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At participating McDonald's restaurants in Canada. © 2024 McDonald's



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EDSON

Town updates social media policy...

see page 2

SCHOOLS

GYPSPD announces new superintendent

see page 12

COMMENT

Energy policy takes center stage in high-stakes election...

see page 14

Town council zeros lease for Medical Centre

Council says action will help to promote physician recruitment and retention

by Niki Luymes

In order to encourage physician recruitment, the Edson town council voted to reduce the lease fee for the Edson Medical Centre. Currently the town charges \$137,000 as part of the Medical Centre lease. The motion proposes to reduce that number to \$0, for the next 5 years. While the majority of discussion took place in-camera due to FOIP, a few comments were made when council returned to the public meeting portion, before the official vote.

continued page 2



Library Board Member, Robin Corser, and Friends of the Library member Cindy Fisher, were supervising the Massive Used Book Sale at Edson Public Library on March 31. The sale ran from March 29 to April 3 and featured a variety of books, cds, and dvds. photo Niki Luymes



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Town of Edson updates social media policy

Town considering the potential removal of X [formerly Twitter] for Town information

by Dana McArthur

During the Town of Edson Council meeting on April 1, Communications Coordinator Steve Bethge presented updates to the Town's social media policy.

"With the speed of changes in social media platforms and technologies, and with the current Social Media Policies being passed in 2018, a review and update to better reflect current practices was identified," stated Bethge.

During the March 11th Committee of the Whole Meeting, Council requested a stronger tone for disinformation/defamation comment moderation. "We have reviewed some social media page rules and best practices from other communities. Some minor changes have been made to Schedule A of Procedure IT-I-6-C-P to tighten up the social media rules/code of conduct and to allow more flexibility in moderation," stated Bethge.

"We've increased our engagement in our social media in the hopes to add some more context and clarity to reduce some misinformation out there. We think that's been going really well," said Bethge.

"We discussed the potential removal of X [formerly Twitter]. It's still under review. If we do stop using it, we will maintain our username and our page, in case we need it for emergency purposes. I think in the last month, we've had six likes on all of our posts that we've done on X," Bethge said.

The policy also states the Town reserves the right to remove any posts or content deemed to constitute a breach of the policy including:

- Comments that are offensive to an individual or organization, profane, hateful, insulting, rude, abusive, aggressive, or violent.
- Content that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, age, creed, gender, marital status, socio-economic status, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation.
- Negatively targeting and personally identifying, either about the poster, Town employee(s), elected official(s), or a third party.
- Unproven or inaccurate accusations against individuals or organizations. Unproven or inaccurate factual claims.

Along with other content that may be deemed in breach of the policy.

Mayor Kevin Zahara said, "I do think that there are a few individuals, and thankfully it's not a lot, that do sometimes go over the line and start making accusations that are completely false, and that certainly should not be tolerated. Not to say that people can't have their own opinions on policy or decisions that are being made, but when you're basically slandering members of Council, I have a big problem with that."

Councillor Peter Taylor said, "We value people asking questions and questioning. Those are important aspects of a thriving democracy, but

we also can't be the microphone for disinformation. A vast majority of people are very respectful on the page, and we'd like to see that to continue. I like the changes that have been made here."

Council voted to accept the revised policy.

2025 Rimbey Spring Machinery Consignment Auction

Edson Area - Grazing Lease
Sale Starts on April 18th, 2025
Grazing Lease (Located in the Cattle Handling Ring) - April 21st, 2025

Selling a 1244.43 Acre M/L Grazing Lease Just West of Edson Area - Grazing Lease #38603

Consisting of Approx. 8 Quarters of Land in 1 Block, On 10 Titles with a Carrying Capacity of 366 AUMs (Animal Unit Month). There are four separate pastures; three with dugouts. There are three springs, one is fenced off. The fourth pasture has water holes in a wet year but cattle can access the pasture # 3 dugout.

Legal Descriptions:

1. NW 11-53-19 W5M - 114.5 Acres M/L
2. SW 11-53-19 W5M - 19.5 Acres M/L
3. SE 10-53-19 W5M - 8.24 Acres M/L
4. NE 11-53-19 W5M - 160 Acres M/L
5. SE 14-53-19 W5M - 23.5 Acres M/L
6. SW 12-53-19 W5M - 160 Acres M/L
7. NW 1-53-19 W5M - 156 Acres M/L
8. NE 1-53-19 W5M - 142.34 Acres M/L
9. SE 12-53-19 W5M - 160 Acres M/L
10. NE 12-53-19 W5M - 160 Acres M/L

North side of lease borders Hwy 16 for easy access with four separate entrances to the lease (2 are metal gates), only 10 min from Edson. \$1200.00 Altogas revenue and huge swath of new pasture cleared, broke and seeded from Trans-Mountain Pipeline.

Real Estate Transactions are being Handled by Morrison Realty Kim

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Hughes (403) 704-3141 & Allen Olson (403) 783-0556

Town council zeros lease for Medical Centre

continued from front

Councillor Krystal Cacka, who chairs the Physician Recruitment and Retention committee, spoke about the motion. "We [the committee] have been trying to find a way to position our region in a competitive and desirable fashion so that we do not find ourselves in the situation of desperation that other communities in Canada currently find themselves. So this would be very helpful towards that assessment."

Mayor Kevin Zahara added, "This is our Town Council taking a stance in supporting our physicians, our medical community, and our community as a whole. We realize that healthcare is in a bit of a shambles in our province, and throughout the country, so we are stepping outside of our lane here. This will hopefully provide some stability to physicians that are currently here, as well as those that are currently looking to move to our community."

Councillor Cacka made the motion for Council to direct that the lease for the Medical Centre Corporation be reduced from \$137,000 to \$0 for the next 5 years, as of April 1, 2025. Council voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

2025 Federal Election Political Candidates Forum

Wednesday, April 9, 2025
at the
Galloway Station Museum
223-55 Street, Centennial Park, Edson, Alberta.
Forum starts at 7pm.

EST. 1912
Edson and District
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Edson Public Library hosts massive used book sale

by Niki Luymes

The Edson Public Library hosted a massive used book sale from March 29th to April 3rd. The Library's community-use room was full of gentle used books, DVDs, and CDs.

