

REGIONAL PRESS NEWS

FOX CREEK • SWAN HILLS • VALLEYVIEW

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Fox Creek community comes together for emergency preparedness BBQ

By Valerie Winger

Residents gathered in Fox Creek this week for the Town of Fox Creek's Emergency Preparedness BBQ, an event designed to connect the community with local emergency services, organizations, and preparedness resources.

The event saw strong community participation, with residents stopping by to meet first responders and representatives from various agencies, ask questions, and learn more about emergency preparedness in the region. Organizers said the event highlighted the importance of community connections and being prepared for emergencies.

A special thank you was

CONTINUED PAGE 8



Town of Fox Creek photos

Valleyview walking group encouraging community connections and healthy living

By Valerie Winger

Residents in Valleyview are being invited to lace up their walking shoes and join a new community walking group aimed at promoting health, wellness and social connection.

Hosted by the Town of

Valleyview Community Services, the Valleyview Walking Group meets every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. at the Polar Palace Arena.

Organizers say the program is open to all ages and fitness levels, offering residents a chance to enjoy fresh

air, exercise and conversation in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

The initiative encourages participants to "move together, feel better and grow stronger together," while building community connections through regular physical activity.

No registration is required, and residents are encouraged to simply show up and join the walk.

Officials say the walking group is designed to provide an easy and inclusive way for people to stay active while connecting with others in the community.

Swan Hills gears up for annual Community Spring Clean Up

By Valerie Winger

The Town of Swan Hills is inviting residents to roll up their sleeves and take pride in their community during the annual Community Spring Clean Up scheduled for May 21 to 24.

The four-day event kicks off with a free Community BBQ on Thursday, May 21 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Community Family Park. The barbecue is sponsored by Pembina Pipeline Corporation and promises to be a great opportunity for neighbours to connect while celebrating the start of the clean-up efforts. Residents and groups wanting to participate can pick up free garbage bags and gloves at the Town Office. A large garbage bin will be placed at the Keyano Center for convenience during the clean-up period. All waste collected must be taken to the transfer station for proper disposal.

Additional Events:

- **Take It or Leave It** – Residents are encouraged to place unwanted household items at the curb with an orange ribbon (available at the Town Office). Public Works will collect remaining items on Monday, May 25.
- **Bottle Drive** – The Swan Hills Travel Club will be conducting a door-to-door bottle drive on Friday, May 22 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Residents not at home can leave bottles at the curb or call 780-333-1576 to arrange pick-up.
- **Community Garage Sale** – A town-wide garage sale will take place on Saturday, May 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those wishing to participate are asked to register and advertise their sale by contacting Miranda at 780-333-4477 Ext. 4. Registration must be completed by May 19.

"Small actions — big impact!" is the organizers' message, who hope the community comes together to clean streets, and public areas while fostering community spirit.



Hydrant flushing underway across Greenview communities until June 30



By Valerie Winger

Residents in several communities across the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16 are advised that bi-annual hydrant flushing began

May 11 and will continue until June 30, 2026.

The maintenance program is taking place in DeBolt, Ridgevalley, Little Smoky, Valleyview Rural and Grovedale as

part of ongoing efforts to maintain water quality and ensure hydrants are functioning properly for emergency services.

During the flushing period, residents

may notice temporary discoloured water or a drop in water pressure. Greenview recommends running cold water taps until the water clears if discoloration occurs

and advises residents to avoid doing laundry while flushing is taking place in their area.

Officials say the routine maintenance is an important part of

maintaining the reliability and safety of the water system. Residents with questions or concerns can contact Greenview Environmental Services at 780-524-7600.

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Traffic stop in Whitecourt leads to drug seizure and charges

By Valerie Winger

Members of the Western Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit, with assistance from Whitecourt RCMP, arrested two individuals following a traffic stop in the Whitecourt area on April 30, 2026.

Police say a search of the vehicle conducted incidental to arrest resulted in the seizure of approximately 269 grams of cocaine and 152 grams of methamphetamine.

