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The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 15 - Issue 31 | Wednesday, August 12, 2026

TRL

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20TH

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, August 27, 2026

ANSELMO HALL

Dinner at 6:00PM

MEETING TO FOLLOW



Financial Statement Presentation

Election of Board Directors



Door Prizes including

3 - \$100 Gas Account Credit!

All TRL Members are invited and encouraged to attend

Riding the river in a jet boat “feels like freedom” for local racer Randy Tinant



Photo by Reverse Elevation
Jet Boat Racing

The A222 Racing Team. See story page 2.



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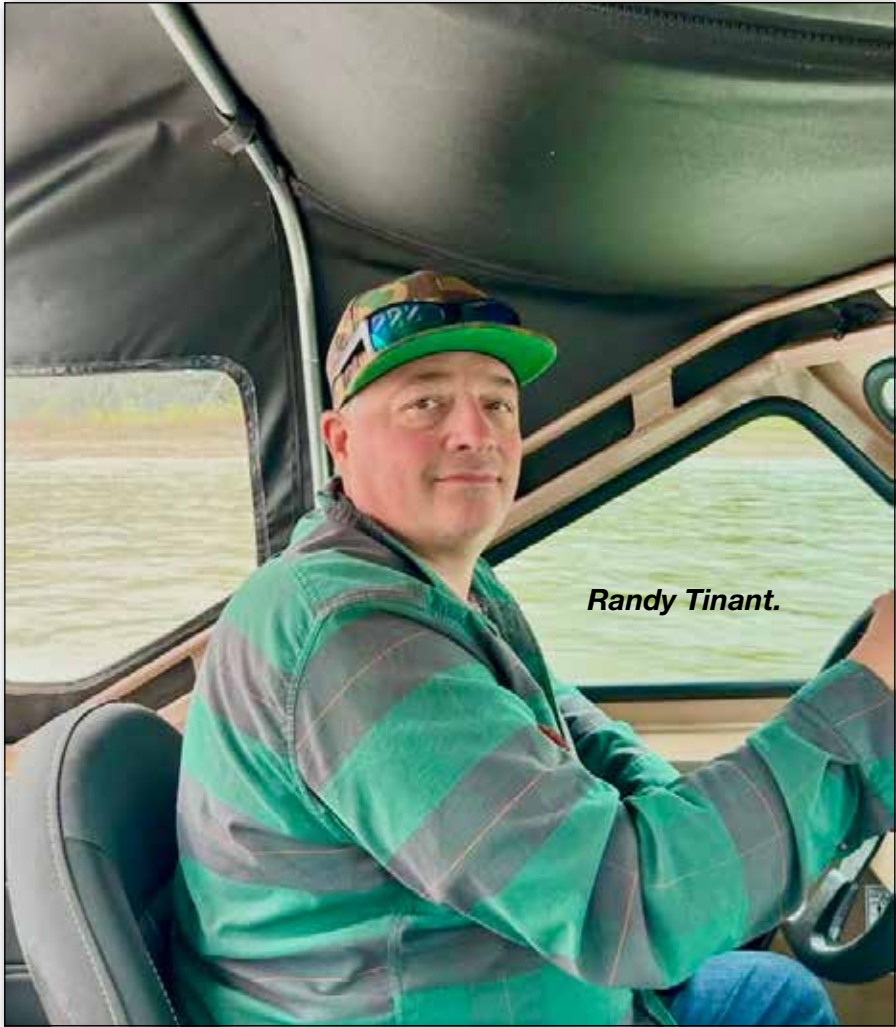
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Riding the river in a jet boat “feels like freedom” for local racer Randy Tinant



Piloting a jet boat takes some serious guts, regardless of the class, be it FX, CX, A or Unlimited, as all of them hit speeds up to or well over 100mph and require a finite level of focus because the turns and riverbanks are coming at you fast. Randy Tinant is a local A-class racer, and his 222 Racing team is having a pretty darn good year, minus a little engine trouble.

