

REGIONAL PRESS NEWS

FOX CREEK • SWAN HILLS • VALLEYVIEW

www.regionalpressnews.ca

Phone: 780-706-1858
admin@regionalpressnews.ca

Valleyview Sniff Club offers positive training for dogs and their owners



Josie McKay photos



By Haylee Dianne

Valleyview Sniff Club, also known as Sniffing Noses Finding Fun, was informally

started about four years ago by a few people in Valleyview who wanted to work with their dogs in a way that was positive for them and enriching for their dogs while being inclusive, affordable and providing a safe,

friendly community. Club members believe every positive interaction with a dog, every positive new experience, and every challenge met and problem

CONTINUED PAGE 4

Canfor closure brings uncertainty for Fox Creek workers and families

By Valerie Winger

Canfor's decision to permanently close its Fox Creek sawmill is expected to be felt well beyond the mill site, leaving many workers and their families facing an uncertain future.

The company announced last week that the mill will close by late summer, citing prolonged weak lumber markets, persistent U.S. softwood lumber duties and tariffs, reduced fibre supply following recent wildfires and the conclusion of Alberta's mountain pine beetle management strategy.

While Canfor says it will work to find opportunities for affected employees at its other operations, relocating is not always a practical option for every worker or family. For many, the announcement means difficult decisions may lie ahead in the months to come.

The closure could also have

a ripple effect throughout the community. When a major employer shuts its doors, the impact often extends beyond those directly employed at the operation. Local businesses that rely on customers from the forestry sector may see fewer people walking through their doors, while contractors connected to the mill could also be affected.

Canfor acknowledged the significance of the decision in its announcement.

"This is a difficult decision which we know will have a significant impact on our employees, their families, contractors, and the community," said Susan Yurkovich, President and CEO of Canfor.

The Fox Creek sawmill has been part of the community's economy for years. After being destroyed by fire in 2008, the facility was rebuilt and reopened in 2011

CONTINUED PAGE 6



WHITECOURT DENTURE CENTRE

- Upper & Lower Dentures • Partial Dentures • Repairs
- Specializing in Mobile Services - Home & Hospital

Alberta Works & Dental Plans Welcome* *Some Conditions & Restrictions Apply. Enhancements Extra.

#210 MID TOWN MALL 5115-49 ST WHITECOURT AB • 780-803-5640

SENIORS!

SENIORS AND ADULTS 18 TO 64, GOV'T PROGRAMS MAY PAY FOR YOUR NEW DENTURES

Call For Details



Contact 211 Alberta

Know Your Options

Find mental health, addiction and community supports.

Free. Confidential. Available 24/7.

Learn more at ab.211.ca



Alberta RCMP sees 10.4% decrease in Crime Severity Index across the province

Alberta RCMP Release

The Statistics Canada report on Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2025 shows that there was a 10.4% decrease in the Crime Severity Index (CSI) across Alberta RCMP jurisdictions compared to 2024. The crime score in Alberta RCMP jurisdictions is the lowest it has been since 2014. The CSI tracks both volume and seriousness of police-reported crime. It assigns weights to different offences based on how severe they are; more serious crimes carry a higher weight than less serious crimes.

In Alberta there are 149 different RCMP jurisdictions that are measured for the CSI. These jurisdictions are policed by the 113 RCMP detachments across the province. Of the jurisdictions policed by the RCMP, 72% had a decrease in the CSI from 2024 to 2025.

Jurisdictions with small population sizes can generally see higher fluctuations in their CSI score year-to-year. This is because even small changes in crime, especially if they are violent crimes, can have a significant impact on the scores. Jurisdictions with larger populations are less likely to have large fluctuations in CSI scores; however, we have seen significant decreases in CSI scores in many of our larger jurisdictions.

In Alberta RCMP's jurisdictions, the top 10 CSI contributions account for 74.0% of the crime across the province. The number one contributor to the Alberta RCMP's CSI score is Break and Enters making up 15.4% of the scoring. While Break and Enters are the highest cause of the CSI in Alberta RCMP's

jurisdictions, it is down by 19% compared to 2024 with there being 2,027 fewer Break and Enters reported to the RCMP.