As a result of the investigation,

Christopher Doucette, 44, of Fox Creek, and Jessica Hough, 33, of Whitecourt, were each charged with two counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Police also say Hough was arrested on

an outstanding warrant and additionally charged with failure to comply with a court order. Hough was brought before a justice of the peace and

remanded into custody, while Doucette was released on conditions.

Both are scheduled to appear in the Alberta Court of Justice in Grande Prairie, with

Hough set to appear May 11, 2026, and Doucette scheduled to appear July 14, 2026.

None of the allegations have been proven in court.

Fox Creek Library brings community together through "Let's Embroider Together"

By Valerie Winger

The Fox Creek Library is fostering togetherness and creativity by inviting residents to join a special beginners embroidery class this month.

Titled "Let's Embroider Together," the workshop will take place on Thursday, May 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the

Fox Creek Library. The event offers a warm and welcoming opportunity for community members to gather, connect, and learn a new skill in a relaxed, cozy setting.

This hands-on beginner's embroidery class provides the perfect chance for participants of all ages to discover the joy of

embroidery, create something beautiful, and enjoy an evening of shared learning and creativity. Spots are limited, and registration is required.

Residents interested in joining are encouraged to contact the Fox Creek Library as soon as possible to secure their place.



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Fox Creek students take part in delayed Earth Day cleanup efforts



Fox Creek School photos



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By Valerie Winger

Students at Fox Creek School took to the outdoors this week as they participated in Earth Day cleanup activities, working together to help improve and maintain the school's surrounding outdoor spaces.

The cleanup, originally planned closer to Earth Day, was delayed due to lingering snow cover that took longer

than expected to melt. Once conditions improved, students were able to head outside and take part in the effort, focusing on collecting litter and helping restore the appearance of school grounds.

Staff noted the enthusiasm and effort shown by students as they worked together to keep their environment clean and well cared for. The

activity formed part of ongoing efforts within the school to encourage environmental awareness and responsibility among students.

While the timing was later than intended, the school highlighted that the delayed start did not lessen student participation or pride in the work being done. The cleanup served as a practical reminder of seasonal

challenges in northern communities, where weather conditions can impact outdoor activities well beyond spring's official arrival.

The school expressed appreciation for the students' contributions and their willingness to take part once conditions allowed, reinforcing the importance of caring for shared spaces and community environments.



Gold rush: Oil and gold boost Canada's exports in March

By Rob Roach
ATB ECONOMICS

Elevated oil prices and strong shipments of gold to London's bullion market have boosted Canada's international exports.

The seasonally-adjusted dollar value of Canada's merchandise exports increased by 8.5% in March compared to February. If the impact of higher prices is excluded, the real value of exports actually edged down by 0.3%.

Exports to both the U.S. (+8.2%) and non-U.S. destinations (+9.1%) increased in March. U.S. sales, however, remained below pre-tariff levels with levies on steel, aluminum, lumber and other products restraining overall growth. Higher exports of gold to the United Kingdom and crude oil (from Newfoundland and Labrador) to Germany and the Netherlands drove the increase in sales to non-U.S. destinations.

Ideally, we'd like to see an increase in volume alongside price-driven growth, but given the ongoing headwinds from U.S. tariffs, the growth in March is a welcome outcome.

With that said, a sudden surge in oil prices due to the Iran conflict and volatile gold prices are not a sustainable basis for long-term export growth.

Valuable stuff

Canada's most important export by far is

black gold (a.k.a. crude oil and bitumen). At 18% of the total, oil and bitumen accounted for the largest share of Canada's merchandise exports last year.* Second on the list at 7% was gold (to be fair, if you bundle up motor vehicles of all types along with motor vehicle parts, the "auto sector" takes over second place from gold).

In any case, Canada's gold exports had a very strong year in 2025 due to rapid price growth. Gold exports were 36% higher than in 2024 and 82% higher than in 2023.

The surge in gold exports to overseas destinations (to the U.K. in particular) helps explain why the share of Canada's exports that went to the U.S. fell last year.

What's next?

