



VERHAEGHE
LAW OFFICE

780-778-6644

Real Estate, Wills & Estates, Family Law, Corporate & Commercial Law

5011-51 Ave, Whitecourt, AB. T7S 1P7

info@freedomlaw.ca

www.freedomlaw.ca



The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 15 - Issue 37 | Wednesday, September 23, 2026

ROUTE 43 brings teacher training closer to home



Northern Gateway Public Schools photo

Northern Gateway Public Schools' ROUTE 43 Teacher Training program is helping future educators complete the final two years of a Bachelor of Education degree in partnership with Northwestern Polytechnic. The apprenticeship-style program allows successful applicants to work as Education Assistants while completing their post-secondary coursework through a combination of classroom learning and hands-on experience in local schools. The partnership brings teacher training closer to home while helping prepare educators who will work in the communities they know.

Local news printed
on local newsprint



Patrick Carew

780-778-0053

pdcarew@telus.net

Just a phone call
away from your
home buying and
selling needs.



5114-50 Street, Whitecourt AB 780-778-6678
Each office independently owned and operated





Residents at Spruce View Lodge in Whitecourt enjoyed a special Bingo afternoon last week, with prizes including movie and snack vouchers donated by Whitecourt’s Magic Lantern Vista Theatre. The event was led by volunteer Laura, who kept the games moving as the lodge’s Bingo caller.

Pembina signs on as a sponsor at the Canfor culture & events centre

| Town of Whitecourt Press Release

Pembina Pipeline Corporation (Pembina) is the newest sponsor at the Canfor Culture & Events Centre. Pembina will receive naming rights for the Pembina Meeting Room.

“Communities throughout our operations put their trust in Pembina Pipeline Corporation and permit us to operate in their

backyards. Through our community investment program, we honour this relationship and give back to those organizations that make our operating communities strong,” said Cianna Hunter, Pembina Supervisor, Field Administration. “Our investment decisions are based on our understanding of the unique needs and characteristics of each

community, and we focus our investments and partnerships on initiatives that improve access to education, protect or preserve the environment, promote safety, create community space, and encourage recreation and a healthy lifestyle. We are proud to support the Town of Whitecourt!” Located in the heart of downtown Whitecourt, the Canfor Culture

& Events Centre will serve our region and offer spaces to host conferences, trade shows, events, concerts, dance festivals and ceremonies. The Centre includes an arts, culture and convention centre (theatre), library and Town administration office. Bookings are being accepted, and the first event at the Canfor Culture & Events Centre is scheduled for Oc-

tober 15. “Pembina has been part of Whitecourt for almost 60 years, and has been a generous and committed community partner,” said Whitecourt Mayor Ray Hilts. “The newly named Pembina Meeting Room is a significant component of the Canfor Culture & Events Centre and will be an important space for collaboration and

connection.” For more information on the Canfor Culture & Events Centre, including sponsorship opportunities, visit www.whitecourt.ca or follow the Centre on Facebook and Instagram. Details on upcoming performances and events at the Canfor Culture & Events Centre can be found on Whitecourt’s online ticket site whitecourtlive.ca.

WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI

I CAN 100% PREDICT THE FUTURE.

HOW CAN YOU PREDICT THE FUTURE 100% ACCURATELY?

I SAID I CAN 100% PREDICT THE FUTURE. I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT BEING ACCURATE.

ONE DAY YOU'LL MAKE A GOOD POLITICIAN.

Copyright ©2026 Peter Marinacci All Rights Reserved.

www.wombania.com

A look at the local weather		Wed., Sep. 23	Thu., Sep. 24	Fri., Sep. 25	Sat., Sep. 26	Sun., Sep. 27
	P.O.P.	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Mainly sunny
	High	30%	30%	10%	20%	60%
	Low	16°C	16°C	17°C	16°C	15°C
	Wind	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	7°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow		SE 7 km/h	SE 7 km/h	SE 7 km/h	W 18 km/h	NW 24 km/h
		-	-	-	-	~5mm

This page is sponsored by:

YOUR ONLY LOCAL CARRIER SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1950



Proud supporter of
our local Organizations
780-778-2226



"Serving the community for over 30 years"
The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food
in order to help families in need.

Open Mon, Wed & Fri 11:00am to 2:00 pm
Phone: 780-778-2341 Located within the Carlan
Services Community Centre



WHITECOURT
**CANCER &
WELLNESS
SOCIETY**

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

Joanne Belke (president of WCWS) **780 706 6861**
Aimee Grierson **780-262-0222** <https://wctcancerwellness.com/>



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**



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



24/7 CRISIS LINE
780 .778.6209
1.800.467.4049



**WELLSPRING
FAMILY RESOURCE
& CRISIS CENTRE**



@whitecourt_shelter

Shelter:

Wellspring Provides a Safe, Short Term, Supportive Residential
Environment for Women With or Without Children, Fleeing
Family Violence & Experiencing Crisis.