For a donation of their choice, anyone could take any number or variety of items. All proceeds will go directly back into the library.

A majority of the items for sale were donations from the past year. "We had a lot of donations coming in, so we just had a huge pileup of items," said Sarah Tonowski, Library Manager.

"Normally we have an ongoing used book sale shelf, but we had a lot so we thought we'd do a big book sale and then they'll find new homes," said Tonowski.

The rest of the items were things that were removed from circulation for a variety of reasons. "That's the whole thing with libraries, we're not museums. We don't keep everything. We keep the books that people like, and that people use, and the ones that don't go out, we find new homes for," Tonowski said.

All of the items were in good to new condition. "Many of the books still have a lot of value," said Tonowski. The sale included fiction and non-fiction books, blu-ray and DVDs, and a selection of CDs. There was something for all ages and interests available.

The sale was set up by the library staff and then run throughout the day by members of the Friends of the Library Society.

A portion of the proceeds will be going to the Friends of the Library Society. The sale proved to be very popular with Saturday bringing in over \$300.



The Edson and District Public Library held a Massive Used Book Sale at the library from March 29 to April 3 featuring a variety of books, dvds, and cds. photo Niki Luymes

Yellowhead Ag Society proud to present new indoor facility



The Yellowhead Agricultural Society's new Indoor facility located at the Edson Rodeo Grounds.

The Yellowhead Agricultural Society is proud to present to the community our New Indoor facility located at the Edson Rodeo Grounds. It is exciting to have a fresh and new facility to celebrate our 50th Anniversary year!

To date, the Society has invested over \$1.3 Million into this new facility and are looking forward to moving on to the next expansion phases in the near future. We would like to personally acknowledge and thank the Alberta Government, Yellowhead County and the Town of Edson for their generous support of this project.

The big and bright new arena has now been open for just over 3.5 months and is being enjoyed daily by many different user groups. The arena welcomed its' first Clinic on December 30th - the Happy Horse Beginner Course, hosted by Popular Ridge Ranch, followed by an Ian

Zoerb Farrier clinic, Brian McPhee Horsemanship Clinic, and this past weekend Heather Rioux, along with numerous Equine Heath providers and local businesses, held a multi-purpose event which included a Tack Sale/Saddle and Bit Fitting/Ground Driving Clinic and Equine health services.

The Yellowhead Ag Society offers different activity events weekly which include both Live and Dummy Roping nights, Open Roughstock Practice nights, Barrel nights, Jumping nights, and monthly Gymkhanas. It is available for designated drop in use as well as private bookings.

We are looking forward to the many events scheduled for 2025's spring, summer and fall. These include Best of the West Bareback, Saddle Bronc and Ranch Bronc Schools, a Leader in Me Clinic, the 50th Anniversary Gymkhana Series,

4H Achievement Beef Sale, Dog and Pony Show, Renaissance Fair, Edson Ranch Rodeo and the Yellowhead Ag Society Fall Fair & Horse Show.

You can find more information regarding our upcoming events, arena usage info, or society information via our website at

www.yellowheadagsociety.ca or follow us on Facebook for current activities.

Now that the arena is in full operation, the Yellowhead Ag Society is planning an Open House to celebrate our new facility on July 19, 2025, and will be hosting various 50th Anniversary celebrations throughout the year.


SPONSOR THANK-YOU!

Yellowhead Agricultural Society

We would like to thank the following primary supporters and sponsors for giving us the opportunity to provide our wonderful new indoor facility for our community!

- Past and Present Yellowhead Agricultural Society Board of Directors and Volunteers
 - Government of Alberta
 - Yellowhead County
 - Town of Edson
 - Excel Projects Ltd.
 - Mountainside Sales & Rentals
 - Brian Janish Enterprises Ltd.
 - Paul Lemieux
 - JRF Oilfield Services Ltd.
- TC Energy
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 - Edson Concrete (1995) Ltd.
 - GFL Environmental
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 - Border Paving Ltd.

We would also like to thank the many community businesses that have supported us in our fundraising efforts throughout the years as we worked to make this dream possible.



TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2025

**Town of Edson
Office Hours:
Monday to Friday
8am to 4pm
(Closed Stat Holidays)**



PAINT THE ICE

- ▶ April 6th
- ▶ Centennial Arena
- ▶ 2:00-4:00PM



Town of Edson FCSS - Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

FREE TAX CLINIC

March 3rd - April 30th
Located at the Griffiths Park Centre
(5414 6 Ave)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.....9AM to 3PM
Wednesday11AM to 7PM
Friday, Saturday, Sunday.....CLOSED

To book an appointment, please email edsoncvitp@gmail.com or call 780-725-0582

Drop-in & drop-off taxes are welcome, but appointments will have priority.





Eligibility Requirements:


- **Simple tax returns only** (no business income, no capital gains, no depreciation and no death returns)
- **Edson and area residents welcome**
- **Low income, seniors, students**

Income Thresholds are as follows:
1 person income \$35,000 or less
2 person income \$45,000 or less
3 person income is \$47,500 or less
4 person income is \$50,000 or less
5 person income is \$52,500 or less
and increases by \$2,500 per individual per family thereafter



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

LINE PAINTING (RFP 2025-32-004)

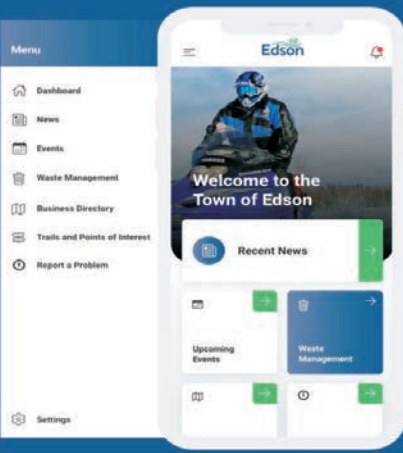
Interested parties should view the bid documents at

www.edson.ca/tenders

RFP ISSUE DATE: Monday, March 31, 2025

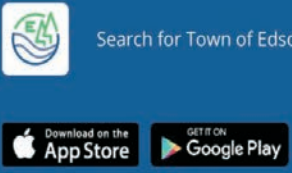
RFP CLOSING DATE: Thursday, April 17, 2025

RFP CLOSING TIME: 14:00:59 (2:00 P.M) MST




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NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Recent Development Permits approved by the Development Authority, under the Town of Edson Land Use Bylaw 2296 as amended, can be found at <https://www.edson.ca/business/planning/development-permit-applications>. Additional information can be requested from the Planning Department at 780-723-4402 or planning@edson.ca.