With the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) under review this summer and sectoral tariffs still punishing key industries, our base case forecast assumes the status quo on tariffs. That is, sector-specific measures remain in place, but CUSMA exemptions shield most of Canada's exports from U.S. tariffs. This reinforces the importance of continuing to expand trade with other partners, while still landing a long-term free trade deal with the U.S.

As for the impact of higher oil prices, we see this dissipating over

time once the conflict has been resolved and oil prices journey back to lower levels, but with the potential for the volume of energy trade to increase further via more exports to Asia as additional transportation infrastructure comes online.

The M in CUSMA

It being Cinco de Mayo* today and with regard to the goal of increasing trade with other countries, we thought it would be fun to include a few stats on Canada's trade with Mexico:

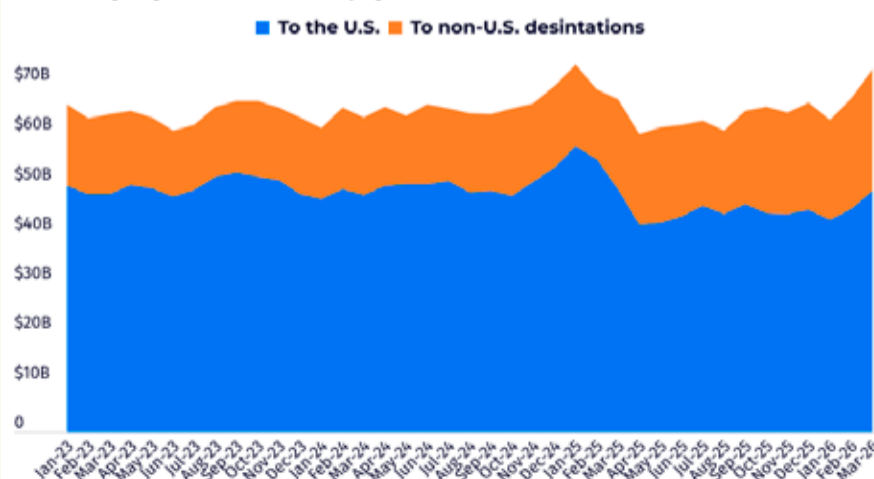
- The Mexican market includes about 133 million people.
- Mexico was Canada's 7th largest customer at about \$8.9 billion of goods purchased from Canadian suppliers last year.*
- Canada's main exports to Mexico are vehicle parts and agricultural products.

*Source: Trade Data Online, customs basis

**Cinco de Mayo, or the Fifth of May, is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's May 5, 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. While it is a relatively minor holiday in Mexico, in the United States, Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations. (Source: history.com) 🇲🇽

Canada's international merchandise exports

Seasonally adjusted, balance of payments basis



Source: Statistics Canada Table 12-10-0011-01 and ATB Economics

ATB Economics



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Four paws, big impact: RCMP K-9 visit captivates Fox Creek students



Fox Creek School photos

By Valerie Winger

Fox Creek School elementary students were treated to an exciting and memorable visit last week from Corporal Lyon and his K-9 partner, Neven, who travelled approximately 12 hours round trip to give students an up-close look at the RCMP K-9 Unit.

Throughout the presentation, students learned how police service dogs are trained, what their daily duties involve, and the important role they play in supporting RCMP operations. Corporal Lyon also explained the commitment, discipline,

and teamwork required to become a K-9 handler, giving students a clearer picture of this specialized career path.

One of the highlights of the visit was a live demonstration by Neven, who showcased his skills and training in action. The demonstration captured the attention of students from start to finish, with CST Dorsey generously volunteering as the "test subject," adding an interactive and engaging element to the presentation.

Students were also given the opportunity to ask questions during a Q&A session with Corporal Lyon, who responded to

a wide range of curious and thoughtful inquiries about police work, training routines, and life as a K-9 officer.

The visit provided students with a unique learning experience that combined education, real-world insight, and hands-on engagement. Fox Creek School expressed sincere appreciation to Corporal Lyon and Neven for their time, energy, and dedication to community outreach, as well as to CST Dorsey for helping coordinate the visit and making the experience both educational and memorable for students and staff alike. 🐾





Residents urged to compare energy rates before renewing

By Valerie Winger

Every year, thousands of local homeowners receive energy renewal notices in the mail and automatically sign them without shopping around. Many are unknowingly locking themselves into higher rates for years.

