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

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The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

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A tree fell onto a shed in Woodlands County.



Strong winds brought a tree down onto a truck, blocking Beaver Drive on Oct. 15.

Strong winds cause damage across Whitecourt



By Haylee Winger

Strong winds swept through Whitecourt on Wednesday, October 14, knocking down trees and fences, damaging property and leaving some residents without power. Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a wind warning for the area, with gusts reaching up to 90 km/h.

On Beaver Drive, a fallen tree struck a parked vehicle, prompting a response from the Whitecourt Fire Department.

In another incident, a tree fell onto a shed, destroying it. High winds also blew shingles off roofs, prompting some residents to seek repair services.

Other damage was reported around the community, including knocked-down fences along Mink Creek

Road and across from No Frills in the River Valley Estates area.

The weather also caused power outages for some residents, adding to the disruption as the winds moved through the area. With strong winds capable of sending loose objects flying and bringing down trees and branches, residents are encouraged to take precautions

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Town of Whitecourt selected as one of two Alberta municipalities to take part in pilot project

| By Serena Lapointe

A new pilot project led by the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), in partnership with FireSmart Canada, has looped in the Town of Whitecourt as one of only two municipalities in the province to take part. The Policy

Pathways Pilot Project is a test run on how FireSmart principles can be worked into municipal planning documents, to help mitigate wildfire risk right at the ground floor of a project.

The municipality was formally asked to join during the October 13

Regular Meeting of Council, with Michael Coutu, FireSmart Specialist with the Government of Alberta, presenting. FireSmart Alberta handpicked the two municipalities it wanted in the project: Whitecourt and Can-

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Photo: Town of Whitecourt

The Town of Whitecourt joins one other Alberta town and five other Canadian municipalities in a national pilot program with FireSmart Alberta, FireSmart Canada and the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre in creating legally reviewed, ready-to-adopt policy and bylaw language, merging FireSmart principles into municipal planning documents. Pictured is a past summer vegetation crew funded through FRIAA.



Patrick Carew

780-778-0053

pdcarew@telus.net

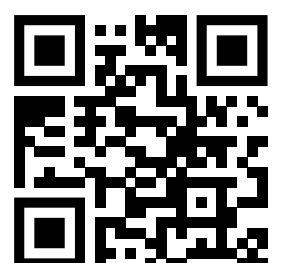
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more. “Over the past spring and early part of summer, I had the opportunity to meet some of your town councillors at various events, and I took your comments to heart. When this project came up, I recognized that this would be a great next step for Whitecourt,” explained Coutu.

“Between 2014 and now, between the Government of Alberta through FireSmart Alberta, and FRIAA (Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta), collectively in Whitecourt, there’s been about three million worth of mitigation work that has been done. You’re definitely leading the province as an example in this realm,” said Coutu. Projects such as summer mitigation work, where forests are cleaned up around the municipality, removing dead and downed trees or overgrown vegetation, as well as the Fireguard on the town’s east boundary, are all projects that have received significant funding.

Coutu said the pilot project is about learning how to build things better by integrating FireSmart principles directly into a municipality’s land

use and development policies. The project is looking at things like having new subdivision layouts feature a minimum of two evacuation routes, stricter mandates for developers to install adequate water volume/pressure for fire suppression, location of utilities, fire-rated products for roofing and siding for new builds, as well as perimeter materials, such as requiring a wooden fence to attach to a home with a non-combustible material to break the path of fire to the structure. It also touches on zoning, topographical setbacks and vegetation and landscaping zones, such as using rock or gravel instead of mulch.

The pilot portion of the program is of no cost to the community but will allow Whitecourt to provide feedback on what works and what doesn’t, in terms of how FireSmart principles merge into current planning documents. To be clear, being a pilot community doesn’t mean that Whitecourt has to commit to adopting or changing its bylaws. Decisions on any changes to current policies or bylaws would solely be a municipal decision and up to Town Council to decide on in the future.