Outreach Support Program:

Ongoing Support, Advocacy, Follow-Up & Support Groups for
Women, Men and Youth in Whitecourt and Surrounding
Communities.

Child Support Program:

Child Care & After School Programs - Age Appropriate Programs &
Support for Children Who Have Been Affected By Family Violence

Preventative Education:

Provides Workshops, Information and Awareness to Schools,
Community Organizations, Agencies and Businesses



www.whitecourtshelter.ca

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 Mes-
sage for Our AA member or Contact Addictions Helpline
@1(866)332-2322

Alberta RCMP report 2026 could see most traffic fatalities in over a decade

[Alberta RCMP Release

The Alberta RCMP is urging motorists across the province to make safer choices on the road as 2026 could see the most traffic fatalities since 2015. As of Aug. 31, the Alberta RCMP have recorded 192 traffic fatalities on roads within its jurisdiction, compared with 144 during the same period in 2025.

Based on historical trends, the Alberta RCMP typically records approximately 82 traffic fatalities between September and December. If that pattern continues, 2026 could end with 274 fatalities. June was the only month in 2026 that recorded fewer fatalities than the four-year average. Every other month has exceeded the average.

"Behind these num-



bers are families, friends, and neighbours grieving the loss of someone they loved," said Sgt. Darrin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "A few seconds

of poor decision-making can have lifelong consequences. That's why we're asking every Albertan to stay focused and make safe choices on the road."

The Alberta RCMP is also seeing increases in both traffic-related injuries and high-risk driving behaviours. Compared to 2022, the number of collisions

resulting in non-fatal injuries has risen by 24%. From January to August, officers issued 570 tickets to drivers travelling at least 50 km/h over the speed limit, the highest number recorded since 2022.

Other offences on the rise since 2022 include:

- Use of electronic handheld devices or distracting behaviour violations up 52%
- Impaired operation of a motor vehicle (alcohol and drugs) up 15%
- Driving without due care or attention up 14%
- Intersection violations up 13%

Many of the behaviours contributing to serious collisions and fatalities are entirely preventable, including excessive speeding,

distracted driving, and impaired operation. Every safe choice helps ensure drivers, riders, and passengers make it home to the people and communities that matter most.

The Alberta RCMP would like to remind everyone that safe driving is a shared responsibility:

- Most traffic fatalities are preventable.
- Safe roads require safe choices.
- Passengers can speak up.
- Friends don't let friends drive impaired.
- Traffic fatalities leave empty spaces that never get filled.

Everyone has somewhere to be. Get home safely. For more traffic safety information, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and X @RCMPAlberta.



Alberta Newsprint Company

For all open career opportunities, please check out our website at albertanewsprint.com → Careers.



Compassionately serving families in Whitecourt, Mayerthorpe, and surrounding communities since 1941.
WHITECOURT: 780-779-2533 | MAYERTHORPE: 780-786-2533

We will help you with:

- Personalized Ceremonies
- Pre-arranged Funeral Plans
- Clergy / Church and Halls
- Obituary Notices
- Reception Catering / Flowers
- Monument Tributes
- Grief Support
- Assistance with CPP Applications

**Park Memorial Ltd.**
Funeral Home & Crematorium
www.parkmemorial.com

Wheelchair Accessible 



AGRICULTURAL LAND USE OPPORTUNITY AT CYZU AIRPORT

CYZU Airport is seeking proposals for the agricultural use and management of approximately 122 acres of airport lands under a five-year agreement.

Permitted crops include hay, rye, canola, timothy grass, alfalfa, and clover. Interested proponents are encouraged to arrange a site visit and submit a proposal outlining their operating plan, qualifications, and annual payment offer.

Deadline: Oct. 31, 2026

For more information, including the proposal package, go to: woodlands.ab.ca/p/rfps-and-tenders

WOODLANDS COUNTY HAS SOME EXCITING JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

- Environmental Services Manager
- Temporary Accounts Receivable/Utilities Clerk
- Transfer Station Operator (2 positions)

For more information and to apply, scan the QR Code, or go to: woodlands.ab.ca/p/careers

Local work. Good people. Let's talk.



We want to hear from you!

WOODLANDS COUNTY

BYLAW SURVEY

Share your feedback on the proposed Community Standards Bylaw and the proposed Special Events Bylaw.

Deadline: September 24
Scan the QR code,
or visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJPKND8>



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSED BYLAWS
Scan the QR code or visit: woodlands.ab.ca/p/bylaw-public-engagement



**WOODLANDS.AB.CA 780-778-8400**



WOODLANDS COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

READY TO BUILD YOUR NEW SHOP OR PUT THAT ADDITION ON THE HOUSE?

In Woodlands County, if you want to build a new structure or conduct a new land use, a development permit is required.