But Alberta residents have more power than they realize.

A free, easy-to-use online tool is helping homeowners in Alberta find significantly better electricity and natural gas deals — often saving hundreds of dollars per year.

One local resident recently received a 5-year renewal offer with electricity priced at 10.25 cents per kilowatt-hour. Using the free comparison tool, they discovered multiple better options, including 2-year plans with electricity rates around 7.47 c/

kWh and competitive natural gas rates.

Free tool empowers residents

The Utilities Consumer Advocate Cost Comparison Tool, available at ucahelps.alberta.ca/cost-comparison-tool, allows anyone to compare real-time offers from dozens of licensed energy retailers.

Users simply enter their postal code, choose their usage level, and the tool instantly shows personalized estimated monthly bills, rates, and contract terms.

“Many people think the renewal offer from their current provider is their only or best option,” said a local energy advocate. “In reality, the competitive market often has much better rates available — especially when your contract is up for renewal and there are no cancellation fees.”



Simple Advice for Homeowners

- Always compare plans using the UCA tool before signing any renewal.
- Pay attention to the total estimated monthly bill, not just the advertised rate.
- Consider shorter contract terms (1 or 2 years) for more flexibility.
- Watch for admin fees and daily charges that can add up.
- Take advantage of the standard 10-day cooling-off period after signing.

Alberta’s energy market is designed to give consumers choice, yet many households continue to overpay by simply accepting the first renewal letter they receive. With energy costs being a major monthly expense, taking just a few minutes to compare plans

can lead to meaningful savings for families across Alberta.

Bottom line: Don’t automatically renew. Check the Utilities Consumer Advocate’s free comparison tool first — it could save you hundreds of dollars this year.

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Alberta RCMP investigating alleged misuse of Provincial Elector List

By Valerie Winger

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has confirmed it is investigating the alleged inappropriate dissemination of Alberta’s provincial elector list.

In a statement released by Deputy Commissioner Trevor Daroux, the Alberta

RCMP said the investigation concerns the apparent misuse of personal information contained in the voter list maintained by Elections Alberta.

Police say the RCMP has taken carriage of the investigation and is coordinating investigative resources at the local,

provincial, national and international levels as needed.

Officials noted there has been significant public interest surrounding the matter, but said details remain limited in order to protect the integrity of the ongoing investigation.

“The apparent

inappropriate release of your personal information is of great concern to the public and to the RCMP,” Daroux said in the statement, while encouraging Albertans to rely on official RCMP updates rather than public commentary or third-party statements.

The investigation was first confirmed April 30, 2026, after the RCMP received correspondence from an individual associated with the Alberta New Democratic Party raising concerns about the possible misuse of the provincial voter list.

The Alberta RCMP

says investigators are working with other law enforcement partners to determine whether any offences were committed regarding the dissemination or handling of information contained in the elector list. No further details have been released at this time.

WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI





Swan Hills School recognizes Bus Driver Appreciation Day



Swan Hills School photo

By Valerie Winger

Students and staff at Swan Hills School took time this week to recognize and thank local school bus drivers in honour of Bus Driver Appreciation Day.

The school shared a message of gratitude, acknowledging the important role drivers play in safely transporting students each day in all types of weather and road conditions. Staff

expressed appreciation for the consistency, care, and responsibility shown by the drivers throughout the school year. A photo shared by the school captured members of the bus

driving team being recognized, although it was noted that Miss Marty was missing from the group photo.

The school extended a simple but heartfelt thank-you,

emphasizing how much the daily efforts of bus drivers are valued by students, families, and staff alike. Bus Driver Appreciation Day is marked in many communities as an

opportunity to highlight the essential service provided by school transportation teams, particularly in rural areas where students often travel long distances to attend school.



Town of Fox Creek photo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
extended to Pembina Pipeline Corporation for helping make the event possible by providing the barbecue and food for attendees.

Town officials noted the company's continued support of community initiatives is greatly appreciated.