| By Serena Lapointe
Born and raised in the community, Randy Tinant was a major fan of the action on the Athabasca River, watching the jet boats roar by, skipping across the surface of the water. At some point, his excitement on the sidelines grew into a passion for the sport and a dream that one day, he too would feel the wind whip at him as he flew. Tinant grew up watching Paddy Stratton and Karey Crawford, two local legends who made names for themselves within the

racing community. Crawford, who raced since the early 80's until the mid-2000s, has also organized races around the world, including last year's UIM World Jet Boat Championships, serving as the event's race captain. Crawford's passion for the sport ignited following a spin on Stratton's boat, the A-240 Hakuna Matata. Stratton, who passed in 2014, lived and breathed the sport. Not only did he race for several decades, but he also worked hard to make Riverboat Park

the place it is and was a huge volunteer for events. "Those were guys that I looked up to as a youngster and always wanted to have on my team," said Tinant. Eventually, it led to one of Crawford's boats ending up in the hands of Tinant, kickstarting his dream into reality, and he's been steadily working on it for the last fourteen years. His current boat is named after one of his favourite numbers, and so far, he considers it pretty lucky. "We've had several boats with

names, and we didn't have real good luck with some of them. This one is a number that I've always liked, so we decided to call this boat 222 Racing," explained Tinant. Call it luck or call it hard-earned, laser-focused fearlessness, along with the reflexes of a cat, Tinant recently landed on top of the podium. "We're currently the A Class World Champions!" Tinant and his team, including navigator Regan Redlick, took the title in May at the World Jet Boat Championships in Maine, Idaho,

an event that took three months of planning to get to. They also won overall in Peace River back in June. "You work so hard, and you strive for it and practice, and to win is a feeling you can't describe. It's all the people that supported you along the way, your family, because they put up with a lot of things for us to be able to do this. So, the feeling is that all wrapped up together," said Tinant. After two big weekends, the 222 Racing team faced some up-

hill battles with their engine. "We had some engine problems in Taylor, BC and then because of those problems we missed the race in Grande Prairie," said Tinant. Heading into last weekend's races in Whitecourt, the 3Boys Tank/Vac Trucker River Rumble 200 Jet Boat River Race presented by the Whitecourt Riverboat Association, the 222 Racing team was happy to be home. "The racers have extremely missed this race. It's one of the best

continued to page 3

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by PETER MARINACCI

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Grants, sponsorships, and the impact outside dollars have on a community

Two large theatre equipment grants were secured for the new centre.



Photos by Town of Whitecourt

The last few months have been successful from a grant perspective for the municipality, thanks to noteworthy dollars from both provincial and federal sources. The town is also fishing for more with requests out for two big, potential projects.

| By Serena Lapointe

Grant funding, both from the federal and provincial governments, plays a significant role in the projects, programming, and infrastructure upgrades that occur in the community. Rather than solely relying on municipal tax dollars to provide new or existing services or introduce new extracurricular opportunities for residents, the municipality often seeks grants first.

At the mid-July regular meeting of Town Council, elected officials learned about a sizeable part of the grant support that the Town of Whitecourt received through to the end of June 30 of this year as part of the Quarterly Financial Report, presented by Director of Corporate Services, Judy Barney.

After doing a deep

dive into the financials, detailing innovations and efficiencies implemented or discovered, as well as unforeseen events and emergencies, which will be covered here in an upcoming edition, the final piece of the report focused on grants and sponsorships.

Two of the biggest grants on the list had to do with the Canfor Culture and Events Centre, and specifically from the convention centre part of the building, where performances will be taking place. An application to the Canada Culture Spaces Fund, which is a federal program out of the Department of Canadian Heritage, was successfully obtained by the municipality for \$454,885 to purchase theatre equipment for the centre.

A similar applica-

tion, submitted by the Whitecourt Woodlands Performing Arts Society, was also successful in helping acquire theatre equipment for the centre. The society applied to the Community Facility Enhancement Program, a provincial grant initiative which supports non-profits and community organizations in building, renovating, and upgrading publicly used community spaces, and received \$252,000, which specifically helped fund speaker equipment.

Two more significant grants received this year include FireSmart projects through the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA). The municipality was successful in attaining funds to do vegetation work in three zones. The first two, zones 20

and 21, received funding for \$199,975, and the third zone, 22, received \$198,079.

Another large grant received by the municipality had to do

with energy, and how to save and where. The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC), a provincial collaboration with Alberta Municipalities

and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, provided \$105,000 under its Energy Manager Program as a staffing

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The Filipino Culture event was made possible with grant dollars.

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facilities in the world. I've raced all over the world, in New Zealand, the USA, and this is one of the best facilities that I've been to. To have it back here is great," said Tinant. He added that getting back on the circuit will enable Whitecourt to host a tour stop for the world championships again. "The worlds happen every four years. The next one is in 2029, and

we want it here," he said.

Getting back on the circuit and bringing racers and fans back to the edges of the Athabasca is important, not only for the community but for racers, or dreamers, like Tinant, who grew up watching it and got into it because it was accessible, with local racers to look up to and learn from. "It's tremendous to have it back. We've got some excitement in the

community again. The Town of Whitecourt, big thanks to them, and the local businesses that have helped get this back, as well as our class sponsors and overall sponsors. This event is not possible without them and their support. It takes a lot of funds to organize and run an event like this."