- ✓ Ensure your project and /or business meets local bylaws
- ✓ 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

**WOODLANDS COUNTY**



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 / Timeau
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



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.**

We can't wait to show you our new Home!!!!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

If you enjoy a fast-paced, progressive work environment and you have a passion for serving the local community- then this may be the opportunity for you! We believe that our values of diversity, collaboration, innovation and mutual respect bring out the best in our team, and we are currently looking to fill the following positions:

Job#: 26-055 – Fire Department Operator – Permanent, Full-Time Position

Job#: 26-056 – Mechanic II – Permanent, Full-Time Position

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



Canfor Culture & Events Centre prepares for first event



By Haylee Winger

The Canfor Culture & Events Centre is scheduled to host its first event on October 15, marking the beginning of the facility's planned soft opening.

The first event will be the 2026 Economic Forum, hosted by the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce. The forum will bring together local businesses, industry leaders and community stakeholders for learning and networking.

The Arts, Culture and Convention Centre, including the theatre, will be the first portion of the facility to open, with scheduled events taking place there as the soft opening begins.

Municipal and library operations are expected to gradually



transition into their respective new spaces in November.

Whitecourt Mayor Ray Hilts said the centre will provide opportunities for the community to connect through cultural events and shared experiences, as well as activities involving the arts and learning.

"During construction, our team has been working to book

a variety of shows and performances," Hilts said. "We have an incredible lineup of events that are scheduled for the community to enjoy."

Upcoming events at the centre include Diva's Live and Bury the Hatchet, both scheduled for October.

Information about upcoming performances and events, including ticket details, is avail-

able through Whitecourt's online ticket site, whitecourtlive.ca.

The facility will also be available for bookings such as meetings, concerts, dance festivals, parties, weddings and conferences.

For information about booking space at the Canfor Culture & Events Centre, contact Andrew Malmquist at andrewmalmquist@whitecourt.ca.

Meet Cheeto,

a sweet, affectionate 7-year-old orange domestic shorthair looking for a second chance through no fault of his own.



WHITECOURT ADOPTABLE ANIMALS

This lovable gentleman enjoys cuddles, conversation and spending time with his people. Cheeto does have some health challenges and can become stressed, so he would do best in a quiet, calm home without other pets. He's looking for a patient, loving home where he can feel safe and enjoy plenty of companionship.

Interested in Cheeto? Contact the **Whitecourt Pound** at: **780-778-5767** for more information or to inquire about adoption.



Repeat Boutique photo

The Friends of Whitecourt received an \$89,250 donation from the Charity Classic Golf Tournament to help bring a CT scanner to Whitecourt. The donation was made possible through the efforts of golfers, sponsors and volunteers who helped make the annual tournament a success.



Lucas, Easton, Emma, Scarlett and Demrick pose for a photo while enjoying a round of mini golf at Brooks Creek Golf Course, which has been transformed with Halloween-themed displays. Visitors who wear a costume receive 50 percent off their round.

NOW HIRING!

CAMPGROUND CARETAKER COUPLE

Whitecourt Lions Campground – 2027 Season

April 1 – October 15, 2027

The Lions Club of Whitecourt is seeking a friendly, dependable, self-motivated couple to manage and maintain our beautiful campground for the 2027 season. For more information about the Whitecourt Lions Campground please visit: <https://whitecourtlionscampground.com>

Your Role:

- Welcome campers & handle reservations
- Monitor activity, collect fees, bank deposits, and reporting
- Provide 24/7 days a week campground service, office hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., gate is closed at 11 p.m. daily
- Live at the campground during term of contract, winter rental optional
- Report incidents of vandalism, unruly behaviour, or criminal acts to the RCMP
- Routinely check washroom/shower/laundromat facilities and maintain neatness and cleanliness by and routinely wash mirrors, clean toilets and shower stalls and floor. Monitor and replenish washroom supplies (bathroom tissue and hand towels) as required.
- Maintain a neat and tidy and safe campground by routinely checking campground sites and undertaking maintenance such as ensuring campfires are extinguished and emptied, litter is picked up from the campsites, grassed areas and road, water services are turned off and monitor for damage to service connections
- Provide visitors with information on things to do in and around the community
- Assist campground visitors in obtaining help in emergency situations
- Provide proof of Worker's Compensation Board Coverage and liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$2,000,000 with The Lions Club of Whitecourt named as an additional insured
- Comply with local fire bans
- Maintain road network filling potholes and removing intruding branches
- Report on any unsafe conditions to Campground Committee
- Grass cutting and weed whipping around campsites & tables
- Coordinate dangerous tree removal and firewood supply
- Coordinate spring cleanup in partnership with volunteers
- Undertaking other minor maintenance and repairs as required
- Coordinate contractors for major repairs as required
- Administrative support to the Board of Directors

We Offer:

- Seasonal contract rate
- On-site accommodation
- Fuel, equipment, tools, office equipment, and supplies

Email Resumes: Detailing relevant experience, supporting references, and a Criminal Records Check to: seclionswct22@gmail.com

Application Deadline: September 23, 2026 or until contract is filled

The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Contact

Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858
Email: wctpress@telus.net



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.