Several organizations, agencies, and businesses took part

in the event, including the Alberta Sheriffs, St. John Ambulance, Greenview Search and Rescue, Alberta Wildfire, Fish and Wildlife, Portage Fungal

Project, Fox Creek School, Victim Services, Alexander Safety, Fox Creek Insurance, Echo, the Fox Creek Fire Department, Alberta Safety, ATCO, ATB, Emergency

Management Logistics, and Apex/IMS.

Organizers also thanked the many volunteers and community members who helped plan and support the event behind

the scenes.

Town officials said they appreciate the continued support from the community and look forward to hosting future events together.



Alberta RCMP advise public on protecting personal information

Alberta RCMP Release

The Alberta RCMP are advising residents to take proactive steps to protect their personal information and reduce the risk of identity theft and fraud. Protecting personal identification information is an important part of everyday safety.

Criminals may attempt to obtain personal details through a variety of methods, including phishing scams, data breaches, mail theft, or social engineering, and use that information to commit fraud.

The Alberta RCMP recommend the following steps to safeguard your personal information:

- Review bank and credit card statements for any unauthorized transactions and report suspicious activity immediately.
- Consider requesting a free credit report from recognized Canadian credit bureaus and review it for unfamiliar accounts or inquiries.
- Fraudsters may use stolen information to create convincing phishing emails, phone calls, or text messages. Do not provide personal or financial information unless you have verified the source.
- Use strong, unique passwords for online accounts and

enable multi-factor authentication where available.

- Avoid sharing sensitive details such as your Social Insurance Number (SIN) unless necessary and ensure documents containing personal information are stored securely.
- You may contact a credit bureau to place a fraud alert on your file, which can help prevent unauthorized accounts from being opened in your name.
- When possible, deal with your financial institution in-person should one or more of your bank accounts become compromised. Unfortunately, an internet search may provide a fake toll-free number to an individual who may victimize you further.
- If you believe you have been a victim of identity theft or fraud, report it to your local police service and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca. Early reporting can help limit potential damage and assist in ongoing investigations.

For more fraud prevention tips follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta. 🇨🇦



BULLYING HURTS

Valleyview RCMP makes arrest in drug and firearm related investigation

Valleyview RCMP Release

On May 5, 2026, Valleyview RCMP executed a search warrant at two residences in Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Alta. With the assistance of Alberta RCMP Emergency Response Team, Police Dog Services, Western Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit and other supporting units, four adult males were arrested from the two residences. A search of both residences led to the seizure of:

- Firearms;
 - Prohibited firearms;
 - Prohibited weapons;
 - Ammunition;
 - 84 grams of cocaine; and
 - 214 grams of methamphetamine.
- As a result of the investigation, four Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation residents were arrested:
- Dorian Harvey (28) was charged with:

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking;
- Possession of a firearm contrary to order (x6);
- Possession of prohibited firearm with ammunition;
- Possession of a firearm knowing its possession is unauthorized;
- Unauthorized possession of a firearm;
- Careless use of a firearm; and
- Tampering with serial number.
- Francis Soto (42) was charged with:
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking;
- Careless use of firearm; and
- Possession of prohibited firearm with ammunition.
- Dexter Chowace (40) was charged with:
- Unauthorized possession of a firearm;

- and
 - Unauthorized possession of a weapon (x2).
 - Darcy Kappo (18) was charged with:
 - Possession for the purpose of trafficking;
 - Failure to comply with release order (x5);
 - Possession of prohibited firearm with ammunition;
 - Unauthorized possession of firearm;
 - Careless use of a firearm; and
 - Tampering with serial number.
- Furthermore, information obtained from a concurrent investigation, stemming from a May 1, 2026, incident, resulted in the following charges:
- Dorian Harvey (28) was charged with: Possession of firearm contrary to order (x6); Possession of a

weapon for a dangerous purpose; and Careless use of a firearm.

Darcy Kappo (18) was charged with: Fail to Comply with Release order x2

Possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose; and Careless use of a firearm.