Photo: Town of Whitecourt

Mayor Ray Hilts and Minister of Forestry and Parks Todd Loewen at Whitecourt’s provincially-grant funded Fireguard.

However, changing or updating policies and bylaws can be costly, depending on the need for legal support. It is also time-consuming. The goal of the pilot project is to do as much of the work for municipalities as possible by seeking legal opinions on changes and testing out changes with willing communities who can find bottlenecks within current planning processes and provide feedback so that necessary changes can be made. Coutu said in the end, they want to hand over a workable system, a turnkey program to municipalities so they can more easily

add FireSmart principles into their planning documents without doing all the grunt work, because it will already have been done.

The pilot project is running in Alberta, Ontario and the Yukon, with only two municipalities chosen from each. “Whitecourt is very much leading the example especially on the mitigation front, and to be honest with you, you are somewhat leading in the realm that we’re diving into now, with the regulation component,” said Coutu. “We feel that your two communities (Whitecourt and Canmore) have completed

the vast majority of that mitigation and are in the best position to move forward.”

He said that now is the time to start thinking about how communities can develop and build more resiliency into their plans, and he is looking forward to seeing the outcome. “Even if we pushed the tree line (around a town) back two miles, the West Kelowna fire proved that we will still see ember transfer into the community, some the size of cellphones, which was a remarkable finding from that fire. We know that the ecosystems in most of Alberta are what we

call fire-adapted ecosystems, meaning they require fire to thrive. As a society, we have taken away that natural cycle and as a result, wound up in these circumstances where the wild-fire potential is greater than our ability to suppress it,” explained the Coutu, making these types of changes all the more important.

Mayor Ray Hilts called it fantastic. “I appreciate you guys considering us as a partner on this.” Councillor Brian Wynn made the motion to endorse the Town of Whitecourt’s participation in the pilot project, which passed unanimously.

Woodlands County Council recap

| Woodlands County Release

Woodlands County Council met on Thursday, October 8, 2026, to consider reports, presentations, bylaws, and policy matters. Highlights of the meeting include: • Amendments Directed for Community Standards and Special Events Bylaws • Northern Gateway Career Exposure Summer Camps Update • Council Committees Bylaw Reviewed • Council Self-Evaluation Policy Adopted • Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Review Advances Following a public hearing on the proposed Community Standards Bylaw 634/25 and Special Events Bylaw 641/26, Council directed Administration to amend both bylaws.

Changes to the Special Events Bylaw include increasing the proposed event attendance threshold from 100 to 250 people, reducing the application period for non-commercial events from 60 to 30 days, defining commercial and non-commercial events, and allowing Administration discretion to waive application deadlines. Council also directed amendments to the Community Standards Bylaw to clarify the definition of derelict vehicles and restore the proposed evening noise restriction start time from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. These amendments reflect concerns raised during the public engagement process and Council’s review of the proposed regulations. Beth Jager,

Director of Learning with Northern Gateway Public School Division, presented an update on the 2026 Career Exposure Summer Camps. The program provides students in Grades 9–12 with opportunities to explore career pathways through hands-on learning experiences while earning high school credits. Woodlands County contributed \$5,000 toward the initiative, supporting opportunities for local youth to gain practical experience and explore future education and employment options. Council received the presentation for information. Council reviewed proposed Council Committees Bylaw 646/26 and approved several amendments relating to committee operations

and responsibilities. Changes include adjusting Economic Development Committee meeting frequency to every two months or at the call of the Chair, removing the proposed non-disclosure agreement requirement for Councillors, and revising the Finance and Taxation Committee’s meeting schedule to October, November, December, and March. Council also directed that the Finance and Taxation Committee’s Terms of Reference reflect an advisory role. Council adopted Policy G-1.011, Council Self-Evaluation, establishing a formal process for Council to assess its collective governance performance, identify opportunities for improvement, and strengthen accountability.