Woodlands County regular council meeting

| Release

Woodlands County Council met on Thursday, September 10, 2026, to consider a variety of reports, presentations, and policy matters. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Fire Services Update Highlights Emergency Response and Training Efforts
- Residents Encouraged to Report Illegal Dumping
- County Supports Regional Effort to Improve Access to CT Scans
- Council Continues Advocacy for Wildfire Prevention Measures

Council adopted the Bylaw Enforcement Officer Bylaw 635/25 following third and final reading. The bylaw establishes the process for handling complaints about bylaw enforcement officers, including a requirement that complaints be submitted in writing

and include the complainant's name and contact information.

Council adopted the new Emergency Management Bylaw 645/26 following third and final reading. The bylaw updates the County's emergency response framework and clarifies how local emergencies are declared, managed, and communicated to residents.

Council adopted the amended Electronic Payment Policy F-5.205, which outlines how electronic payments are authorized and processed to support strong financial controls, accountability, and the implementation of the County's new financial software.

Council reviewed the 2026 mid-year report from Woodlands County Fire Services, which highlighted emergency response activities, training, public education efforts, and department operations across the County. Fire crews

responded to 131 emergency incidents in the first half of 2026, while 12 firefighters earned new certifications to strengthen local response capabilities. The report also highlighted ongoing investments in wildfire preparedness, including FireSmart initiatives and enhanced response equipment.

Council received the RCMP Q1 2026 quarterly reports from the Barrhead and Whitecourt detachments. The reports highlighted ongoing crime reduction initiatives targeting property and violent crime, proactive monitoring of repeat offenders, and continued community engagement through local events, school programs, and public education efforts.

Council discussed ongoing concerns about illegal dumping within the Whitecourt Sandhills Public Lands Use Zone. The Province advised that more

than 550 kg of garbage was recently removed through its annual cleanup program and noted that illegal dumping remains an ongoing challenge on public lands. To help address the issue, Council directed Administration to promote Alberta's environmental reporting lines through County social media channels, making it easier for residents to report illegal dumping. Residents are encouraged to call 310-LAND to report illegal dumping. Council approved the 2026 Property Tax Auction process, with three properties currently scheduled for public auction on November 9, 2026. The auction is part of the County's legislated tax recovery process for properties with long-standing unpaid property taxes.

Council received an update on outstanding oil and gas taxes, which total approximately \$2.7 million. Administration reported ongoing collection efforts, including a formal re-

payment agreement with one major taxpayer, and Council requested to receive annual updates on outstanding balances and recovery activities. 2 Council received the Alberta Municipal Indicators Report, which confirmed that Woodlands County is not considered to face potential long-term viability challenges under Alberta Municipal Affairs' financial and governance measures. The report also noted continued improvement in infrastructure investment indicators.

Council adopted the Terms of Reference for the Joint Ad Hoc CT Scanner Regional Advocacy Committee and appointed Councillors MacNeil and Wright to represent Woodlands County. The committee will support regional advocacy efforts to improve access to local CT diagnostic services. Council directed Administration to prepare a new Rural Municipalities of Alberta resolution advocating for enhanced vegetation manage-

ment along powerlines in forested areas. The resolution aims to reduce wildfire risk by supporting increased brushing activities and reviewing powerline right-of-way standards.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, September 24 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, October 8 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Governance & Priorities Meeting – Wednesday, October 14 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, October 22 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Organizational Meeting – Thursday, October 26 @ 9:30 a.m.

Meetings are held in person at the Woodlands County Municipal Office in Whitecourt and are also available to view on the Woodlands County YouTube channel. Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.



Support local. Advertise local. Grow local.

Our newspaper connects your business directly with engaged readers—and every print ad is also posted online for added exposure.

For all of your advertising needs, contact **Haylee** at thepresswct@gmail.com
Let's make your business shine.



Pat Hardy School photos

Students at Pat Hardy School enjoyed an "Eggs in the Hole" breakfast prepared and served by staff members Mrs. Arcand and Mrs. MacDonald. The breakfast was offered as part of the school's nutritional program, helping provide students with a hearty start to their day.

BOOK YOUR AD NOW

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

The Press

More household packaging headed for Whitecourt recycling this fall



By Haylee Winger

The recycling bag sitting at the curb each Friday could soon be holding a lot more than it does today.

Whitecourt's curbside recycling program is expanding in October, with the new service taking effect October 1 and the first Friday collection under the expanded program scheduled for October 9. Residents will be able to recycle a wider range of household packaging that previously was not accepted through the curbside program. The upcoming changes were discussed by Whitecourt Town Council during its September 14 meeting, giving council an update on the community's transition to the

expanded recycling system.

The change is part of Alberta's move to an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system, which places responsibility for residential packaging and paper recycling

program. Integrity Waste Solutions is the contracted company responsible for collecting the materials in the community.

For residents, however, much of the weekly routine will remain the same.

recyclable materials into separate bags. There will also be no limit on the number of recycling bags residents can put out for collection.