All four were brought before a justice of the peace; Kappo, Harvey and Soto were remanded into custody, to appear before the Alberta Court of Justice in Valleyview on May 7, 2026. Chowace was released on conditions, to appear before the same court on May 21, 2026.

Valleyview RCMP thanks the members of the public and the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation for their assistance in this matter. 🇨🇦

Johnson Park partially reopens camping access as water levels begin to stabilize

Alberta RCMP Release

Access has partially reopened at Johnson Park following a temporary closure due to dangerously high-water levels and riverbank damage earlier this week.

As of May 6, 2026, at 2:35 p.m., officials confirmed that the park gate is now open and access to the camping loop has been restored. However, the day-use

area remains closed to the public, and entry is not permitted currently due to ongoing safety concerns.

The update follows a full closure announced on May 5, 2026, when Johnson Park was shut down until further notice after rising river levels caused significant erosion and instability along the riverbanks. At that time, officials urged the

public to stay away from the area, warning that conditions were unsafe. Park users are reminded that while limited access has resumed, caution is still required and certain sections remain off-limits as assessments continue.

Officials continue to monitor conditions closely and will provide further updates as the situation

evolves. Residents are encouraged to check for updates through local notices or via the Greenview Outdoor Recreation social media page Greenview Outdoor Recreation.

Authorities thank the public for their cooperation during the closure and for respecting safety advisories aimed at protecting both visitors and infrastructure. 🇨🇦

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Municipal District of Greenview Council Highlights

Municipal District of Greenview release

Maskwa Medical Center Guarantee Bylaw Authorized

Council authorized a municipal guarantee of up to \$5.85 million to support construction financing for the Maskwa Medical Center. Maskwa Medical Center (Canada) Inc. requested a Municipal Corporate Guarantee for the Maskwa Medical Center to support a financial loan from ATB Financial totalling \$23,381,663.

Their mission is to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for Northwestern Alberta, committed to accelerating the process and improving access to medical specialists, family physicians and health services for the Peace Region.

Greenview 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw Approved

The 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw has been approved, confirming no increase to municipal tax rates for the year. This allows property tax notices to be issued in May.

An amendment to the 2026 Operating Budget brings total revenues and expenditures to \$239,097,551, reflecting a \$49,600 increase tied to the provincially set

Designated Industrial Property requisition.

2025 Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT)

Council directed Administration to write off \$13,773.62 in outstanding GIPOT balances, which reflects the portion of provincial grants not received for government-owned properties.

Properties owned by the Government of Alberta are exempt from property taxes. In recognition of municipal services provided to these properties, the Province issues a grant based on a percentage of the assessed annual levy. Municipalities are required to issue a tax notice as though the property were fully taxable and are later advised of the approved grant amount following the provincial budget.

For 2025, the Province confirmed a GIPOT payment equal to 75 percent of the levy. The remaining balance must be written off to maintain accurate financial reporting.

Supporting Youth Agriculture in DeBolt

Council approved a \$9,000 sponsorship for the DCC Ridgevalley 4-H Multi Club's 2026 Achievement Day

Show and Sale, taking place May 23 and 24 at the Cranberry Lake Rodeo Grounds in DeBolt. Funding will support event expenses, including tent rentals, through the 2026 Community Services Sponsorships budget.

The DCC Ridgevalley 4-H Multi Club currently supports approximately 39 youth involved in a range of agricultural and leadership projects. The annual show and sale gives members an opportunity to showcase the work they have completed throughout the year while bringing families, producers, businesses, and community members together to celebrate youth achievement in the region.

Greenview Approves 2026 GrandeCon Sponsorship

Greenview will provide a \$2,000 sponsorship for the 2026 GrandeCon event, taking place September 11 to 13 in Grande Prairie. Hosted by Odyssey House, the annual convention raises funds to support emergency shelter and outreach services for women and families experiencing domestic violence.

GrandeCon has become a major regional event, drawing more than 5,000 attendees in 2025 and raising approximately \$145,000

over the past four years in support of Odyssey House programs. While the event is held outside Greenview, the organization provides services that are available to and used by Greenview residents.