Of the top 10 contributors to the CSI in Alberta RCMP's jurisdictions, two were in violent crime categories: Assault and Uttering Threats. The trend in Assault and Uttering Threats has remained relatively flat over the past 5 years with ~20,000 and ~6,700 reports, respectively.

"We're encouraged to see Crime Severity Index scores continuing to decline across Alberta," said Superintendent Mike McCauley, Alberta RCMP's Officer in Charge of Crime Reduction Strategy. "This progress is a testament to the collective efforts of Alberta RCMP officers, our policing partners, community organizations, and the residents we serve. We are grateful for the strong support and collaboration we receive from communities across the province. Public safety is a shared responsibility, and these results demonstrate what can be achieved when law enforcement, partner agencies, and all levels of government work together toward a common goal. While there is still important work ahead, the Alberta RCMP remains committed to working with our partners to reduce crime, enhance community safety, and help build stronger, healthier communities for all Albertans."

The Alberta RCMP uses the information gathered through the CSI to develop comprehensive, intelligence-led strategies that help to break the cycle of criminal activity over the long-term. They look at people, places, and crime types prevalent in

Alberta's most vulnerable communities and target priority offenders who cause the most harm.

In the past year, the Alberta RCMP has taken significant steps to increase the safety and resilience of the communities it serves. We have leveraged technologies, like Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, to assist our frontline operations, as well as improved our Real Time Operation Centre, which triages calls for service and coordinated resources across the province. We have also deployed Community Response Teams throughout rural Alberta, providing focused outreach and targeted enforcement. Crime Reduction Partnership Liaisons work with community partners to help address the root causes of crime and educate Albertans on how to stay safe. While our specialized Crime Reduction Units target prolific offenders and bring them before the courts.

The RCMP continues to look for new and innovative methods to help reduce crime across the province to keep Albertans safe. In May, the provincial government allocated an additional 2 million dollars in funding to the RCMP. The Alberta RCMP has allocated part of the funding to establish its new Rural Organized Crime Team; a mobile unit made of a core group of officers focused on gang activity and violence linked to drug and firearm offences. The team deploys to communities experiencing highest levels of crime, using data-driven intelligence, like the crime severity index, to identify and target priority offenders causing the greatest harm.



METRIX GROUP LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

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

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

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

Edmonton
T: 780-489-9606

Lloydminster
T: 780-875-7433

Whitecourt/Fox Creek
T: 780-778-3091

Fort Saskatchewan
T: 780-992-0266

Evansburg
T: 780-727-2017

TOLL FREE: 1-877-489-9606 **METRIXGROUP.CA**

WWW.REGIONALPRESSNEWS.CA



WELCOME TO THE REGIONAL PRESS NEWS

Your new local voice for Swan Hills, Valleyview & Fox Creek

Stay connected with what matters most:

- Community news • Local sports • Events & organizations
- Real stories from your neighbours

Get every edition delivered straight to your inbox. No searching. No missing out. Just simple, local news—automatically.

Email admin@regionalpressnews.ca and we'll add you.
Or sign up at regionalpressnews.ca or text **780-706-1858**.

Be part of the paper

Clubs, teams, groups, and residents are invited to submit:

- News updates • Game results • Community events • Photos

Send submissions to: admin@regionalpressnews.ca

This is your community. This is your paper.
Join from the very beginning—and stay connected every edition.

780-706-1858

Leak detection survey underway in Valleyview



By Haylee Dianne

Residents may notice crews from GLD Projects working throughout Valleyview as they conduct a leak detection survey of the town's natural gas distribution system. Workers will be identifiable by high-visibility clothing, gas detection equipment, and

marked vehicles. No interruptions to natural gas service are expected. The survey is expected to take approximately two weeks. The Town of Valleyview has thanked residents for their cooperation while the safety inspection is completed. Questions can be directed to Utility Services at 780-524-5156. More information is available on the town's website.