Any person who is deemed to be affected by the issuance of any one of these permits may appeal to the Subdivision and Development Authority **by 4:00 p.m., on the 21st day after the date of issue as published on the Town's website**. On Permitted Uses, grounds for appeal must relate only to interpretation, variance, or relaxation of Land Use Bylaw 2296. On Discretionary Uses, all aspects of the proposed development may be challenged upon appeal. Written notice of appeal, accompanied by the appeal fee as established by Town Council, must be filed through the Office of the Secretary of the Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (ISDAB) at Box 6300, Edson, AB T7E 1T7. **Direct Control District Approvals cannot be appealed.**

SCAN ME

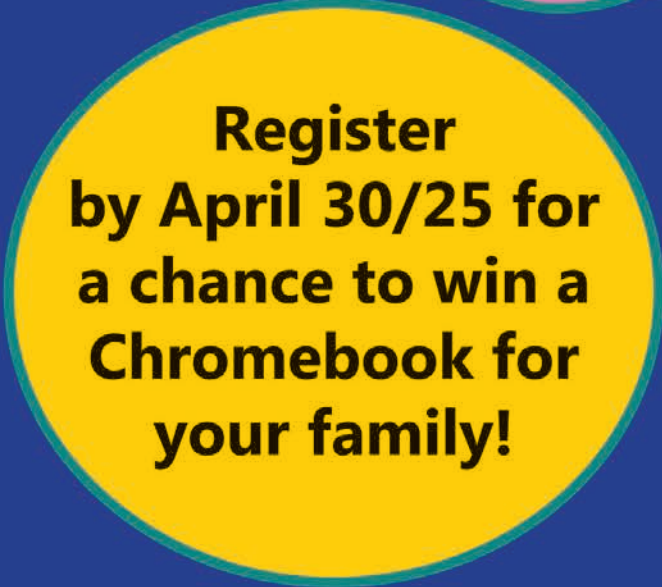


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Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6
evansviewschool.gypsd.ca
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VISIT SCHOOL WEBSITES FOR OPEN HOUSE DATES
Find out more at www.gypsd.ca

Historical Feature:

Niton's first school was a one room schoolhouse built in 1928

Galloway Station Museum, Travel Centre & Archives: Information courtesy of 'The One Room Schools Built by Our Pioneers'.

Before 1928, the community of Niton Junction did not have a school, which discouraged many families from settling in the area, and even caused some families to leave altogether.

As a result of this, the community held a meeting in which they discussed how they could make a school in Niton a reality. At this meeting, many people offered to help; Louis Meropoulos donated land to build the school on, lumber camps offered lumber for the build, and some people even donated money. The ladies at the meeting also decided to make and sell items to raise money for the school, and also planned to host various fundraising events, such as card parties and bingos.

The single storey, one room schoolhouse was built by volunteers in 1928 on the land donated by Louis Meropoulos.

Former students of the Niton School recall that the school was very small, heated only by a barrel-type stove that stood near the front of the room. During colder weather, students had to bring their desks in front of the stove, which meant that those nearest would be roasting and those furthest would be freezing. According to former teacher Bessie

Powers, the constant shuffling of desks would cause quite the commotion and often disrupt the class.

Students had to haul their drinking water from Lobstick Creek, located just across the road from the school, and in the winter students would clear the snow from the creek and play ice hockey on it during their recesses and lunch hours.

Many former students of Niton School have fond memories of their time spent there. George Phillips recalls, "On [an] occasion at the school, a plane came flying about 200 feet above the railroad tracks. This was in 1942 so it was quite an event. We thought it was going to crash but it didn't. The teacher had us all write essays about the happening."

Another student recalled a light-hearted joke played on one of the teachers, "I remember one April Fool's Day when about half of the students came to school early. They decided to play an April Fool's joke on her by climbing up in the school attic. She found out that they were up there and made them stay there until recess. I was the school janitor at the time and the teacher told me to stoke up the fire to keep them warm. When they came down at recess, she made them stay in and catch up on the work they missed that morning. Their little joke back-



Niton's original one room schoolhouse. photo courtesy of the Yellowhead County Heritage Inventory

fired on them but it was all done in fun."

Ultimately, the Niton School proved to be a success and was a deciding factor for settlers choosing to call Niton home. By 1939, there were 35 students enrolled in the school from grades one through eight.

As the population of Niton grew, the tiny school could not accommodate the volume of students, and the small school was abandoned in the early 1950's.

The school was later repurposed as a community hall, playing host to

many parties, dances, weddings, and other social events, thus allowing it to continue to have a role in the social development of Niton.

The Niton School was essential for social development of the area, and without it, the hamlet of Niton and the surrounding area would not be what it is today.

Former student Alex Phillips summed up his experience at Niton School; "All in all I wouldn't change my time growing up in Niton. Associating with the children and nature in the area was a good educational beginning."

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Yellowhead County

Phone: 780-723-4800 Toll Free 1-800-665-6030 Fax: 780-723-5066
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



Hosted by:
Athabasca Watershed Council
Yellowhead County

Do you own an acreage, hobby farm or recreational property? Then plan on attending this free workshop.

Join us at this FREE Green Acres workshop

Presented by Land Stewardship Centre

HOSTED BY: Athabasca Watershed Council & Yellowhead County

DATE: April 30, 2025

TIME: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LOCATION: Edson Lion's Club Hall, 4139 3 Ave, Edson

PREREGISTER TODAY AT:

<https://shorturl.at/4elEv>

At this workshop you will learn about stewardship and how to:

- Better manage and improve your property
- Evaluate your acreage
- Map your property assets and plan your activities
- Access funding to help with a stewardship project and learn about eligible projects
- And more, including a riparian assessment presentation by AWC



In Peers! Dance Classes

Join instructors from the Edson Dance Academy for a four week session at the Peers Multiplex!



\$40 for the four-week session!