What will change is what residents can put inside those bags.

will also be accepted, including items such as meat trays, take-out containers, cups, plates, bowls and Styrofoam. Residents will also be able to recycle flexible plastic packaging, such as films and wraps.

in the same recycling bag rather than being separated by material type.

The change is part of a larger province-wide transition to EPR. Circular Materials is responsible for implementing Alberta's residential recycling program, with the new system intended to provide an expanded and more consistent approach to recycling across the province.

For Whitecourt households, the familiar Friday routine will remain, but the contents of the recycling bag are about to become more varied.

As the October launch approaches, residents should review the updated list of accepted materials and any preparation instructions before putting their recycling out.



on producers through a provincewide recycling system.

In Whitecourt, Circular Materials, a national not-for-profit organization, will manage the expanded

Curbside recycling will continue to be collected on Fridays throughout Whitecourt. Residents will continue using clear or blue bags, and there will be no need to sort

Glass bottles and jars, which are currently not accepted through Whitecourt's curbside program, will be included under the expanded system.

Foam packaging

The list of accepted metal packaging will expand as well, including items such as pie plates and frozen-food trays. Aerosol containers, including hair-spray and whipped-cream containers, will also be accepted.

Another addition will be laminated paper and plastic packaging. Examples include chip bags, cereal liner bags and gift bags.

The expanded program also means residents won't have to create a new sorting routine at home. Accepted materials will continue to go together

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

WHITECOURT LAUNCHES 2027 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Let us know where you would like to see your tax dollars invested for the 2027 budget.

Town Council encourages you to share your thoughts on projects and plans at the 2027 Budget Public Input Session. The session is scheduled during the Regular Meeting of Council at 4:00 p.m.

Monday, September 28 at 4:00 p.m.
Forest Interpretive Centre – Council Chambers
3002 – 33 Street, Whitecourt

Community members that are unable to attend the Public Input session are encouraged to submit written comments. Complete the online form on our website, call the Office, or submit an email to the following address by 12:00 noon on Thursday, September 24:

Town of Whitecourt
Box 509, 5004 52 Avenue
Whitecourt AB T7S 1N6
780-778-2273 ext. 227
administration@whitecourt.ca

All comments received regarding the 2027 Budget will be considered by Council during budget deliberations.

RAIL SAFETY WEEK

SEPTEMBER 21 – 27, 2026

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize September 21 – 27, 2026 as Rail Safety Week. We encourage all residents to practice safe behaviour around tracks and trains to eliminate injuries and fatalities. For more information on rail safety, please go to www.operationlifesaver.ca.

NOTICE OF SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD HEARING

Appeal of Stop Order for Non-Compliant Use at 3515 Caxton Street

The Hearing will take place on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 6:00pm at the Forest Interpretive Centre, 3002 – 33 Street, Whitecourt

For detailed information on the Hearing process, please visit the Town website at: www.whitecourt.ca



Hilltop students get hands-on look at Alberta's forestry sector



By Haylee Winger

For Hilltop students, learning about forestry recently meant getting out of the classroom and into the field.

Students in Grades 10 to 12 took part in a forestry program through the Woodland Operational Learning Foundation (WOLF), gaining a closer look at the technology, skills and planning involved in Alberta's forestry sector.

The program was offered through Alberta's Career and Technology Studies (CTS) curricu-

lum, allowing students to earn high school credits while gaining hands-on experience and learning about the wide range of careers connected to forestry.

Hilltop Jr/Sr High teacher Jeannie Trebilcock said she hopes the program broadens students' understanding of the industry.

"I hope students take away a greater understanding of the many different occupations and career opportunities available within the forest industry," Trebilcock told the Press. "I want them to see that forestry is much more than just working in the woods

and that there are a wide variety of pathways they can explore."

WOLF's program introduced students to skills including GPS and GIS navigation and mapping, plant identification, forest management, bushcraft and woodland operations. Students also worked with forestry simulators and other technology used in the industry. Much of the learning took place outside the classroom.

During their time in the program, students put their skills into practice around Whitecourt's Forest Interpretive Centre. They iden-

tified plant species and practised navigating with GPS equipment and compasses, while also learning how those tools can be used to create maps.

The group also explored Centennial Park, where students met with an archaeologist. Their experience included a tour of a local mill, giving them an opportunity to see how different areas of knowledge and skills connect in a working forestry environment.

Trebilcock said the students' response to those practical experiences was a highlight of the program.

"What has stood out

to me most about their experience this year is the excitement and enthusiasm they have shown during the field trips and hands-on activities," she said.

"Seeing students become engaged and curious as they experience different aspects of the industry firsthand has been especially rewarding."