Town encourages residents to support broadband funding application



By Valerie Winger

The Town of Swan Hills is asking residents to take part in a broadband survey to help support its application to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) Broadband Fund. According to the town, residents are asked to complete a quick speed test from home. Participants are first asked to find their home on the online satellite map before running the speed test. The results will help support Swan Hills' case for community-wide broadband upgrades through the CRTC

Broadband Fund. Residents who complete the required three valid speed tests for the project will be entered into a draw to win one of five \$200 prizes. The Town of Swan Hills has provided a QR code in its online post that directs residents to the survey. Residents can also access the survey through the link shared on the Town of Swan Hills' official Facebook page. Town officials are encouraging residents to participate, noting that each completed speed test helps demonstrate the need for improved broadband service in the community.

Your career ad online at www.regionalpressnews.ca

Fox Creek community groups invited to apply for 2027 grants

By Valerie Winger

Community organizations in Fox Creek have an opportunity to secure funding for projects, events and programs planned for 2027. The Town of Fox Creek is accepting applications for its Grants to Groups Program, which

provides financial support to local non-profit organizations, community groups, clubs and societies. The funding is intended to help organizations deliver initiatives that benefit the community. Applications must be submitted by September 30, 2026. According to information released

by the Town, applications will be reviewed as part of Council's 2027 budget deliberations. Groups approved for funding can expect grant payments to be distributed in July 2027. Organizations interested in applying can find application forms and program details on the Town of Fox Creek's

website or by contacting the Town Office at 780-622-3896. Town officials encourage eligible groups with ideas that will benefit the community to submit an application before the deadline. For more information, contact the Town Office or visit foxcreek.ca.

GOOD WREATH VIBES ONLY

JOIN US AUGUST 7TH FROM 5PM-7PM FOR OUR SUMMER THEMED WREATH MAKING CLASS. A SIMPLISTIC TAKE ON WREATHS EQUIPPED WITH CLOTHESPINS AND FAKE FLOWERS. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. PLEASE CONTACT THE LIBRARY TO BOOK YOUR SPOT



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

solved as a team builds communication, confidence and respect between the dog and its owner.

The club welcomes people of all experience levels and aims to meet every dog and handler team where they are, helping them move forward toward a positive, mutually rewarding relationship.

Since it began, Valleyview Sniff Club has offered scent detection, puppy, obedience, tricks, dancing with your dog and rally obedience classes. Teams are encouraged to meet personal challenges and try new activities at a manageable pace while building confidence in both the handler and the dog. Primary instructor Darlene Levesque has always loved dogs and wants to make the world a better place for them. She has extensive training and experience

in scent work and dog behaviour and volunteers as a K9 search and recovery handler.

Other founding members include Josie McKay, a teacher and dog trainer, and Darlene Coriveau, who has raised, shown, trained and competed with dogs for decades. Together, the three have more than 120 years of dog training experience to share. All of the founding members help new members learn and grow.

The club says scent work is suitable for all dogs. It helps build confidence, obedience and communication while engaging the dog's brain. It is also an activity owners can continue at home, especially during cold weather or when snow is too deep.

Scent work can include working with essential oils and lost items such as wallets, keys, sunglasses or other items. The club also

uses gerbils and antlers.

From Aug. 21 to 23, GP Working K9's, with the help of Valleyview Sniff Club, will host Valleyview's third annual North American Sport Dog Association (NASDA) canine scent trials at the Valleyview Agplex and fairgrounds.

The event will bring competitors from Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Classes offered during the trial include Shed, Urban Locate, Trail and Locate, Brace, Lost Item Recovery and challenge games. Dogs search for antlers, gerbils and personal items such as gloves, wallets and watches. The quarry animals are safely contained in quarry boxes.

According to the club, Alberta is the only place where NASDA events use gerbils instead of rats.

NASDA is an inclusive organization where dogs of all breeds,

sizes and abilities can compete.

The public is welcome to attend the event. However, dogs that are not registered in the trial will not be allowed on the grounds.

The club also offers puppy classes for vaccinated puppies under 20

weeks of age. The classes are designed to teach manners, build confidence and strengthen communication between dogs and their owners.