Monday May 26 & June 2, 9, 16

Ages 3-5

Ages 6-8

Ages 9+

4:30 pm - 5:15 pm

5:15 pm - 6:00 pm

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm

Register at yhcounty.ca/registration or by phoning Jina at 780-723-4800



Yellowhead County EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Facility Maintenance Supervisor
EDSON, AB
COMPETITION NO. 25-020

Reporting to the Manager of Transportation Services, the Facility Maintenance Supervisor oversees the operation and maintenance of all facilities, staff and contractors in all functions related to the general maintenance and construction of facilities. Responsible for performing preventative and remedial maintenance related to the operation of municipal facilities.

The Facility Maintenance Supervisor makes recommendations to the Manager of Transportation Services on project prioritization, required resources, up-grades, budgeting and staffing.

The salary range is currently \$89,313 - \$110,748 per year. Yellowhead County offers a competitive benefit plan.

To apply please submit resumes online at www.yhcounty.ca/jobs. A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online.

The competition closes on Friday, April 18 at 4:30 PM.

We thank all interested applicants in advance, however only those applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

Human Resources, Yellowhead County

Email: jobs@yhcounty.ca

The personal information obtained as a result of this advertisement will be utilized for these employment opportunities only, and is subject to compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP

An afternoon of visual, hands-on tree pruning with Toso Bozic from Yard Whispers. Learn to prune a variety of trees including spruce, fruit, ornamentals, and more!



LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE! REGISTER BY APRIL 22

SATURDAY, APRIL 26
12PM-4PM \$15/PERSON

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Located in the Evansburg area at a local residence.

Location and other details will be shared once payment has been received.

Register at www.YHCOUNTY.ca/Registration or call 1-800-814-3935



Approved Development Permits have been issued authorizing the following:

Permit No.	Location	Proposal	Date	Appeal Deadline
D25-028	Plan 2520536 Blk 1 Lot 36 SE-30-53-7-W5 Evansburg	Single Detached Dwelling with Attached Garage	Mar 19/25	Permitted Use
D25-024	NE-10-54-16-W5 Wolf Creek Area	Accessory Building (Machine/Equipment Storage)	Mar 19/25	Permitted Use
D25-029	NW-16-56-14-W5 Shiningbank Lake Area	Single Detached Dwelling with Attached Garage & Covered Deck	Mar 20/25	Permitted Use
D25-030	SW-10-55-14-W5 Bear Lake Crossover	Addition to Existing Single Detached Dwelling (Loft) & Accessory Building (Garage) - Variance to Side Yard Setback	Mar 20/25	Apr 10/25
D25-016	Plan 1321956 Blk 1 Lot 1 N-28-53-7-W5 North of Evansburg	Short Term Accommodations - Discretionary	Mar 20/25	Apr 10/25
D25-031	SE-35-55-15-W5 Long Lake Area	Accessory Building (Garage)	Mar 24/25	Permitted Use
D25-034	Plan 0740292 Blk 2 Lot 2 SW-35-53-16-W5 Wolf Creek Area	Accessory Building (Shop) & Existing Addition to Manufactured Home	Apr 7/25	Permitted Use

Yellowhead County Development Permits are also posted online at www.yhcounty.ca. The public is considered officially notified of approved development permits once posted online, in accordance with the Public Notification Bylaw. The Yellowhead County Land Use Bylaw NO 02-24 provides that any person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority may appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board or Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal dependent on jurisdiction of the appeal authority. Appeals under the jurisdiction of Yellowhead County's Subdivision and Development Appeal Board require a written notice of appeal and a payment of \$500.00 payable to Yellowhead County within 21 day of the publishing of the Notice of Decision.

Requirements for appealing the development to the Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/subdivision-appeals.aspx> or by calling 780-427-2444.

WILDWOOD & EDSON
YELLOWHEAD COUNTY MUNICIPAL OFFICES

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER MONDAY

Municipal Offices Closed
FRIDAY, April 18
MONDAY, April 21



YKCS ADMISSIONS 2025-26 NOW OPEN!

YELLOWHEAD KOINONIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL EXISTS TO ASSIST PARENTS IN DEVELOPING THE SPIRITUAL AND ACADEMIC POTENTIAL OF THEIR CHILDREN.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS:

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- PART AND FULL-TIME KINDERGARTEN
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LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

Concession, Bake Sale, Kids Zone

Doors Open 10 AM

Live Auction 11 AM

SATURDAY
April 26,
2025

Auctioneering by
PATTERSON
AUCTIONEERING

FREE EVENT

All are welcome!

Yellowhead Koinonia Christian School
430 72 St Edson (Glenwood) 780-723-3850

18th Annual Step it Up Challenge registration closes April 24

by Deanna Mitchener

The Town of Edson is once again challenging Edson and Yellowhead County residents to Step It Up and increase their physical activity levels for a four-week step challenge.

Hannah Minelli, Community Development Coordinator says, “The 18th Annual Step it Up Challenge will begin Thursday, May 1st and run until Thursday, May 29th at 11:59 p.m. Families, friends, and businesses are encouraged to form teams of three or more to compete against each other for the highest team average each week.”

Each team is required to nominate a team captain who will oversee motivating their team, keeping them organized, and entering their team's weekly average. Each team member must provide their own pedometer, record their steps taken each day, and report their weekly steps to their captain every Thursday starting May 8th.

Registration is \$5 per participant, and you will receive

local coupons, a participant gift and have a chance at winning the weekly prize draw and team prizes at the end. Be sure to join the Step it Up Group under the Town of Edson Community Services social media page to stay up to date on the challenge.

Updates will also be sent to the captains via email to share with their team.

“You must register by April 24th. Registration is in person only at the Leisure Centre. Please only register your team once it is finalized. For more

information you can email hannahm@edson.ca” says Minelli.

This is a great way to get involved, stay active, and encourage others to join you and make the challenge fun.



The Edson Thrift Store has been busy cleaning the store and changing over to spring and summer wear. The Thrift Store is open Wednesdays from 12:00 p. m. To 6:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. They are located at 5112-3rd Ave. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener



Powering Edson.

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If there’s an extreme wildfire risk, a Public Safety Power Shutoff can help keep your community safe. We’re prepared if it’s ever needed—and you can be too. **See how at FortisAlberta.com/WildfireSafety.**

These images are for illustrative purpose only. Remember to keep a safe distance away from power lines. For more information visit FortisAlberta.com/Safety.

