expansion, environmental regulation, and infrastructure development, including the regulatory framework for a West Coast pipeline to prioritize access to Asian markets.

“Construction of one or more private sector constructed and financed pipelines, with Indigenous Peoples co-ownership and economic benefits, with at least one million barrels a day of low-emission Alberta bitumen, with a route that increases export access to Asian markets as a priority. This application for this pipeline project will be ready to submit to the Major Projects Office on or before July 1, 2026. It is agreed this new pipeline would be in addition to the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline for an additional 300,000 to 400,000 barrels per day destined for Asian markets,” reads the MOU. It also clarifies that Alberta must work with B.C to ensure that “British Columbians share substantial economic and financial benefits of the proposed pipeline.”

The MOU also details how Alberta will become a frontrunner for low carbon intensity. Under projects, it includes the construction and financing of the “world’s largest carbon capture, utilization, and storage project for the purpose of making Alberta oil among the

lowest carbon intensity produced barrels of oil in the world.”

The five-page MOU, found on open.alberta.ca, also touches on nuclear power generation and states that the federal government will work with the province to design a strategy, set to be finalized on or before January 1, 2027, as well as emissions expectations, such as a methane equivalency agreement with a 2035 target date and a 75 percent reduction target relative to 2014 emissions levels.

West Yellowhead MLA Martin Long, Minister of Infrastructure, said he has noticed a difference in the working relationship with his federal counterparts. “We have seen a drastic shift in tone from the federal government, and I believe that’s truly what has led to the MOU being signed. In my own personal interactions with my federal counterparts, there’s more discussion around collaboration and working with provinces. I think that many could very bluntly say that for about a decade, we didn’t have that tone being set at the federal stage.”

MLA Long said what he’s heard from Prime Minister Mark Carney in recent months is that it’s clear; Canada’s success is reliant on Alberta’s success. “Our government has been intent on getting another pipeline built to help our oil and gas economy. We’ve shared for many, many years that we need to get access to other markets instead of being so heavily reliant on the American market. So really, this MOU is about creating certainty in market success, because we know that that’s what will drive jobs and investment. It’s really a road



An agreement between Alberta and Canada, signed in November and implemented with details in mid-May, looks promising for Albertans. Touching on oil and gas productions, eased caps and reduced carbon costs, MLA Martin Long recently discussed his thoughts on the announcement. Pictured is Minister Martin Long sharing his workspace, the legislature, with a visiting school class.

map to reduce the uncertainty and strengthen our competitiveness for our energy sector, which will include a focus on growing exports, and yes, lowering emissions, because we know that that’s not just a priority for governments and the energy sector, but for families as well,” explained MLA Long.

With some big, impactful changes in the MOU, MLA Long said he expects to see movement on a pipeline as early as next fall. “The MOU already removed the cap on oil and gas production and removed any net-zero power regulations, as well as rolled back a major hike in carbon pricing that Ottawa was going to impose. It lowered that price substantially.” He said the news was encouraging, finally. “I would say that the Trudeau-era federal government wasn’t overly friendly to the voice of many provinces, let alone Alberta.”

He said that, although each province has unique concerns, there are some significant issues that have affected most, if not all,

of them. “One example I’ve highlighted before was the immigration policy that was put into force by the Trudeau government. Every sin-

gle province was saying the same thing: that we couldn’t sustain the numbers at the rate they

continued on page 7



Public Notice

As part of Canfor’s Whitecourt and Fox Creek 2026 Vegetation Management Program, we are proposing to apply glyphosate on cutblocks located within our Forest Management Area and timber licenses in the Whitecourt, Fox Creek, Fort Assiniboine, and Edson areas. A maximum of 4500 hectares are proposed for treatment throughout the following locations:

Township	Range	Meridian
50	11,12,15	W5M
51	11,12	W5M
53	11,12	W5M
58	16,21,25,26	W5M
59	10,11,13,14,15,16,17,22,23,25	W5M
60	12,13,14,17,18,22,23,24	W5M
61	12,13,14,15,16,18,19,20,23,25	W5M
62	14,15,16,18,19,21,25	W5M
63	7,8,9,19,21,22,23,24	W5M
64	6,8,9,19	W5M
65	6,7,15,16	W5M
66	6,7,8,12,14,15,16	W5M
67	10,11,12,13,14	W5M
68	9,10,11,12,14,15	W5M
69	11,12,13	W5M

This treatment, part of our forest renewal program, will temporarily control herbaceous, shrub and deciduous competition, to improve the growth and survival of tree seedlings and saplings. Herbicide will be applied through either aerial or ground-based application.