Tinant said a twindling volunteer base, followed by the shutdown of COVID, impacted the Whitecourt

Riverboat Association. He encourages people to join, even if they don't have a boat. "You don't have to own a jet boat to be part of the club. You can come out and volunteer if you like racing, speed and family events. We will welcome any member who wants to be part of it, and you'll get a ton of boat rides out of it," he smiled.

The community that comes with the sport is just a bonus. "My fam-

ily, my wife, and my daughters support me. It means a lot to have them here. The race community is like a family. You talk to any jet boat racer out there, and they'll tell you that the race community is like a family; our other family. So, when your blood family, your real family, makes friends with your race family, and gets just as excited as you do to go to a race, that totally warms your heart."

As for what it's like being in the pilot's seat of a riverboat, with his navigator to the right, river bends ahead, and a heck of a lot of horsepower in the engine, Tinant said it's a feeling that is almost impossible to put into words, except for one: freedom. "It's being free. You're not thinking about your phone, your job, your health, anything. You're just going. It's you, the boat and the river."

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Opening the window:

Insights from the Fixed Income, Currencies, and Commodities team

| **ATB Economics**

It's no secret that Canada has a lot of work to do to build its economic muscles. This has to be a group effort, with businesses of all sizes, non-profit organizations, investors, workers, educators, community leaders, and policymakers all pulling together.

Easier said than done, especially with uncertainty running high.

To this end, Greg Greer from the ATB Cormark Capital Markets Fixed Income, Currencies, and Commodities (FICC) team put together some thoughts in a recent Globe and Mail article on how businesses can push through the uncertainty and achieve growth for themselves and the Canadian economy.

As Greer argues, "Canada holds some distinct advantages that offer potential growth and investment opportunities through the remainder of 2026 and beyond."

Advantage #1: Stability

- Long-term borrowing costs in Canada have remained stable, and the participation of global investors in Canadian-dollar bond issues indicates that Canada remains a safe destination for capital.
- The loonie has weakened, but it has been an orderly decline and one that can be helpful in times of trade disruption.
- Despite periods of market anxiety over energy pricing, geopolitical conflict, and trade, Canadian bond yields have largely returned to levels from the beginning of the year. That suggests a predictable and supportive landscape for investors and issuers alike.
- A cornerstone of the investment environment is the Bank of Canada and its monetary policy, which has kept short-term

interest rates low and core inflation near the 2% target. While also enhancing our national credibility, it helps to stabilize long-term borrowing costs that are key to most major projects.

- These conditions create a window of opportunity for companies looking to secure capital and fund major projects—investment Canada needs in order to fuel its long-term growth.

Advantage #2: Reliable energy

- While the energy sector could be said to present the most challenges, it also holds the greatest opportunities.
- For Canadian producers who have been actively monitoring events, turbulence has provided them with an opportunity to use the increased cash flow to invest in new opportunities and

continued to page 7



Ashley Whitnack-McLeod photo

A group of youngsters pause for a photo while enjoying a day of fun at Festival Park in Whitecourt on Aug. 4. Families spent the holiday taking in the playground and other park attractions.



Public Notice

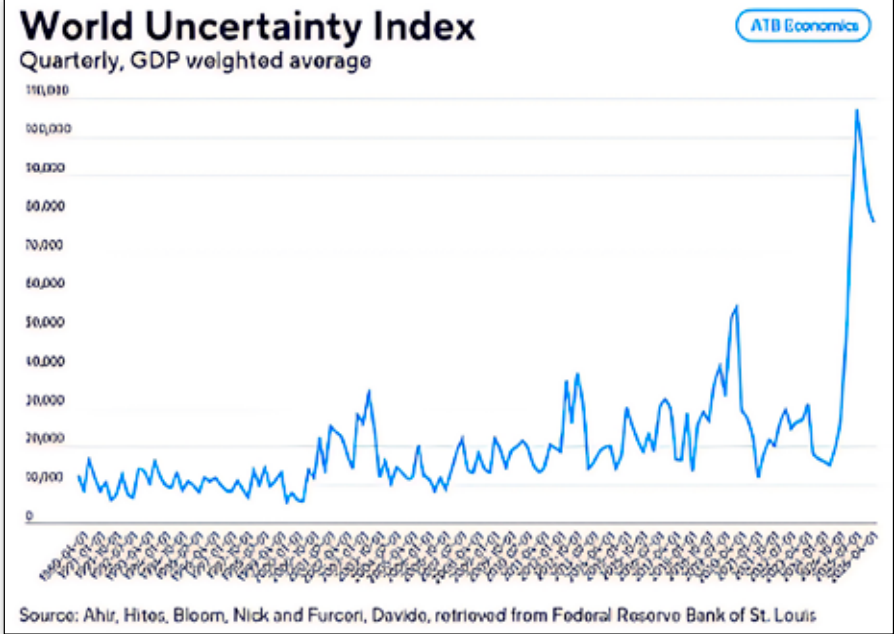
Canfor's Whitecourt and Fox Creek 2026 Vegetation Management Program has been approved by Alberta Forestry and Parks. The application of glyphosate will take place on cutblocks located within our Forest Management Area and timber licenses in the Whitecourt, Fox Creek, Fort Assiniboine, Swan Hills and Edson areas. A maximum of 4500 hectares will be treated throughout the following locations:

Township	Range	Meridian
50	11,12,15	WSM
51	11,12	WSM
53	11,12	WSM
58	16,21,25,26	WSM
59	10,11,13,14,15,16,17,22,23,25	WSM
60	12,13,14,17,18,22,23,24	WSM
61	12,13,14,15,16,18,19,20,23,29	WSM
62	14,15,16,18,19,21,25	WSM
63	7,8,9,19,21,22,23,24	WSM
64	6,8,9,19	WSM
65	6,7,15,16	WSM
66	6,7,8,12,14,15,16	WSM
67	10,11,12,13,14	WSM
68	9,10,11,12,14,15	WSM
69	11,12,13	WSM

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 15, 2026, and completed prior to 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., Aug. 12
Scattered showers
60%
18°C
9°C
E 9 km/h
~1mm



Thu., Aug. 13
Chance of a shower
40%
17°C
7°C
E 11 km/h
<1mm



Fri., Aug. 14
Sunny
10%
19°C
8°C
SE 15 km/h
<1mm



Sat., Aug. 15
Mainly sunny
20%
22°C
10°C
E 7 km/h
-



Sun., Aug. 16
Mainly sunny
30%
25°C
12°C
W 8 km/h
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continued from page 3

grant to hire an energy manager who will zero in on low-cost energy-efficient measures for the municipality, including lights and smart stats. The Whitecourt Food Bank received \$11,605 from Food Banks Canada through the Walmart Fight Hunger Spark Change Campaign. This year was the tenth year for the national fundraiser, which ran from February 5 to March 4, 2026, raising nearly five million dollars. The campaign has raised over \$55 million since it started.

Other grants included one from Sport Central to provide families in need with sports equipment and a Wildfire Preparedness Day grant that funded education at the Whitecourt Trade Fair. The community also received \$11,000

for Canada Day celebrations and \$1,500 to support Indigenous Peoples Day. This summer, thirteen youth workers were hired by the municipality thanks to a grant from Canada Summer Jobs for \$27,300. A further \$6,873 was gained to help offset the cost of training members of the fire department through the Fire Services Training Grant, a provincial fund, as well as a ParticipACTION grant of \$1,000 to promote active lifestyle opportunities in Whitecourt.

Community support continues to be strong, with \$36,000 raised in monetary sponsorship and in-kind donations to help ensure Party in the Park was a success, as well as \$2,392 that helped support youth programming and related initiatives in Whitecourt. Also from the community

is a monthly free swim funded by Whitecourt Transport, and another swim funded by the Rotary Club of Whitecourt, which also sponsors the Rotary Summer Unplugged and 2.0 programs.

The Town also received \$15,000 from the Rural Mental Health Grant, provided by the Canadian Mental Health Association, which is providing two streams of support for individuals, families and the community at large, by enabling access to activities and programs that would not be feasible otherwise, including creating a variety of cultural experiences which encourage community connection.

Two grant-funded projects that are still in the application process, and word has not yet been received on whether Whitecourt has been approved, include the creation of a

community icon. The Town of Whitecourt has applied for funding of one million dollars from FRIAA to create an iconic sculpture for the community that would serve as both a viewing structure and a tourism draw for visitors, as well as a symbolic landmark. The second project applied for and awaiting approval is also through FRIAA (Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta) and is for just less than the previous ask, at \$900,000. The Town of Whitecourt has asked for funding to help promote the forest areas at Festival Park and to increase the activity in the forests that surround it by creating pockets of sports fields and usable areas between the forests. It is unknown at this time when word on approval for either ask is expected.

continued from page 6

strengthen their balance sheets.