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TRAVEL LOG:

Swimming with dolphins

While Edson is lovely during the winter, I also long being near the ocean.

This past winter we were fortunate enough to spend the winter in Mexico right along the ocean.

I love whales and dolphins too, so this was a great place to be camping for the winter as we got to see dolphins on a daily basis along with the odd whale sighting.

We enjoyed stunning sunrises and sunsets, fresh ocean breezes, plenty of sunshine, and beach activities all winter long.

I found the beach to be my oasis, a place to relax and take in the sights of nature. The ocean waves seem to have a different story and rhythm each day. You could walk the same beach each day and each walk would be different.

We'd meeting different folks from around the world, different birds flying overhead, a pod of dolphins, different boats, kayaks, paddle boards, and wind surfers —the beach had something different happening every day.

The bottlenose dolphins were always my day's highlight. They were always trying to interact with people out on kayaks and boats, and even swimmers. I met a lady by the name of Susan Dawson-Cook who is a long distant swimmer. She has formed a unique connection with a pod of bottlenose dolphins, so naturally, I was interested in seeing what she could tell me.

Susan said, "I started in a swim team when I was 10 years old in Ohio where I grew up. I was involved in a lot of competitions right up through university."

Unfortunately, Susan was picked on and bullied growing up. "I often felt like a victim, weak and powerless. I was like a caught fish flopping around. This was until eighth grade when my friend Karen invited me to join the swim team. In the water I thrived. I found peace and a sense of calming when I felt anxious. The water is my sanctuary, the one place I always feel safe. It's also where I feel connected to a divine presence. For decades, swimming pools were my training ground," said Susan.

"Then I got away from swimming for awhile and I started doing triathlons for a few years. As I got older I started to really miss the water. I started back with some occasional swimming in the pool until I got hooked again. Later in life when I married, my husband and I started



Views & News
by Deanna Mitchener

living in San Carlos, México, on the Sea of Cortez, I fell in love with open water swimming," said

Susan.
"We bought a place here in San Carlos Mexico back in 2017, where I started open water swimming. These dolphins started swimming around me and I got to know them. This pod of 10 to 15 dolphins has always come to swim alongside me. I can identify most of them by their markings —different scratches on their bodies and different algae on their tails," Susan said.

"It is so special going open water swimming; it is so different from swimming in a pool. I've always loved the feeling of swimming, but swimming in the ocean is so special. It's unpredictable with the weather conditions and how many dolphins will come and interact with you. You also see other marine life like stingrays and different fish," Susan added.

"In the sea, I swim for the sheer joy of being in the water. Sea swimming has enabled me to let go of my obsession with competition and worrying about being enough —I can simply just be. I race in open water from time to time, and even win my age category, but my placing is no longer my priority. Out in the sea, I lose track of time as my body rises and dips with the waves," explained Susan.

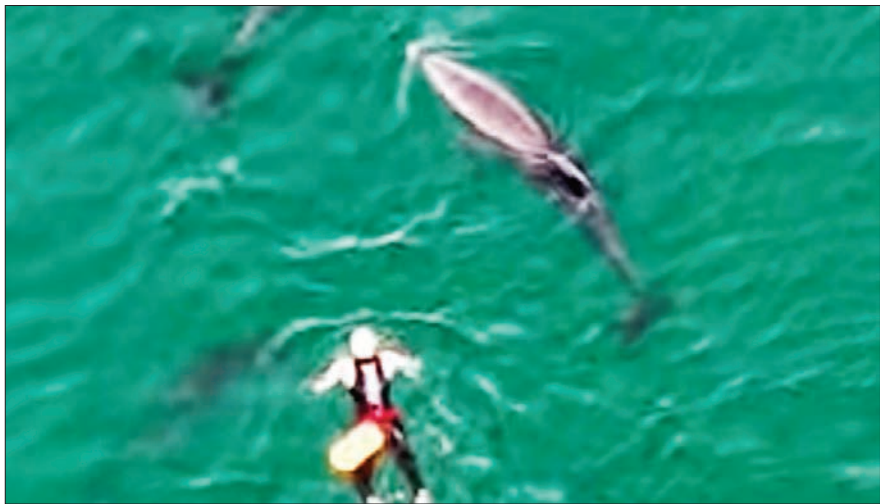
"I have swam in different open waters like in California and my husband and I are certified scuba divers. But we both love swimming here in San Carlos with the dolphins. We love hearing the different sounds they make under the water like chirps, clicks, and whistles to communicate with each other," she said.

When asked if she has ever touched the dolphins, Susan replied, "I don't want to harm them or violate them in anyway, because we really aren't supposed to touch wild animals. I want to have a healthy relationship with them as they are very special to me. It's almost like a spiritual experience and we are communicating with each other. I sometimes think they can feel my thoughts. It's amazing to feel like you have this strong connection, but with another species," Susan explained.

I look forward to another winter along the ocean in the years to come. My birth sign is Pisces —so it only makes sense I'm part fish, don't you think?



Open water lon distance swimmer Susan Dawson-Cook.



Open water swimmer Susan Dawson-Cook alongside dolphins.



COMMUNITY NOTICE

ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Each year, CN is required to manage vegetation on its right-of-way. Managing this vegetation contributes to mitigating fire risks and enhances the efficiency of inspection of track infrastructure.

To ensure safe railway operations, the annual vegetation management program will be carried out on CN rail lines in the province of Alberta. A certified applicator (Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada, Ltd., 1-800-465-6367) will apply herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 24-foot graveled area/ballast). Product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the province within which they are applied.

The program is expected to take place from May to October 2025.

Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation for more information or to make an inquiry, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

GYPSED announces new Superintendent of Schools

The Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSED) is pleased to announce, after extensive community consultations with students, staff and community representatives, the appointment of Mr. Kurt Scobie to the position of Superintendent of Schools and CEO for the School Division.

Commenting on the appointment, Board Chair, Dale Karpluk said, "The Board has one employee, the Superintendent, and hiring a new Superintendent is one of the most important

GYPSED board priorities and advocacy efforts

Trustee elections to be held Oct. 2025

Public School Boards exist to ensure a strong public education for all children.