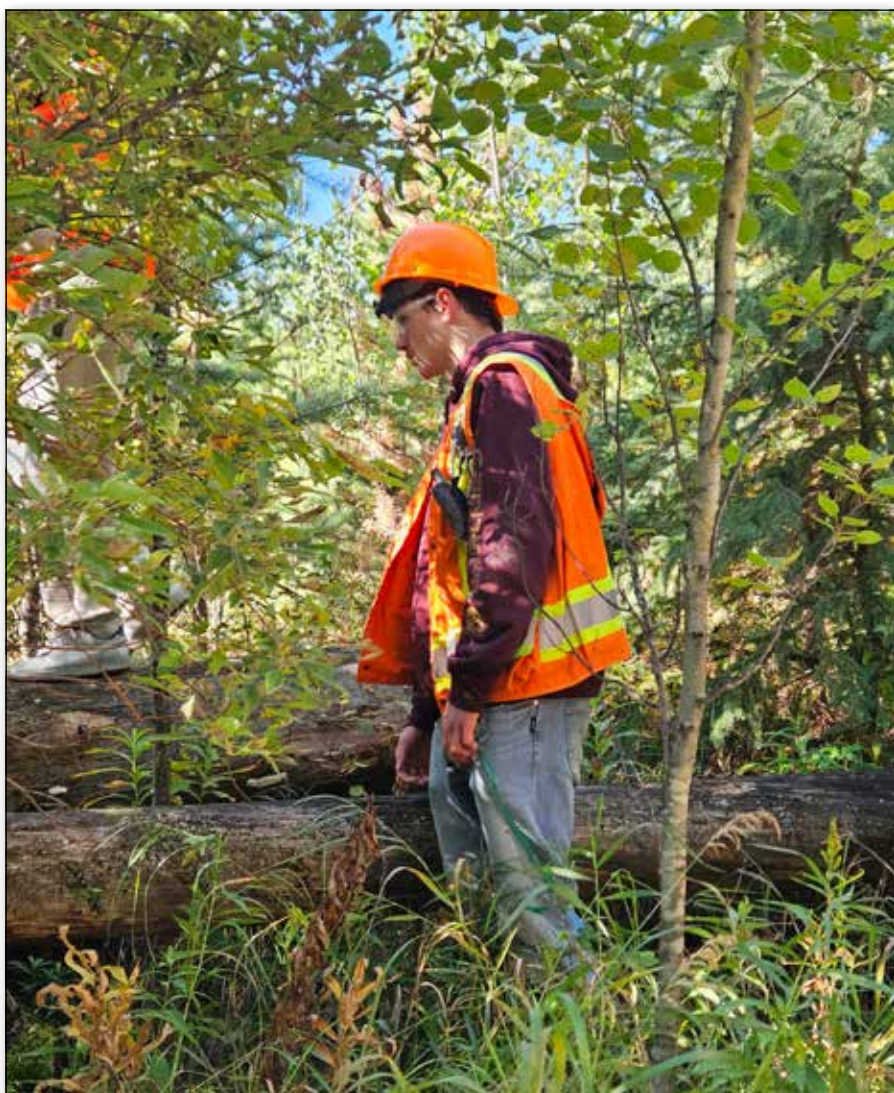
The program also introduced students to the more than 400 jobs that support Alberta's forestry sector, providing a look at the variety of opportunities available within the industry.

For the students who took part, the program

provided an opportunity to explore potential careers while developing practical skills and making connections with people working in the industry.

"These practical experiences have helped bring the learning to life and have allowed students to see how the skills they are developing can connect to real-world careers," Trebilcock said.

The WOLF program gives high school students firsthand experience with forestry and introduces them to skills and knowledge that can be applied to a variety of careers in the sector.



Alberta RCMP shares information with youth on cyberbullying and sextortion

Throughout September, the Alberta RCMP is sharing online safety tips with youth. Youth today can be put in vulnerable circumstances due to the internet, at times becoming victims to cyberbullying or sextortion, but by learning safe online practices, youth can better protect themselves and others.

In the digital age, youth can protect themselves by learning more about the following:

- Sextortion: A form of online blackmail in which someone threatens to share a sexual image or video of you unless you pay money or provide more intimate content. Offenders often pretend to be someone your age and manipulate victims into sending explicit media. They may use fake or incomplete social media profiles, quickly express strong feelings, or pressure victims to move conversations to private platforms where they can request intimate content.
- Cyberbullying: The use of computers, smartphones, or other digital devices to embarrass, threaten, harass, exclude, or harm someone online.

- If you are a victim of sextortion:
- Stop all communications with the offender.
- Do not comply with any threats and do not send money, images, or additional content.
- Save evidence, including screenshots of messages, usernames, profiles, and any images involved.
- Deactivate, but do not delete, your social media account.
- Do not accept new friend requests after disengaging – this could be the offender using a new profile.

- Reach out to a trusted adult, parent, guardian, Elder, or another support person.
- Report the incident: Cybertip.ca allows you to report online child sexual exploitation incidents anonymously.
- Get help removing pictures from the internet at NeedHelp-Now.ca.
- Report the incident to the platform where it occurred.
- Contact your local police service.
- If you are a victim of cyberbullying:

- Do not respond to bullying messages or posts.
- Save messages, screenshots, or other evidence.
- Block and report the individual responsible.
- Talk to a trusted adult, parent, guardian, Elder, or another support person.
- Report the behaviour to your school or the website/app where it occurred.
- Contact the police if you feel threatened or believe a crime has been committed.