Obedience classes build on those skills by teaching basic commands. The club says all classes are

designed to be enjoyable for both dogs and their owners while introducing new experiences, equipment and challenges.

For more information about Valleyview Sniff Club or upcoming classes, text Josie McKay at 780-524-8517.

Canada expands online passport renewal service



By Haylee Dianne

More Canadians can now renew their passports online.

The federal government has expanded its online renewal service to all eligible adults applying from within

Canada.

To qualify, applicants must live in Canada, be at least 16 years old, and have had a passport issued within the last 15 years. This includes passports that have already expired.

Photos for the renewal still need to be taken by a commercial photographer, but supporting documents can be

uploaded digitally as part of the process.

The change means eligible applicants can complete their renewal without waiting in line at a Service Canada location.

For more information or to check eligibility, Canadians can visit canada.ca or contact their local Service Canada office.

Swan Hills Fun Hockey registration coming up



By Haylee Dianne

Swan Hills Fun Hockey is gearing up for the 2026/2027 season.

Registration is now open, with divisions for all ages. Littles cover

ages 4 to 8, Middle Jr. is ages 9 to 11, Middle Sr. is ages 12 to 14, and Seniors covers ages 15 to 17.

The organization says it hopes to fill every division this season.

Volunteers are also needed. Coaches and general volunteers are

being sought to help run the season. Anyone interested in volunteering, or with questions, is asked to reach out to Swan Hills Fun Hockey directly.

Registration night will be held at the Keyano Centre on September 8.



Josie McKay photo

COMMUNITY WELLNESS CORNER

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

Emergency services are available 24/7

1-800-668-6868

KIDS HELP PHONE
or text CONNECT to 686868

988

CALL OR TEXT
Suicide Crisis Helpline • 24/7

1-855-242-3310

HOPE FOR WELLNESS
Indigenous crisis support

PUTTING A FACE ON SUICIDE

Halie Paige Freid Lorenz

Age 14

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

THIS WEEK'S TIPS

TIP #1

POSITIVE COMMUNICATIONS TIP

Put your phone away during important conversations.

TIP #2

CONFLICT RESOLUTION TIP

Focus on the issue, not the person.



Valleyview Legion marks 100 years of the Royal Canadian Legion



By Valerie Winger

Valleyview Legion Branch #140 celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion on Saturday, at Legion Park in Valleyview.

The event brought together community members, veterans, and local leaders to honour a century of service by the Royal Canadian Legion. MLA Todd Loewen and Mayor Burke attended and congratulated Branch #140, thanking members for their ongoing contributions and dedication to the community.

Freson Bros supplied the food and drinks for the gathering and remained on site to assist with the event.

The Royal Canadian Legion was founded in 1926 to support veterans returning from the First World War and has since grown into

one of Canada's most important community organizations. For 100 years, Legion branches across the country have provided support for veterans and their families, raised funds for local causes, and created gathering places that strengthen community life.

In communities such as Valleyview, the

Legion continues to play a vital role by hosting events, supporting local initiatives, and offering a place of connection and remembrance. The 100th anniversary celebration highlighted both the national significance of the organization and the steady work of Branch #140 in serving its own community.



Put Your Business in Front Of Local Customers

Regional Press News is connecting Swan Hills, Valleyview & Fox Creek through local news, community updates, and real stories people actually read.

If you want your business seen by local residents... this is where you show up.

Why advertise with us?

- Reach a truly local audience • Build trust in your own community • Stay top-of-mind when people are ready to buy • Simple, affordable advertising options

This isn't just an ad – it's visibility where it matters most.

Whether you're promoting a service, sale, or just want people to know your name – we'll help you get in front of the right people.



Email admin@regionalpressnews.ca and we'll get your business featured.

Be part of the communities you serve.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as a single-shift operation to process timber made available through Alberta's mountain pine beetle management strategy. According to Canfor, the company worked with Alberta's Ministry of Forestry and Parks to secure additional fibre to keep the mill operating and support local economic

activity. However, with the beetle management strategy complete and wildfire-damaged timber largely exhausted, the company says there is no longer enough fibre available to sustain the operation over the long term. The closure will remove 120 million board feet of production capacity from Canfor's operations.