Trustees must at all times be an advocate for children and their learning needs. In keeping with the theory that government is most effective when placed closest to the people being governed, school board trustees are elected during local municipal elections every four years; the next election will be held in October 2025.

The Board of Trustees provides leadership and guidance to the Division by defining the vision, mission, and priorities on behalf of their stakeholders and communities. Trustees monitor Grande Yellowhead Public School Division's performance and ensure the Assurance Domains - as outlined by Alberta Education - are being met.

GYPSED has its strategies around four main priorities to ensure that the entire Division is moving towards a shared vision of excellence:

- Student Learning
- Teacher, Support Staff, and Leader Excellence
- Community Engagement
- System Health and Wellness

As elected officials, their work is focused on setting direction and goals, building policy, and advocating for GYPSED at all levels of government. The Board monitors the work of all schools and departments to ensure GYPSED is focused on its priorities and that division is always advocating for a strong, well-funded public school system.

Together, successful trusteeship also means building strong partnerships with parents and other affected stakeholders in ensuring that all children are provided the best educational opportunities to become the future citizens that we all envision.

You are encouraged to contact your local School Board Trustee to learn more about the role of the Trustee and public education in the community.

responsibilities a Board undertakes, and we were committed to getting it right. We listened to our stakeholders and were fortunate to have had outstanding applicants. In the end we found the perfect fit in Mr. Kurt Scobie. With a strong track record in GYPSED serving as the Learning Services Supervisor of Technology, the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement Coordinator, and as Principal in three of our schools, Mr. Scobie has consistently prioritized student learning and relationship building as keys to success. The Board is confident in his leadership, and we warmly welcome him as our new GYPSED Superintendent of Schools. He is an innovative educational leader, and he is enthusiastic about ensuring all students have access to high quality and varied learning opportunities."

Mr. Scobie holds a Bachelor of Education, and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. He and his family will maintain their home in Hinton.

When presented with the Board's confirmation, Mr. Scobie said, "I am honoured and excited to serve as the next Superintendent of Schools for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division. I want to thank the Board for engaging in such a thorough process that involved the input of GYPSED leaders, staff, parents/guardians and especially students. I have spent my career in Grande Yellowhead working with leaders, staff, and families to support the learning of our students. I believe that you are the culture that you create and that it can only be done by doing the hard work and getting to know those around you. I am ready to lead this school



Mr. Kurt Scobie, new Superintendent of Schools and CEO for the GYPSED.

division with integrity, innovation, and a deep commitment to excellence. I look forward to collaborating with the Board to build a culture that will improve engagement with staff, students, stakeholders and community representatives."

Kurt will step into the role on July 1st, 2025. The Trustees would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Parsons for his steadfast support this past year as our Interim Superintendent.

West Yellowhead 2025 Visitor's Guide

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EVENT REMINDER

April 3:

Family Wellness Day in Evansburg.
Baking, crafts, and exercising.
Build your own sub for lunch
register at
yhcounty.ca/registration
or call
780-723-4800

Being safe around ice during spring thaw

by Deanna Mitchener

Just a reminder to those still venturing out on the ice in our northern areas as frozen lakes and rivers start to thaw to take extra precautions.

Although the ice may seem safe, it's not. If you are out on a lake in a vehicle trying to get the last ice fishing in, you need to know the risks. The danger of falling through the ice is very real. Going through the ice into cold water is can lead to hypothermia or drowning.

The recommended ice thickness for people walking on a frozen body of water is at least 10 centimetres and for an ATV or snowmobile it's at least 12 centimetres. Ice should be 20 to 30 centimetres thick for a car to drive on it and around 30 to 38 centimetres for a truck. With warmer temperature fluctuations, ice is not stable.

General safety guidelines include:

- Avoid slushy or thawed ice: Slush is a sign that ice is no longer freezing from the bottom and can be weak or deteriorating.
- Stay away from open water: Open water is a major hazard, especially during spring melt when ice can be unstable.
- Wear a floatation device or buoyant suit: In case of falling through the ice, a floatation device or buoyant suit can help you stay afloat.
- Never go onto the ice alone: Always bring a buddy for safety.
- Avoid unfamiliar paths and unknown ice: Stick to well-known and marked areas.
- Be aware of ice thickness: Ice must be at least four inches thick for walking or skating safely.

- New ice is usually stronger than old ice:
- Ice doesn't freeze uniformly:
- Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often more dangerous
- Specific Safety Tips:
- Check ice conditions: Before venturing onto the ice, check the ice thickness and conditions.
- Carry a safety kit: Include items like a rope, ice picks (screwdrivers or large nails work as well), and a knife.
- Wear appropriate clothing: Dress in layers, including waterproof and windproof clothing.
- Tread lightly: Wear skis or snowshoes to help distribute your weight over the ice.
- In a group, keep your distance: If someone

falls in, others are less likely to go under, too.

- If you fall through the ice: Lie on your stomach and spread your arms and legs out to help distribute your weight and stay afloat.

Talk to your children and teenagers about safety around lakes and rivers, no matter how old they are, or how many times they've heard this advice. Keep reminding them it could help save a life.

Don't mix alcohol and drug use when out enjoying recreational activities, they just don't go hand in hand. Wait until you get back to enjoy a beverage of choice, it's just the safest option.



Typical spring thaw and weakening along the McLeod River.

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Guest Editorial/Column

Energy policy takes centre stage in high-stakes election

by Rashid Husain Syed

Energy policy is shaping up to be a defining issue in Canada's upcoming federal election. With climate goals clashing with economic and regional concerns, the direction taken by the next government could reshape the future of the country's most important industry—oil and gas.

Prime Minister Mark Carney, the former Bank of Canada and Bank of England governor now leading the Liberal Party, finds himself at the centre of a growing storm over emissions policy and national unity.

Last week, confusion erupted over the government's position on the emissions cap for oil and gas producers. On Thursday, Environment Minister Terry Duguid stated that the Carney government would maintain the cap. But hours later, speaking at an event in Edmonton, Carney appeared to soften that stance, saying he would work with provinces and industry “on specific ways to get those reductions, as opposed to...having preset caps or preset restrictions on preset timelines.”