“If you are a victim of sextortion or cyberbullying, remember that you are not at fault, and help is available,” says Cst. Scott Sterling, ALERT Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit. “Youth can support one another by being active bystanders. If you witness cyberbullying or sextortion, speak up, offer support, and help connect victims with trusted adults and available resources.”

For more information on online safety, visit Public Safety Canada’s Help for Youth, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta, Instagram @RCMPALBERTAGRC, X @RCMPALBERTA, and on YouTube @RCMP-GRC Alberta.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

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



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

Masen Andrew Baugh
Age 18

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

Think before you speak when emotions are high.

COMMUNITY WISDOM SERIES

TIP #2

CONFLICT RESOLUTION TIP

If emotions are running high, agree to continue the discussion later.

COMMUNITY WISDOM SERIES

SPONSORED BY



Tri-Logging Ltd.

Tri-Logging is against bullying

Robert Brown
Owner
3507 37th Avenue
Whitecourt, AB T7S 0C3

Phone 780-778-0699
Fax 780-778-8431



FLINT™

A Division of ClearStream

780-778-5000

- Electrical & Instrumentation
- Fabrication & Modularization
- Maintenance & Turnarounds
- Insulation
- Facility Construction
- Pipeline Integrity Digs
- 24/7 Callout Services



Blanket Classified Ads

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

Visit www.whitecourtpress.com



Auctions

MEIER LIVE GUN AUCTION, Saturday, Sept 26 - 10am Wetaskiwin - Selling Rifles, Shot Guns, Antique Firearms, Gun Safes, Ammunition, Scopes, Sportsman Equipment, Consign Now. Free Pick Up. Call 780-440-1860 www.meierauction.com

Coming Events

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2026 AUCTION PROGRAM: Firearms, Ammunition, Accessories, or Militaria. Collections, Estates or single items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Contact us: 1-800-694-2609, Email: sales@switzersauction.com or Visit us @ www.switzersauction.com for Auction Dates & Details.

Employment Opportunities

BLANKET THE PROVINCE with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach 75 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903; www.

awna.com; email classifieds@awna.com

Services

PRIVATE MORTGAGE LENDER. All real estate types considered. No

credit checks done.

Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. 403-543-0927; www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca

Travel

OSOYOOS LAKESHORE VILLA: Executive lakeview villa in Osoyoos, BC, breathtaking lake and mountain views; just 3 minutes from town.

Vacation in Canada's warmest destination. Or warmer weather, two luxurious 5-star resort units in Phoenix, Arizona. Doug 306-716-2671 or visit osoyooslakevilla.com

RCMP Whitecourt Bi-Weekly Summary

Release

September 3 - September 17

The Whitecourt RCMP were dispatched to 211 occurrences. The most calls for service were as follows:

- Well Being Checks
- Traffic Collisions/Offences
- Suspicious Persons
- Mischief to Property & Motor Vehicles
- Mental Health Related

Whitecourt RCMP have been conducting proactive patrols throughout the community.

Community Engagement:

Over the past 2 weeks, the Whitecourt RCMP engaged with the community through

various events.

On September 9, members had the opportunity to visit ECHO Disability Support Services for their Annual Chilli Cookoff! Thank you ECHO for having us!

On September 11, Cst. Whittemore and Sgt. Park headed back to Percy Baxter School for two more Cyberbullying and Online Safety Presentations.

Thank you to the community for assisting in a safe back to school season. We look forward to more time spent with the youth this year.

Reminder: With school back in session, our streets and crosswalks are busier with

young pedestrians in the early morning and afternoon hours. We ask drivers to remain vigilant, be patient, and take an extra moment to check for children during their commutes.

Failing to yield to a pedestrian at a marked or unmarked crosswalk can result in a \$810 fine and a deduction of 4 demerit points. Please be mindful and allow the children to cross safely.

The Whitecourt RCMP is one short week away from welcoming the ALERT ICE Unit to town for an informative presentation on Internet

Child Exploitation. The presentation will take place on September 24, 2026, at 6:00pm at the Forest Interpretive Centre. It is free of cost and does not require registration.

Thank you for supporting your Alberta RCMP - Whitecourt Detachment. For questions or concerns, please contact Kristen McLeod, Crime Prevention Liaison at kristen.mcleod@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or S/ Sgt. Matthew Clarke at matthew.clarke@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. For emergencies call 911. For non emergencies, please call 310-RCMP (7267).

CANADIAN PRAIRIE PICKERS

SENIORS 55+

10% MORE ON ALL PAYOUTS
— WE ALWAYS PAY CASH! —

WE BUY

SILVER

WE BUY ALL YOUR SILVER

- Canadian, American & World Mint Sets
- Canadian Silver Coins 1968 & Older
- American Silver Coins 1964 & Older
- Flatware • All Forms of Silver

WE COME TO THE PRIVACY OF YOUR OWN HOME!