Although Canfor says it remains committed to its Alberta operations in Grande Prairie, Whitecourt and its value-added manufacturing facilities, that offers little immediate reassurance to the families directly affected in Fox Creek. For many residents, the announcement is about more than the loss of a sawmill. It is about

neighbours, co-workers and local families who now face uncertainty, and a community preparing for another economic challenge. Over the coming months, the true impact of the closure will become clearer as workers make decisions about their future and local businesses adjust to the loss of one of the area's major employers.

Man charged following investigation at rural oilfield lease

By Valerie Winger

Last month, Swan Hills RCMP charged a Swan Hills man following an investigation into the alleged theft of industrial electrical cable from a rural oilfield lease site in Big Lakes County. According to RCMP, police received a report at approximately 2:17 a.m. on June 29 after a suspicious person was captured on surveillance cameras at the site. Representatives of the

lease later provided officers with surveillance photographs and video. After reviewing the footage, officers identified a suspect. RCMP said the individual was located and arrested later that morning. Police allege that approximately 75 metres of industrial electrical cable had been cut and removed from the site. RCMP estimate the replacement cost of the cable and the damage at more than \$20,000.

As a result of the investigation, Lance Sernes, 60, of Swan Hills, has been charged with theft over \$5,000. He was also issued a violation ticket under Alberta's Trespass to Premises Act in relation to the incident. RCMP said Sernes was released from custody on an undertaking with conditions and is scheduled to appear in the Alberta Court of Justice in Barrhead on Aug. 11, 2026.

The charge has not been proven in court.



Your career ad at www.regionalpressnews.ca

CASH FOR COINS

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

Call or text Todd
Numismatist/Gold & Silver Dealer
780-504-7995
I MAKE FREE HOUSE CALLS
ALL OVER ALBERTA+





CASH PAID

FOR JEWELRY & ALL GOLD & SILVER, COINS, bullion, 999 bars, nuggets, sterling silver, old gold, broken gold etc.

WANTED COIN COLLECTIONS, collectors coins, coin sets & old money!

Call NOW! **1-825-365-8557**
Covering Calgary, Edmonton & Rural Alberta. I drive to you!



When you're looking for trusted news online

Discover the E-Edition of your local newspaper

In a recent study of trust in media, printed newspapers and E-editions were reported as the most trustworthy sources for local news and information.

Trusted News.
True Community.
In Print and Online.



EST. 2022

TOP HEIGHT FORESTRY CONSULTING

Fraser Pollock
OWNER/OPERATOR

780 268 0095
fraser@topheight.ca



BULLYING HURTS

WOMBANIA™

Copyright ©2026 Peter Marinacci All Rights Reserved.

OKAY, FRAZ. HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

Look 20 Years Younger! Instantly! ONLY \$50!

SIMPLE! I JUST BLUR THE WRINKLES OUT OF YOUR PICTURE!



www.wombania.com



Chins up: Business confidence in Alberta

By Rob Roach, ATB
Economics

From U.S. tariffs to inflation to slowing population growth, there is no shortage of negative economic news that could undermine business confidence in Alberta. At the same time, strong oil prices, forward momentum on major projects, and resilient consumer spending are significant patches of blue sky amid the dark clouds.

Two surveys provide a sense of how Alberta businesses are feeling about all this.*

The first is the Business Council of Alberta's inaugural Alberta CEO Pulse Survey. Conducted from June 25 to July 7 with CEOs of companies that are members of the BCA, the survey found that "Alberta business leaders are upbeat about the year ahead and are preparing to invest, hire, and grow over the coming year."

About two-thirds (65%) of the business executives who responded expect economic conditions in Alberta to improve over the next 12 months; 28% expect them to stay the same; and only 8% expect

them to deteriorate.

Given everything going on around the world, that is a strong vote of confidence regarding what's next for the Alberta economy. The BCA points to improving business conditions in the oil and gas sector as a key reason for the high level of optimism.