The policy includes a standardized evaluation template and was adopted with a minor wording amendment. Council directed Administration to begin repealing the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) with Lac Ste. Anne County, following recent changes to provincial legislation allowing neighbouring municipal districts to mutually determine that a formal framework is no longer required. Existing service agreements between the municipalities are to remain in effect. Administration was also directed to explore similar repeals with other neighbouring municipal districts where both parties agree that a framework is unnecessary. Council deferred consideration

of the proposed Ad Hoc Pride Valley Aggregate Oversight Committee to a future meeting. 2 Council also received the August 2026 Service Request Tracker Report for information, providing an overview of resident service requests, response activity, and outstanding items. Upcoming scheduled meetings: • 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Whitecourt

CAMPING SEASON IS WINDING DOWN....



Residents throughout Whitecourt are getting ready to winterize and store their Recreational Vehicles (RVs) for the season. The Town of Whitecourt reminds residents that Land Use Bylaw 1577 and Traffic Bylaw 1573 outline guidelines and regulations for the parking of RVs on residential properties and streets.

Below are some frequently asked questions regarding RV parking.

What vehicles are considered RVs?

Motor homes, fifth wheel trailers, holiday trailers, and boats are all considered recreational vehicles under Land Use Bylaw 1577.

Where can residents park their RVs during the winter?

During the winter, RVs must be stored beside or behind the house. From November 1 to March 31, on residential properties, one recreational vehicle may be stored on site. No portion of the recreational vehicle may be located any further forward than the front of the home (minimum of 6.1m from the front property line).

Can residents park unattached trailers on a local street?

No, unattached trailers cannot be parked on town streets at any time. This includes (but is not limited to) tent trailers, travel trailers, fifth wheel trailers, boat trailers, utility trailers, campers not mounted on truck, etc.

Can an RV parked on a local street or on a private property be utilized for sleeping?

No, an RV parked on a local street or highway cannot be utilized for sleeping. RV's are not permitted to be occupied for temporary accommodations except within approved campground locations.

What are the fines for the improper parking of an RV and utility vehicle?

Fines can be issued according to Town Bylaws and Provincial Legislation.

- Parking RVs in prohibited areas - \$300 fine for first offence under Land Use Bylaw 1577. Subsequent fines will apply for non-compliance.
- Unattached Trailers - \$100 fine under Traffic Bylaw 1573
- Parked over 72 hours – up to a \$324 penalty, plus towing cost under the Traffic Safety Act

For more information, contact the Planning & Development Department at 780-778-2273 or visit www.whitecourt.ca.



310-4AUC
1-833-511-4AUC
www.auc.ab.ca
1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 0G5

Notice of amendment to franchise fee for the Town of Whitecourt
to be filed by FortisAlberta Inc. for acknowledgement
by the Alberta Utilities Commission

Application Summary

FortisAlberta Inc. will file an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission, at the direction of the Town of Whitecourt, requesting acknowledgement of the new franchise fee of 9.14 per cent for the Town of Whitecourt.

The current franchise fee of 7.09 per cent will change to 9.14 per cent, effective January 1, 2027. The franchise fee percentage is applied to the distribution tariff, typically consisting of both distribution and transmission charges. Based on the typical monthly consumption of 625 kilowatt hours, the average monthly franchise fee paid by an average residential customer is expected to increase by \$1.74 to \$7.31.

The franchise fee is charged in accordance with the franchise agreement between the Town of Whitecourt and FortisAlberta Inc., approved by the Commission in Decision 2014-152.

You may send your objections, concerns about, or support for the application in writing to the Town of Whitecourt or FortisAlberta Inc. on or before November 4, 2026, at:

Town of Whitecourt
Mrs. Cherie Van Der Meer, Assistant Controller
5004 – 52 Avenue, Box 509, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6
Email: cherievandermeer@whitecourt.ca

FortisAlberta Inc.
Mr. Chris McCleave, Director, Stakeholder & Government Affairs
320 17 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2S 2V1
email: stakeholderrelations@fortisalberta.com

Except for information designated confidential by the Commission, any information or materials, including personal information, that are provided as part of a Commission proceeding will become part of the public record.