Then, on Friday, Carney clarified that the emissions cap would remain in place if his government is elected. However, he pledged to fast-track federal investments in carbon capture and storage technology and methane reduction to help the sector meet those targets.

“There is a role for an emissions cap—and again, emissions cap, not a production cap, just to be clear because some twist it,” Carney said. He noted the government is putting a framework in place to accelerate emissions-reducing technologies.

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, leader of Canada's largest energy-producing province, remains a vocal opponent of the federal policy. Alberta's economy is heavily reliant on oil and gas, which accounts for more than a quarter of the province's GDP. In 2022, the sector contributed over \$138 billion to nominal GDP, which is about 5.7 per cent of Canada's total GDP that year, and supports hundreds of thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Smith has long warned that Ottawa's climate agenda is economically damaging and constitutionally overreaching.

She has demanded the removal of the emissions cap, repeal of clean energy regulations and the federal ban on single-use plastics, an end to the net-zero vehicle mandate, and provincial control over the industrial carbon tax. In an email to Bloomberg, Smith said she made it clear to Carney that Alberta will not accept “an export tax or restriction of Alberta's oil and gas to the United States.”

She also presented a broader list of demands, including establishing oil and gas corridors to the north, east and west, repealing legislation she says hinders pipeline development and lifting the tanker ban off British Columbia's northern coast. Smith warned that the next prime minister must act on the list within the first six months of their term “to avoid an unprecedented national unity crisis.”

Carney acknowledged the need to build large-scale energy projects, including in Alberta, but stopped short of endorsing specific proposals or repealing existing federal legislation. He emphasized the opportunity for Canadian energy to reach

global markets.

“We need new customers in Europe and elsewhere,” he said, suggesting that export routes through Canada's North could unlock new opportunities for Alberta producers.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre called Smith's list of demands “very reasonable” but declined to commit to fulfilling them.

“You'll have to see the rest of our platform roll out in due course,” he told reporters in suburban Ottawa. Poilievre characterized Smith's move as a tactical effort to force clarity on federal energy positions.

Meanwhile, leaders from Canada's oil and gas sector weighed in with an open letter to federal political parties. As reported by Calgary Herald columnist Chris Varcoe, an alliance of CEOs from top petroleum producers and pipeline companies urged Ottawa to declare a “Canadian energy crisis” and set firm six-month timelines for approving major infrastructure.

“We are at a turning point in Canada's history and national interest. There is increasing public support to urgently grow our energy sector and build energy infrastructure,” the letter stated.

The group—which includes members of the Pathways Alliance—called for eliminating the emissions cap, repealing the federal carbon levy on large emitters, simplifying federal environmental assessments and lifting the B.C. northern coast tanker ban.

Even Quebec, traditionally opposed to pipelines, appears to be shifting. Premier François Legault acknowledged that public opinion is changing.

“Given what Donald Trump is saying, the opinion is changing right now,” he said after a meeting of provincial premiers and Carney last Friday. “We're open to these kinds of projects,” he added, in reference to new pipeline discussions.

Ahead of the premiers' meeting, federal Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne met with his provincial and territorial counterparts in Montreal to discuss large-scale, nation-building infrastructure. He said Ottawa is open to interprovincial hydroelectric transmission initiatives and other economic growth efforts.

Ontario Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy highlighted the Ring of Fire mining region in Northern Ontario as a top development priority.

“The status quo is no longer an option,” he said.

British Columbia Finance Minister Brenda Bailey said her province has identified 18 priority projects, including clean energy, mineral extraction and LNG.

“Minister Champagne has challenged us to identify more projects, and I'm very hopeful that on the other side of this trade conflict, Canada will be so much stronger,” she said.

With provinces signalling openness, industry leaders pushing for action and the public watching closely, Canada's energy stakeholders must seize this rare window of opportunity. The path to growth—and national unity—may well depend on it.

- Toronto-based Rashid Husain Syed is a highly regarded analyst specializing in energy and politics, particularly in the Middle East. © Troy Media

Note: The views, opinions, and positions expressed in the column are the author's alone. They do not inherently or expressly reflect the views, opinions and/or positions of The Weekly Anchor, its staff, or Troy Media.

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Edson RCMP Occurrences

For the week of March 24 – March 30, 2025

Assistant Calls 18; Theft Complaints 14; Suspicious Persons or Vehicles 10, topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 1; Alarms/False Alarms 1; Animal Calls 1; Assault 6; Cause Disturbance 1; Child Welfare 0; Drive While Unauthorized 0; Drugs 0; Extortion 1; Fail to Comply with Conditions 1; Fail to Stop or Remain at Collision 1; False/Abandoned 911 Call 1; Family Orders and Agreements 2; Family relations 0; Fire Prevention Act 2; Fraud 2; Harassment/Criminal Harassment 3; Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 1; Information File 3; Liquor act 0; Lost or Found property 3; Mental Health Act 3; Mischief or Damage 7; Missing Person/Request to Locate 0; Municipal Bylaws 1; Noise Complaints 0; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 2; Recovered Stolen Property 0; Sudden Death 0; Traffic Collisions 7; Traffic Violations 8; Transportation of Dangerous Goods 0; Trespassing 6; Uninsured/Unregistered Vehicle 2; Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; Unsafe Storage Weapon 0; Uttering Threats Against Person 1; Unwanted Person 0; and Wellbeing Checks 6.

KID'S CORNER



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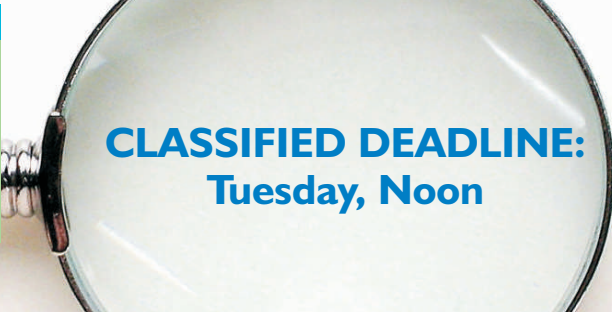
A: A scientist, because you can discover new things and do experiments.