FRIENDLY • PRIVATE • NO OBLIGATIONS

Call Joy or Ted

825-966-4373

PROUDLY SERVING ALBERTA SINCE 1986

CANADIAN PRAIRIE PICKERS

★ **SENIORS 55+** ★

10% MORE ON ALL PAYOUTS
— WE ALWAYS PAY CASH! —

WE BUY

GOLD

WE BUY ALL YOUR GOLD

- Gold Jewellery • Rings & Chains • Gold Nuggets
- Scrap Gold • Dental Gold • All Gold Items
- Gold Coins

WE COME TO THE PRIVACY OF YOUR OWN HOME!

FRIENDLY • PRIVATE • NO OBLIGATION

Call Joy or Ted

825-966-4373

PROUDLY SERVING ALBERTA SINCE 1986

CASH PAID for GOLD & SILVER

ALL JEWELRY, ALL GOLD & SILVER COINS

Bars, Bullion, Ingots, Nuggets, Sterling Silver, Old & Broken Gold, etc.

BUYING ENTIRE COIN COLLECTIONS & OLD MONEY

TODD 1-825-365-8557
Covering ALL OF ALBERTA

Crystal Springs Trees

WINDBREAK PROTECTION FOR YOUR ACREAGE

White Spruce Shelterbelt Trees
- Supplied & Planted -

Book Now for Fall Planting

\$79/tree
supplied and planted

- 30 tree minimum
- Delivery \$150-\$400 (free on orders of 200+)

No payment until the job is done.

403-820-0961 crystalspringstrees.ca
Serving Alberta since 1999

CASH FOR COINS

WANTED ROYAL CANADIAN MINT COINS, FRANKLIN MINT, US MINT, WORLD SETS ETC, COLLECTOR'S COINS, NUMISMATICS, OLYMPIC COINS, OLD COINS, OLD \$, GOLD COINS, SILVER COINS, BARS, INGOTS, JEWELRY, NUGGETS, STERLING SILVER & ENTIRE COIN COLLECTIONS!

Call or text Todd
Numismatist/Gold & Silver Dealer
780-504-7995

I MAKE FREE HOUSE CALLS
ALL OVER ALBERTA+

The Press

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS

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



Home
hardware
building centre

Garden Sheds • Custom or Pre-built • Delivery Available

780-778-4404

Help is close to home®

Whitecourt Veterinary Clinic 4439 - 52 Ave



...where pets are family...



Thank you to all those loving families who've adopted the pets at the Whitecourt Vet Clinic.

Career ads, online at:

www.whitecourtpress.com

Leanne Gould
Mortgage Associate

toll free 1.866.235.9906
www.mortgagegroup.com

403.505.9906
leanne.gould@mortgagegroup.com

THE MORTGAGE GROUP

The Mortgage Group Alberta Ltd.
204 - 2016 5th Ave. NE, Calgary AB T2A 6K4



THINK OUTSIDE THE BRANCH!

LOCAL NEWS PRINTED ON LOCAL NEWSPRINT

Alberta Newsprint Company



780-865-5815

We're there where you need us most!

Providing Traffic Control and Piloting

- Traffic Control Personnel
- Provide service for emergency lane or road closures
- Construction zone set ups

Road Monitoring & Radar Services

Servicing Woodlands and Yellowhead Counties



A.C. Waring
& Associates Inc.
Licensed Insolvency Trustee
Trustee in Bankruptcy

DEBT SOLUTIONS
780-424-9944

Debt/Credit Counselling Debt Consolidation
Creditor Negotiations Consumer Proposals
Bankruptcy Alternatives Bankruptcy Protection

FREE Consultation
www.DEBTFREE.ca

The Press

Check us out online at
whitecourtpress.com



Please recycle this paper





RESCHKE FRITZ LLP
PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

MARK R. RESCHKE, CPA, CA
PARTNER

Tax planning
Corporate & Personal Tax Preparation
Full Accounting Services

Box 569, #101, 5011 - 51 Ave
Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6
780-778-3981 mreschke@rflp.ca

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 **0.7151** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of September 23, 2026



METRIX GROUP LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

4927-51 AVENUE, PO BOX 328, WHITECOURT, AB T7S 1N5
61 KAYBOB DRIVE, PO BOX 83, FOX CREEK, AB T0H 1P0

Accounting • Tax • Estates & Trusts • Bookkeeping
Controllershship • Audit & Review Engagements

Michael Epp CPA, CA, CMA Partner	Terry St. Laurent CPA, CGA, CA Partner	Braedon Nawrot CPA Manager Whitecourt	Kris George BMgt Manager Fox Creek
---	---	---	--

Edmonton T: 780-489-9606	Lloydminster T: 780-875-7433	Whitecourt/Fox Creek T: 780-778-3091
Fort Saskatchewan T: 780-992-0266	Evansburg T: 780-727-2017	

TOLL FREE: 1-877-489-9606

METRIXGROUP.CA

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
Whitecourt, AB

4216 Elko Drive
Whitecourt, AB

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