If no submissions are received, or if submissions are received from a party not directly affected, or if submissions are frivolous, vexatious or of little merit, the Commission may render a decision on the application without further notice or without a public hearing.

For more information

For more information on how to file a submission, please contact the Commission directly at 310 4282 (in Alberta) or 1 833 511 4282 (outside Alberta), or by email at info@auc.ab.ca. An information package, providing an explanation of the process and assistance on how to participate in the proceeding, will be immediately provided to any person who inquires with the Commission.

For a paper copy of the franchise agreement, please contact either the applicant or the municipality at:

Town of Whitecourt
Mrs. Cherie Van Der Meer, Assistant Controller
5004 – 52 Avenue, Box 509, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6
Email: cherievandermeer@whitecourt.ca

FortisAlberta Inc.
Mr. Chris McCleave, Director, Stakeholder & Government Affairs
320 17 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2S 2V1
email: stakeholderrelations@fortisalberta.com

The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory body responsible for making decisions about utility-related applications.

Issued on October 21, 2026.

Alberta Utilities Commission

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when severe weather is forecast.

Patio furniture, planters, outdoor decorations, garbage bins and other loose items should be secured or

brought indoors ahead of a windstorm. Residents should also watch for weakened tree limbs that could break in high winds and arrange for necessary maintenance before severe weather arrives. During a wind-

storm, it is best to stay clear of large trees and areas where branches or other debris could fall. Drivers should use extra caution, as strong crosswinds can make vehicles harder to control, particularly on ex-

posed roads and when driving larger vehicles.

Downed power lines are another hazard following severe weather. Residents should stay well away from fallen lines and anything touching them and re-

port them to the appropriate utility provider.

Households can also prepare for possible power outages by keeping flashlights and batteries on hand, charging phones in advance and having basic emergen-

cy supplies ready.

Residents are encouraged to monitor weather forecasts and official warnings and take steps to protect themselves and their property when strong winds are expected.



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!!!!

Poppy Campaign Kickoff!

★★★★★

"If I could give this play six stars, I would."

—SHANNON BOKLASCHUK, THE STAR PHOENIX, SASKATOON

★★★★★

"Mark it down. Get your tickets right away."

—COLIN MACLEAN, EDMONTON SUN

jake's gift

Written & performed by Julia Mackey • Directed by Dirk Van Stralen

A Governor General award-winning play about a WWII veteran's journey to Normandy to find his brother's grave.



Saturday, October 24, 2026 • 7pm
Royal Canadian Legion

4928-51 Avenue, Whitecourt

Tickets **\$40** • Available at the Legion Thursday to Saturday from 2:30pm, or call 780-778-3666 or Elaine McDermid 780-778-2711 • Tickets available online at jakesgift.com • General Public, Members and Guests welcome!

Rocky's House of Horror returns to Whitecourt for Halloween



By Haylee Winger

Rocky's House of Horror is returning to Whitecourt from October 24 to 30, giving community members a chance to enjoy some Halloween scares while supporting playground upgrades at Pat Hardy School.

Hosted by Ballard and presented by Fillmore Welding, the haunted house will be located at 3780 30 Street. It will be open nightly from 7 to 9 p.m., with admission costing \$10 per person.

Preparing the annual attraction takes volunteer help, from setting up the haunted house

Photo: Pat Hardy School



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Photo: Sandra Bilodeau

A trumpeter swan was spotted just outside Whitecourt, offering a glimpse of local wildlife in the area.