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What's happening, when and where in the community

Community Events

April 9, 29 May 7, 21 : Yellowhead County Family Time In Marlboro 10:30 Am-12:30pm Light Snacks and Refreshments. Registration is required www.yhcounty.ca/registration

April 12: North Rosevear Hall is having a Spring Dance on Saturday, April 12 featuring the live music "FLATBROKE". Doors open 8:00 pm Dance 9:00 pm. Late Night Lunch will be served. Call Eugene for tickets 780-728-6874.

April 16, 30 May 14, 28 : Yellowhead County Family Time in Peers 10:30 Am-12:30pm Light Snacks and Refreshments. Registration is required www.yhcounty.ca/registration

April 17: North Rosevear Hall is having a Family Easter Bingo on Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 pm. Come out and

have some family fun! Win Prizes and a Concession will be open to purchase treats!

April 20: @ 6:00pm Wellness Wednesday Winter Walks. Join for a 60 min walk through Town of Edson starting at Edson Drive Trail Head

April 26: YKCS annual Fundraising Auction doors open at 10am Live auction at 11am

May 23-24: Mustachio Bullashio Both days start at 7PM Element Zone 13 -54011 Range Rd 171 Yellowhead County

May 31: Eddies Big Run. Registration opens February 10. Register online at edson.ca or in person at Edson District Leisure Centre.

We are proud to support community events

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Email us with your non-profit event date at: anchorwk@telusplanet.net

CHURCH
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EDSON

BETHEL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
6350 - 13th Ave., Edson. Phone 723-3007
Pastors John & Roberta Greiner: Heather & Daniel Greiner
Sunday service: 10:30 am
Morning worship
EDSON ALLIANCE CHURCH
5525-2nd Ave., Edson
Ph: 723-5776 Pastor Bryan Walter
9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting.

EDSON BAPTIST CHURCH
4719 - 9th Ave., Ph: 723-3982
Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m.

EDSON MENNONITE CHURCH
6212 - 13 Ave, Edson
Office hrs: Tues 9am-1pm
Office phone: 780-723-4992
Pastor Tyson Moerike
(Call or text 403-966-4705)
Sunday worship - 9:45

EDSON-PEERS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
4633-7th Ave., Edson
Ph: 723-5242
Pastor: Ryan Hoogerbrugge
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Edson - Nursery provided Sunday School

EDSON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1133-55 St. Edson - Ph: 723-5490.
Saturday Morning Service at 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School at 10:00 a.m.

EDSON UNITED CHURCH
Edson United Church
1214 Edson Drive Edson AB
Phone: 723-3418

FAMILY OF FAITH CHURCH
463 72 St., Edson (formerly Glenwood Hall), Telephone: 780-517-7558
Sunday: 10:00 am - Coffee and Donuts; 10:30 am - Morning Service
Pastors: Pastors John and Ingrid Huizing vfm@shaw.ca

HOLY TRINITY
(An Anglican/Lutheran Faith Community)
Rev. Johnny Pooten 780-723-3157
Worship Service 10am Sundays.
All Services will be held at 623-50 St., Edson. (St. Catherine's). Please phone for other information.

THE NEW JOSHUA GENERATION FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
4911 B 3rd Avenue, Edson, AB
Sunday Worship at 2:00 p.m.; Fellowship after service.
Rev. Noemi Sogocio, Senior Pastor, 780-600-0050; noemi_sogocio2006@yahoo.ca

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
4803 - 6th Avenue, Edson
Telephone: 723-3661.
Pastor Father Thomas Basani (SAC)
Mass: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 10:00 a.m.
Call office for weekday Mass times.

HARVEST OUTREACH MINISTRY EDSON
(HomeChurch) in Dunamis Centre 5202 -2nd Ave (East Entrance)
Service: Sunday 10am
Ph. 780-725-2222

CARROT CREEK, NITON JUNCTION & PEERS

CARROT CREEK CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Pastor George Stone
Ph: 795-2132 Church in Peers, Ab
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Non-denominational - Everybody Welcome!

COMMUNITY COWBOY CHURCH
Niton Junction Hall Tuesdays, 7 p.m. 780-712-3502

The Weekly **ANCHOR**

Farm & Field News and Views

Be a host farm for Alberta Open Farm Days 2025

BUY CANADIAN movement makes Open Farm Days more important than ever

Registration is now open for farms and ranches to be part of the 13th annual Open Farm Days on August 16 and 17.

Alberta Open Farm Days is an annual 2-day summer event that presents Albertans with an opportunity to experience the farm firsthand from farmers and ranchers. The program started in 2013 and has encouraged Albertans to engage with their local communities and experience agri-tourism.

In 2024, over 150 farms participated in Alberta Open Farm Day, welcoming over 52,000 Albertans to their farms and ranches. Host farms have included traditional farms, livestock (bison, cattle, alpaca, sheep, llama, goat, poultry) farms and ranches, organic operations, corn mazes,

wineries, craft distilleries, meaderies, craft breweries, stables, petting zoos, along with honey, fruit, vegetable, grain and u-pick farms.

Since 2013, Open Farm Days has seen over 235,000 people visit over 1,200 farms and ranches, injecting over \$1.7 million into the rural economy through on-farm sales. In 2024, reported on-farm sales surpassed \$300,000 for the first time.

Over the years, Alberta Open Farm Days has also evolved to offer professional development opportunities for hosts, helping them build successful ag-tourism programs. Training sessions were provided to equip farms with valuable insights on marketing, ticketing, food planning and booking, as well as insurance.

Participating farms and ranches have had very positive experiences being part of Alberta Open

Farm Days:

"The important factor was having people learn first hand about bison and having a First Nations representative to speak to the importance of the bison to their culture." – Glengary Bison Ltd.

"Visitors were genuinely interested and engaged with what was being shared. Many visitors had never heard of flower farming or alpaca raising in Alberta, so it was a new experience for many." – Blooms on 7 Flower Farm

"Many people were exposed to animals and the rural way of life. They were able to interact with producers and find that they were educated, responsible, articulate and caring people regarding the welfare of their animals and the environment." – Big Country Agricultural Society

Registration is open until April 30, 2025.
AgriNews

COIN COLLECTIONS

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TODD
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Grade two students from Mary Bergeron Elementary School grade 2 students visited Edson Tumblers Gymnastics Club recently and had fun learning, jumping, flipping, and balancing. photo submitted Deanna Mitchener

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