Greenview, Birch Hills to Opt Out of Intermunicipal Framework

Greenview Council supported a mutual decision with Birch Hills County to opt out of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF), following recent changes to the Municipal Government Act that allows neighbouring municipal districts to forgo an ICF where services are already provided through other agreements.

While Greenview and Birch Hills share a common boundary, the two municipalities operate independently with no shared infrastructure, utilities, transportation networks, recreation facilities, or solid waste services. Emergency response cooperation will continue through a separate Mutual Aid Agreement, which remains in place regardless of the ICF decision. Administration noted that the remote shared boundary and natural geographic barriers make a formal ICF impractical and unnecessary in this case.

Supporting Fair Tax Relief for Grande Cache Residents

A draft letter was endorsed by Greenview Council, supporting the inclusion of Grande Cache in the federal Northern Residents Deduction (NRD) program, citing the community's remote location and the higher cost of living faced by residents. The letter will be sent to the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Finance and National Revenue, with a copy provided to Member of Parliament William Stevenson.

The NRD program is intended to provide tax relief for Canadians living in remote and isolated communities. While Grande Cache currently falls outside the program's geographic boundary, Council agreed the community experiences many of the same economic and accessibility challenges as other eligible northern communities. The letter supports ongoing advocacy efforts to expand the program boundaries and provide more equitable treatment for Grande Cache residents.

Tender Award 2026 Forestry Trunk Road Water Truck Services

A tender was issued on February

26, 2026, for Water Truck Services for the Forestry Trunk Road (FTR) on the Alberta Purchasing Connection. The tender closed on March 23, 2026. Administration received nine proposals for evaluation, which fully met the mandatory requirements for consideration. Water trucks are used on the FTR to apply dust control product annually and to work with contract graders throughout the summer for maintenance. The Forestry Trunk Road primarily sees traffic from both the forestry and oil & gas industries. Council awarded the 2026 Forestry Trunk Road Water Truck Services tender's four areas to the following companies, with funds to come from Operations' 2026 operational budget:

- 2026 Forestry Trunk Road Area 1: J. Moody Grader Service Ltd. at a rate of \$151.25/Hr.
- 2026 Forestry Trunk Road Area 2: J. Moody Grader Service Ltd. at a rate of \$159.75/Hr.
- 2026 Forestry Trunk Road Area 3: 795060 Alberta Ltd. (Marko's Haulin) at a rate of \$175.00/Hr.
- 2026 Forestry Trunk Road Area 4: 795060 Alberta Ltd. (Marko's Haulin) at a rate of \$175.00/Hr. 🌱

Alberta RCMP gives motorcycle safety reminders

Alberta RCMP Release

Motorcycle season has arrived, and the Alberta RCMP is providing safety reminders to riders and other motorists. By being aware of each other, following traffic laws and practicing safe driving behaviours, everyone can stay safe on the roads.

Last year, in Alberta RCMP jurisdiction, there were 288 reported collisions involving motorcycles. As a result of these collisions, there were 259 injuries and 16 fatalities.

Help stay safe this riding season by following the below tips:

- Complete a pre-ride check. Take time before getting on your bike to check fluids, tires, lights/signals, chains and the overall condition of the motorcycle. Refer to Alberta Transportation's Rider Guide for a checklist.
- Gear up. Riders and passengers must wear helmets that meet safety requirements and state the date of manufacture.

A proper coat, pants, boots that cover the ankles, gloves and shatter-proof



eyewear can reduce the risk of injury in the event of a collision. Avoid buying used helmets as they could have defects.

- Be bright and in sight. Stay in sight of larger vehicles and avoid blind spots. Wear a high visibility jacket and helmet, in colours such as orange, yellow or white to be noticeable on the road.
- Maintain a safe following distance. Stay clear of loose gravel or rocks thrown by other

vehicles on roadways and be cautious as excess debris and sand may affect tire traction and overall handling.

- Avoid speeding and weaving. Speeding in and out of traffic on a motorcycle is illegal and dangerous. Safe handling, and sharing the road responsibly, reduces the risk of collision.
- Don't show off. Just because your bike can do it, doesn't mean your bike should do it. Slow down on unfamiliar roadways

and don't feel pressure to keep up with more experienced riders.