Public Sale of Land, (Municipal Government Act) Woodlands County

Notice is hereby given that, under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Woodlands County will offer for sale, by public auction, at the Municipal Office, 1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, Alberta, on November 9, 2026, at 10 am., the following lands:

Land Parcels

Roll No	Lot	Block	Plan	C of T	Reserve Bid
3102534	3	1	1424321	142 321 880 +2	\$520,000
195940	7	-	7922456	072 264 503	\$530,000

- Any parcel of land offered for sale may be redeemed by payment of all arrears, penalties and costs by guaranteed funds at any time until the property is declared sold.
- Each parcel of land offered for sale will be subject to a reserve bid and title will be subject to the reservations and conditions contained in the existing certificate of title.
- The lands are being offered for sale on an “as is, where is” basis, and the municipality makes no representation and gives no warranty whatsoever as to the state of the parcel nor its suitability for any intended use by the successful bidder.
- The auctioneer, councillors, the chief administrative officer and the designated officers and employees of the municipality must not bid or buy any parcel of land offered for sale, unless directed by the municipality to do so on behalf of the municipality.
- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for property taxes and utilities for the current year. There will be no adjustment to the date of sale.
- The purchaser will be required to execute a sale agreement in form and substance provided by the municipality.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of sale, make payment in cash, certified cheque or bank draft payable to the municipality as follows:
 - The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
 - If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale.(if the certified cheque or bank draft exceeds the final purchase price, the excess will be refunded within a reasonable time)
- GST will be collected on all properties subject to GST.
- The risk of the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- The purchaser will be responsible for registration of the transfer including registration fees.
- If no offer is received on a property or if the reserve bid is not met, the property cannot be sold at the public auction.
- The municipality may, after the public auction, become the owner of any parcel of land that is not sold at the public auction.
- Once the property is declared sold at public auction, the previous owner has no further right to pay the tax arrears.

Dated this 13th day of October 2026.

Managed by: TAXervice

Matthew Ferris, Chief Administrative Officer
Woodlands County

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to taking it down once Halloween is over.

Setup took place October 13 to 16, but volunteers are still needed for the scaring shifts running October 24 to 30, as well as takedown and cleanup on November 2 and 3, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Those volunteering for scaring shifts are asked to arrive at 6:45 p.m. to choose their spot and get into costume before scaring begins at 7 p.m. Community members can sign up to volunteer at [https://signup.com/go/](https://signup.com/go/OKDxDBU)

OKDxDBU.

Priority for scaring spots is given to volunteers who also help with setup and take-down. Children are welcome to volunteer but must remain under their parent’s supervision at all times. During scaring shifts, children must stay with an adult at their assigned spot for the full shift.

Rocky’s House of Horror offers Whitecourt residents a Halloween attraction to enjoy while helping raise funds for playground upgrades at Pat Hardy School.



Photo: Pat Hardy School

The Press

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Community Resource Directory

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RECOVERY & SUPPORT GROUPS

N Recover Out Loud

- Recover Out Loud (NA)**
- Narcotics Anonymous meetings
 - Mon 7:30pm – in person & Zoom
 - Fri 7:30pm – Whitecourt Baptist Church
 - Zoom ID 818 413 483 · Pass: gratitude

A Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous

- Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous**
- AA meetings, 3x weekly
 - Mon / Wed / Fri · 8–9pm
 - United Church Basement
 - Addictions Helpline available 24/7
- 1-866-332-2322**

G GRIEF SHARE

- GriefShare**
- Grief support group
 - Tuesdays · 6:30–8:30pm
 - Crossroads Community Church, Mayerthorpe
 - \$35 for 12 weekly sessions · pre-register
- 780-786-2533**

CRISIS & FAMILY SUPPORT

W Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre

- 24/7 shelter & crisis line for women & children fleeing violence
- Outreach support & child support programs
- Preventative education for schools & organizations
- whitecourtshelter.ca · @whitecourt_shelter

780-778-6209 / 1-800-467-4049

L Lorne's Blanket

- Transitional housing for men
- Helping homeless men get back on their feet
- Know a man who needs assistance?
- Reach out any time