- The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has demonstrated the importance of secure supply. This positions Canada well. However, because of constraints in existing infrastructure, we are

unable to take full advantage of the increased demand across the world.

- The momentum from growing governmental support for expanding Canada's energy sector is coinciding with an advantageous financing window. Canada is known as a stable and reliable

partner. That reputation, along with global demand for energy and other key commodities, provides an opportunity for increased investment and expanded export capacity.

Moving forward
Canada is entering the second half of 2026 from a position of credibility, diversi-

fication and growing confidence. With the right preparation and a greater sense of urgency, that position can serve as the basis for stronger and more durable growth.

For more insight from the ATB Cormark Capital Markets FICC team, check out their recently released report here.



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Organizations that apply must be non-profit and demonstrate other fundraising efforts and funding sources. Priority will be given to programs that serve children and youth.

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3 ways to submit your completed applications!

- Drop off in-person at either the Whitecourt or Fort Assiniboine offices
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- Emailed to: communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca

For more information, contact Woodlands County Community Services at 780-778-8400, or communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca

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Town of Whitecourt photos



Whitecourt Minor Ball Association received \$2,100 through the Town of Whitecourt's Sports Hosting Program for each of its provincial championship teams. The 13U AA Whitecourt Royals recently hosted their provincial championship in Whitecourt, while the 11U AA Royals hosted Provincials last weekend, welcoming teams, coaches and families from across Alberta.

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PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Contact

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The Press is printed on high quality newsprint using vegetable based ink. We encourage you to share, save, reuse, rehash & recycle.

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.



NGPS Board Audit Committee seeks two External Community Members:



Northern Gateway School Division's Board of Trustees is seeking two community members to serve on it's Audit Committee:

- one community member with financial expertise and business knowledge; and,
- one community member at large.

The term for these positions begins September 2026 and ends in October 2028. The primary role of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its duties related to governance and oversight. The Committee meets 2 times a year, plus ad hoc meetings as required. Compensation is consistent with current board rates.

Candidate Eligibility:

Applicants should have sufficient accounting, senior financial management or other relevant business experience to understand public sector accounting and auditing standards. The applicant must not be a current employee or officer of the NGPS board or of any other school board or school authority.

Submissions:

Qualified candidates interested in serving on the Audit Committee are invited to submit a letter of interest and resume by 4:00 PM on September 8, 2026 to:

Tamara Spong, Secretary Treasurer
Northern Gateway Public Schools, E: tamara.spong@ngps.ca

COMMUNITY WELLNESS CORNER

If your life is in danger, or someone else's - dial 911

Emergency services are available 24/7

1-800-668-6868

KIDS HELP PHONE
or text CONNECT to 686868

988

CALL OR TEXT

Suicide Crisis Helpline · 24/7

1-855-242-3310

HOPE FOR WELLNESS

Indigenous crisis support



PUTTING A FACE ON SUICIDE

Steven Ice Willis
Age 29

Every 40 seconds, somewhere in the world, someone dies by suicide. Behind every number is a name, a family, a community that felt the loss. This week we remember one of our own.

THIS WEEK'S TIPS

TIP #1

POSITIVE COMMUNICATIONS TIP

Use a calm voice, even when you disagree.

COMMUNITY WISDOM SERIES

TIP #2

CONFLICT RESOLUTION TIP

Let everyone tell their side without interruption.

COMMUNITY WISDOM SERIES

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Phone: 780-778-2341 Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre



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



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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**

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 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



BOOK YOUR AD ONLINE

24/7/365



The Press

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

Meet Ginger,
a sweet nine-year-old cat with a gentle, affectionate personality and a heart full of love.



WHITECOURT ADOPTABLE ANIMALS

Ginger enjoys cuddling, making biscuits, and spending time close to the people she trusts. Ginger does have a history of occasional vomiting, but she doesn't let that stop her from enjoying life. She is spayed, up to date on her vaccinations, and ready to find a forever home.

For more information about adopting Ginger, please call Whitecourt Pound at: **780-778-5767**



A flock of geese enjoyed the warm summer weather at Festival Park last Fridat as patrons filled the park and took advantage of the summer heat.



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Career ads, online at:
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NEED HELP? CALL ANYTIME! (24-7)

• Mental Health Helpline
1-877-303-2642 • Addiction Helpline
1-866-332-2322 • Health Link 811

Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.71 US Dollar
at an exchange rate of 0.7174 (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of August 12, 2026

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WWW.WHITECOURTPRESS.COM

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at 780.706.1858 or email
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