"We can all work together for a safe riding season," says Sgt. Darrin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "Last May saw 45 motorcycle collisions, making up approximately 16% of the total for last year. Look out for each other on the roads. If you're in a vehicle, make sure to complete a full check before changing lanes to ensure motorcycles and smaller vehicles aren't in your path." 🌱



Valleyview Agricultural Society opens scholarship applications for local youth

By Valerie Winger

The Valleyview Agricultural Society is now accepting applications for its annual scholarships aimed at supporting local students as they pursue higher

education and career training. Two scholarships of \$500 each are available to students. The scholarships are open to those planning to attend post-secondary

institutions or apprenticeship programs. Applications are now open with a deadline of Thursday, July 31, 2026. The Society encourages eligible students to apply early and take

advantage of this opportunity to help fund their educational journey. "We're proud to support local youth as they take the next step in their education journey," said the Valleyview

Agricultural Society. Students interested in applying can visit the Valleyview Agricultural Society website at valleyviewagsociety.ca for full details and application information.

This initiative reflects the Society's ongoing commitment to investing in the future of young people in the region and strengthening the local community.

St. Stephen's School marks Red Dress Day with symbolic red sand display



St. Stephen's School photos

By Valerie Winger

St. Stephen's School recognized Red Dress Day last week with a symbolic display intended to raise awareness and encourage reflection on Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls. In honour of the day, St. Rita's CWL donated red sand, which was incorporated into the school's observance as a powerful symbol representing those who have "fallen through the cracks of justice." The visual display was used to help convey the deeper meaning behind the National Day of Remembrance and awareness. Red sand has become a recognized symbol in MMIW

awareness efforts across Canada, often used in schools and community events to represent lives that have been lost or overlooked, and to encourage ongoing dialogue about justice, recognition, and remembrance. The observance at St. Stephen's School reflects broader efforts taking place in communities and educational settings nationwide to acknowledge Red Dress Day and its significance. Through the display, the school aimed to provide students with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of remembering those affected and understanding the meaning behind the day.

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Lemonade Day Returns to Northern Alberta on June 13



By Haylee Winger

Young entrepreneurs across Northern Alberta will once again have the opportunity to test their business skills as Lemonade Day returns on June 13, 2026.

The annual program, presented by Community Futures, encourages children and youth to launch and operate their own lemonade stands while learning valuable lessons in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and customer service.

Since launching in Northern Alberta in 2018, participants have collectively earned more than \$187,000 in profit and donated over \$55,000 to local charities.

Lemonade Day is

open to students from kindergarten through high school. Registration for the 2026 program opened March 1 and closes May 22.

As part of the free program, participants attend "Lemmy University," where they receive a backpack and entrepreneur workbook designed to guide them through the process of starting and running a small business. Lessons focus on goal setting, budgeting, planning, and customer interaction.

Amanda Robinson, Lemonade Day Northern Alberta City Director with Community Futures North Central Alberta, said the initiative continues to expand throughout the region.

This year, Lemonade Day is coming to 63 towns, including Whitecourt, Swan

Hills, Woodlands County, Fox Creek, and others, as part of the collaboration of 13 Community Futures offices.

Robinson said the experience provides youth with skills that extend far beyond running a lemonade stand.

"Lemonade Day is really about more than just running a lemonade stand," she said. "The kids learn business skills, but they also use skills for life. They learn financial literacy, public speaking, how to set a goal and work to achieve it."

She added that the program encourages participants to connect with their communities and local businesses while also giving back through charitable donations.

"The program encourages them to spend some, save some

and share some," Robinson said. "They will spend some of their earnings on a reward for their hard work, save some for a future goal, and share some with a charity of their choice."

On June 13, stands will be set up across more than 60 communities throughout Northern Alberta, bringing the program to both large and small towns across the region.

Organizers say the program's goal is to inspire entrepreneurship while encouraging communities to invest in local youth and future business leaders.

More information and registration details are available at www.lemonadeday.org/northern-alberta. Updates can also be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Lemonade-DayNorthernAlberta. 🍷