780-778-0952

PRACTICAL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

F Whitecourt Food Bank

- Cash & food donations help families in need
- Carlan Services Community Centre
- Open Mon/ Wed/ Fri, 11am-1pm
- Drop-offs from local grocers & schools

780-778-2341

C Cancer & Wellness Society

- Financial support for local cancer patients & families
- Parking, living & medical expense assistance
- Apply through Whitecourt Medical Clinics
- wtcancerwellness.com

Kim 780-778-0932 • Aimee 780-262-0222

Road safety remains focus for RCMP across Alberta, Whitecourt



By Haylee Winger

According to Alberta RCMP, officers issued 1,861 traffic violation tickets across the province during the Thanksgiving long weekend as part of Operation Impact 2026.

The national road safety campaign focused on reducing injuries and deaths caused by collisions.

Speeding accounted for 755 of the tickets issued during the enforcement period, while 32 tickets were issued for distracted

driving. Officers also recorded 25 seatbelt infractions and issued 87 Immediate Roadside Sanctions for impaired driving offences.

Despite the enforcement efforts, Alberta RCMP reported 15 injury collisions and two fatal collisions over the long week-

end. Two people lost their lives.

The provincial numbers cover the Thanksgiving enforcement period, while Whitecourt RCMP's latest report covers a separate period from October 1 to October 15.

According to Whitecourt RCMP, officers

were dispatched to 169 occurrences during those two weeks. The detachment listed well-being checks, traffic collisions and offences, and mental health-related calls among the most common reasons for service.

Whitecourt RCMP

also reported conducting proactive patrols throughout the community.

The local detachment has also been working on safety education. On October 8, Cst. Brett Lewis presented information on electric mobility device safety at Percy Baxter School, including safety related to e-scooters and e-bikes.

For drivers, the message is straightforward:

slow down, pay attention and give yourself enough time to react to what is happening around you. Putting cellphones and other distractions away can help drivers stay focused.

Wearing a seatbelt should be part of every trip, and drivers should leave enough room between vehicles. Speed should also be adjusted for traffic, weather and road conditions.

Drivers are encouraged to never drive while impaired and to arrange a safe ride home if they have been drinking.

For longer trips, checking road conditions before leaving and giving yourself extra time can also help avoid rushing on the road.





GOT A NEWS TIP?

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





**Regulatory Assurance Division
Approvals Unit**
6 Floor, South Petroleum Plaza
9915 – 108 ST
EDMONTON AB T5K 2G8
Telephone: (780) 427-6311
Fax: (780) 422-0154
[Environment and Protected Areas | Alberta.ca](#)

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Alberta Newsprint Company has applied to Environment and Protected Areas for a renewal of an existing approval and vertical expansion of onsite landfill for the Whitecourt pulp and paper mills plant. The operation is located on 200.34 hectares of land, located on NW ¼ Section 7, Township 60, Range 12, SW ¼ Section 18, Township 60, Range 12, NE ¼ Section 13, Township 60, Range 13, SE ¼ Section 13, Township 60, Range 13, SW ¼ Section 13, Township 60, Range 13, NW ¼ Section 13, Township 60, Range 13, NE ¼ Section 12, Township 60, Range 13 and NW ¼ Section 12, Township 60, Range 13 W5M as per Plan No. 8920483, and 8.53 hectares of land located on NE ¼ Section 12, Township 60, Range 13 and SE ¼ Section 12, Township 60, Range 13 W5M as per plan No. 8923282 that is being or has been used or held for or in connection with the pulp and paper manufacturing plant, 63 MW power plant and the industrial class II landfill.

A directly affected person may provide input into certain regulatory decisions, as allowed by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (section 73). Specifically, any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Protected Areas
Regulatory Assurance Section
Approvals Unit
5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza
9915 - 108 ST
EDMONTON, AB T5K 2G8
Email: epa.epeaapplications@gov.ab.ca

The written statement of concern should include the following information to be assured it can be considered:

- The application number 025-103.
- Describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.
- Explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activities proposed in the application.
- Provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- State the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application.
- Contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer. Please provide a telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Protected Areas will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and concerns that are relevant to the application and for which the Director has delegated authority to address in the decision on the application, will be considered in the technical review of the application. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at <https://avw.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx>.