Application of herbicides is scheduled to begin on or around August 10, 2026, pending approval from Alberta Forestry and Parks. The planned completion date for the program is September 15, 2026.

For more information, please contact our Silviculture Supervisor at (780) 778-2221 Ext 2402, or WCTSilviculture@Canfor.com

A look at the local weather

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



Wed., June 24
Risk of thunderstorm
40%
22°C
12°C
E 8 km/h
~1mm



Thu., June 25
Mainly cloudy
40%
23°C
12°C
S 11 km/h
-



Fri., June 26
Chance of shower
40%
19°C
11°C
W 11 km/h
~1mm



Sat., June 27
Risk of thunderstorm
40%
20°C
11°C
E 8 km/h
<1mm



Sun., June 28
Cloudy with showers
60%
17°C
10°C
E 11 km/h
~1mm

If your life is in danger or you know someone's life is in danger DIAL EMERGENCY NOW 911!

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

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

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

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



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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The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Contact

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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.



continued from page 6

were bringing them in, and Trudeau's policy trumped the voices of provincial leaders around the country. Every single province is dealing with the same things that Alberta is today, which is massively expanding infrastructure to meet the needs that were thrust upon them," said MLA Long.

The importance of the MOU was made clear with its opening sentence, which called it a "pivotal global moment," encouraging collaboration among all involved to get things in motion. "Canada and Alberta, working closely with Indigenous Peoples and industry, must work together cooperatively, and within their respective jurisdictions, to foster the conditions necessary for infrastructure, including pipelines, rail, power generation, a strong and integrated transmission grid, ports and other means that will unlock and grow natural resource production and transportation in Western

Canada," reads the document's opening paragraph.

MLA Long said seeing things come together as they have

should hopefully give optimism to Albertans moving forward. "It is such a huge shift, and for me, as a representative and as a resident, I

have optimism that we have a path forward for families in Alberta to succeed should this current tone continue as it is today."



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Community Futures Yellowhead East photos

1 Entrepreneur of the Year: The team behind Sunshine Lemonade was recognized as Whitecourt's Entrepreneur of the Year during this year's Lemonade Day celebration. The award highlights creativity, business skills, customer service, and overall entrepreneurial spirit demonstrated throughout the event.

2 Best Tasting Lemonade: Pink Bow Lemonade earned top honours for Best Tasting Lemonade at Whitecourt's Lemonade Day. Judges praised the stand's refreshing beverage, which stood out among the many young entrepreneurs participating in the community event.

3 Best Stand: Cosmic received the award for Best Stand during Whitecourt's Lemonade Day festivities. The stand impressed judges with its presentation, creativity, and welcoming atmosphere, helping it capture the top spot in the category.




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Public Schools

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Register at www.skyviewalliance.ca
Registration opens: June 15, 2026
Registration Deadline: July 31, 2026




HELP WANTED

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

Food Service Attendant
Full Time / Shift Work

Food Service Supervisor
Full Time / Shift Work

SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS
Please apply in person at the restaurant.



4331-52 Ave Unit 1 | 4216 Elko Drive
Whitecourt, AB | Whitecourt, AB

WOODLANDS COUNTY BURSARIES

Applicants or their parents must be a resident or own property in Woodlands County to be eligible for a bursary.

POST-SECONDARY BURSARY

\$2,000 for first-year
\$1,000 for second-year awarded to 12 students annually
Must be enrolled full-time in a post-secondary institution
Deadline: October 15, 2026

APPRENTICESHIP BURSARY

\$1,500 for first-year
\$1,500 for second-year awarded to 6 students annually
Must be enrolled in a provincially recognized apprenticeship program
Deadline: Accepted throughout the year

AGRICULTURE BURSARY

\$1000 awarded to 1 student annually
Must be enrolled full-time in an **Agriculture or Environmental Science program** at a post-secondary institution in Alberta
Deadline: October 15, 2026



Contact Us
780-778-8400
communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca
www.woodlands.ab.ca/p/bursaries
dawn.fortin@woodlands.ab.ca
www.woodlands.ab.ca/p/ag-bursary

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!

IMPORTANT: Apply BEFORE starting the program.

Call Community Services: 780-778-8400

More info & applications: woodlands.ab.ca/p/yes-program

Help your youth explore, create, and play!

AG PIONEER NOMINATIONS

Woodlands County Agriculture Services Board (ASB) would like to recognize individuals with a long-term commitment to agriculture - our Ag Pioneers!

Nominations are now being accepted for this prestigious award. Awards will be presented at the Annual Agriculture Services Supper.

Please submit a nomination letter briefly outlining qualifications based on the following eligibility criteria:

- Nominees must have resided and actively farmed in Woodlands County for a minimum of thirty (30) years.
- Nominees must be a minimum of 60 years of age.
- Priority will be given to individuals who currently reside in Woodlands County.
- Nominations will be accepted from family members, members of the public and Agriculture Services Board members. Individuals may also apply.

Nominations may be submitted by mail to: Woodlands County, Box 33, Fort Assiniboine, AB, T0G 1A0 Attn: Manager, Ag Services

Or e-mail: agservices@woodlands.ab.ca

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JULY 31, 2026

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.

Nominations must include two photographs of the nominated property.

Submit your nomination forms:

Emailed to: 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

WOODLANDS COUNTY

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

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



DAVE KUSCH
Reeve, Division 1 – Anselmo
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-9337



PATRICIA MACNEIL
Councillor, Division 2 - Whitecourt West
patricia.macneil@woodlands.ab.ca
780-268-3000



ALAN DEANE
Councillor, Division 3 - Whitecourt Central
alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-0894



KAREN ST. MARTIN
Councillor, Division 4 - Whitecourt East
karen.stmartin@woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-0822



JENNA WRIGHT
Councillor, Division 5 - Blue Ridge
jenna.wright@woodlands.ab.ca
780-779-6765



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor, Division 6 - Goose Lake / Freeman River
peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca
780-284-2425



BENNY WHITTEN
Councillor, Division 7 - Fort Assiniboine / Timeu
benny.whitten@woodlands.ab.ca
780-305-4655



www.woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-8400
1-888-870-6315
admin@woodlands.ab.ca
1 Woodlands Lane,
Whitecourt,
AB T7S 1N3

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

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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.

Got a news tip?

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

The Press

Whitecourt monitoring river conditions following high streamflow advisories



By Haylee Winger

Residents are being advised to remain cautious around the McLeod and Athabasca rivers as water levels continue to run higher than normal.

The Town of Whitecourt reported June 19 that high streamflow

advisories are currently in effect for both river systems. While advisories do not necessarily indicate flooding, they serve as a warning that river conditions can change quickly and may create hazardous situations for anyone near the water.

Officials are encouraging the public to avoid unnecessary activities along riverbanks and to be aware

of strong currents, changing water levels, and other potential dangers associated with increased flows.

Town staff are continuing to monitor conditions and review river forecasts issued by provincial authorities. Information regarding water levels and any changes to advisory status will be shared with residents as updates become available.

As warmer weather and seasonal runoff continue to influence river conditions across Alberta, residents are encouraged to stay informed and use caution when spending time near local waterways.

The Town of Whitecourt will provide further updates through its regular communication channels as river conditions develop.

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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



Town of Whitecourt photos



Families braved wet weather to take part in Whitecourt's Community Connection Park Party at Blueberry Park. The event featured activities, community engagement, and support from local groups including the Rotary Club of Whitecourt, Whitecourt Cornhole League, Whitecourt Fire Department, and Whitecourt RCMP.

Whitecourt Veterinary Clinic 4439 - 52 Ave



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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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John Smyl
October 13, 1928 – June 12, 2026



It is with profound sadness and much love that we mourn the passing of John Smyl at the age of 97 years. John lived a full, remarkable life. He will be remembered for his strong work ethic, firm handshake, wisdom and cottage cheese containers full of candies. John's favorite place to be, other than with his family was Smyl GMC, the dealership, he revolved his life around. He took great pride in the business he and his family had built. He will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by his children, Bernice, Randy (Tricia), and Wayne (Christina). He was also a proud Grandpa (Papa John) to 9 grandchildren: Jackie, Krista, Karly, Jordan, Tyler, D.J., Vicki, Sierra, and Haley. As well as his 8 great-grandchildren: Kaylee, Kade, Brock, Brina, Brielle, Koen, Carter, and Ivanna. He also leaves to mourn his brothers, Leonard and Henry, and his sister Eileen. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary; daughter, Pat; parents; Ignacy and Zofia Smyl; brothers, Bernard, Florian, George, Mike, and Joe, as well as many in-laws. A Celebration of John's life will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM at St. Joseph Parish in Whitecourt, AB. All who knew and loved him are welcome to attend. In lieu of flowers, a donation in John's name can be made to the Friends Of Whitecourt with the funds going to the CT Scanner Fundraiser.

Condolences may be sent to www.affinityfuneralservice.ca.
Funeral Arrangements in the care of Terri Shimenosky at:

Affinity Funeral Service
780.778.3330
#14105 41st Avenue,
Whitecourt, Alberta