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

Shannon Fehr
Alberta Newsprint Company
BAG 9000
WHITECOURT AB T7S 1P9
Telephone: (780)778-7916
Email: shannonf@albertanewsprint.com

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#: 26-063 – Utility Plant Operator I – Permanent, Full-Time – Closes October 30, 2026

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



Visit www.whitecourtpress.com

Just Peachy

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Locally owned and operated indoor artisan market. At Just Peachy, you will find over 100 artisans selling their creations. Everything from pottery and paintings to soaps and sun-catchers. @ @ @ **780-778-1051**
5014 50 St, Whitecourt

Contact us about our workshops

justpeachyarts@outlook.com



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.



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

WOODLANDS COUNTY

Gain practical knowledge & resources to help you & your family feel more prepared when evacuations occur.

BEING AN EVACUEE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

TWO FREE DROP-IN SESSIONS:

OCTOBER 27
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Topland Community Hall,
71045 Hwy 658

OCTOBER 28
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Forestry Interpretive Centre,
Whitecourt

No registration required. Contact Woodlands County for more information: 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
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Spruce View Lodge residents raise a glass to Oktoberfest



Photos: Spruce View Lodge

Residents at Spruce View Lodge enjoyed an Oktoberfest-inspired gathering as part of the lodge's Thanksgiving celebrations. Accordion player Denis Bourdon provided live entertainment, with residents joining in with the music. They were also treated to bagel bites with beer cheese, prepared by Laurel from the kitchen, along with Heineken and warm apple cider.

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Christopher Bryson
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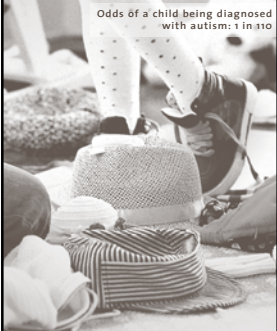
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Reducing the mental load of household finances

(NC) Like many people, you might find yourself constantly running through your mental to-do list, and it never seems to end. This mental load can be heavy, with a significant portion of it related to financial management.

When too many of these tasks pile up, they compete for attention, leading to decision fatigue and things falling through the cracks. But there are simple steps that can help you towards reducing the weight of the mental load.

1. Stop remembering, automate instead

If you're relying on your memory to manage your finances, you're doing more

work that you need to. You can set aside 10 minutes out of your day to write down all the financial to-dos that are on your mind: upcoming bills, recurring expenses and long-term priorities. A clear list can help you prioritize and stay organized.

You can also quickly set up automated actions for regular payments or set re-occurring reminders to notify you of important dates, scheduling automatic transfers for payments and savings, and setting up auto-pay on your bills.

2. Check if your money is protected

Peace of mind is a key part of reducing financial stress. When you're confident that your savings are secure, it removes a layer of worry. In Canada, the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC) exists to protect depositors in the rare event of bank failure. This organization protects eligible deposits held at member institutions, with coverage up to \$100,000 per insured category. Protection is free and automatic.

You can check if you bank with a member in-

stitution by consulting the full list of members on their website and calculate how much of your money is protected by using their online deposit insurance calculator.

3. Share the responsibility

The mental load of managing household finances doesn't need to be done by one person alone.

If you share a household, explore where its other members can help in managing financial tasks by splitting the responsibilities. When doing this, it's good to have regular check-ins to ensure you're on track to your shared goals. If this isn't an option, you may also want to reach out to your financial institution for advice and to explore other money management options.

By getting organized, automating tasks, sharing responsibilities and learning how you're protected, you can turn a jumbled mental list into something far more manageable. You can learn more about the ways you're protected by consulting the deposit insurance calculator at cdic.ca.

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Dollar Values as of October 21, 2026



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