The confidence is spilling over to hiring plans, with 50% of respondents saying they are planning to increase their workforce; 39% planning to keep things as is; and just 11% expecting to cut jobs. This finding comes despite the fact that over half (55%) of executives expect input costs to rise at a faster rate than over the previous 12 months.

As the BCA notes, "There are a number of new projects under construction or on the horizon, including the recent announcement of a major data centre north of Edmonton and the proposal to build a pipeline to the west coast. But, at the same time, debate over the October referendum on separation is intensifying. Amid it all, the mood among Alberta business leaders is

remarkably positive."

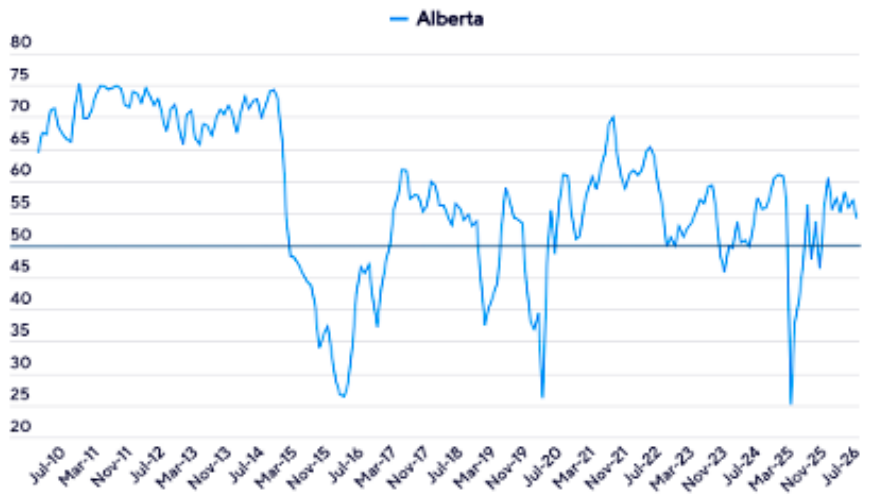
The second survey is the Monthly Business Barometer from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. Conducted from July 7 to 13 with a random sample of CFIB members (who skew more toward the small business end of the continuum than BCA members), the results show that small business sentiment in Alberta dipped slightly in July, but remained optimistic overall with a reading of 54.2. (Measured on a scale between 0 and 100, an index above 50 means owners expecting their business's performance to be stronger over the next 12 months outnumber those expecting weaker performance.)

The index for the 12-month outlook among Alberta small businesses has been hovering around 55-58 over the first half of the year, which is a significant improvement over last year's average of 49.2. Sentiment was particularly low in the spring of 2025 when President Trump's tariff threats were in full swing.

Just under half (48%) of the Alberta

Small business confidence: CFIB Business Barometer 12-month outlook

ATB Economics



Note: Index > 50 = more businesses expecting stronger performance than weaker performance in 12 months. Source: Haver Analytics/Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Business Barometer®

respondents cited insufficient demand as a factor limiting their ability to increase sales or production. Second on the list at 44% was a shortage of skilled labour. It's a different question, but there is some overlap here with the BCA results, which found that 47% of respondents were experiencing difficulty finding or retaining employees.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of small businesses in Alberta report that tax and regulatory costs are a problem, with 68% citing fuel costs as a difficulty for

their business.

Hiring plans are not as robust among CFIB members in Alberta as they are in the BCA survey, though the time frame is shorter, with 15% expecting employment levels outside normal seasonal variation to go up over the next 3 to 4 months. Most small businesses expect employment levels to stay the same with only 8% expecting them to go down (an improvement over previous months).

Bottom line: While we have to be careful lumping two different surveys together, the

general picture painted by both the BCA and CFIB is one in which business optimism in Alberta currently outweighs pessimism. The results also point to continued employment growth in the province in the months ahead. At the same time, finding skilled workers remains a key challenge as does the cost of doing business.

*Both surveys were conducted before the latest round of U.S. tariff threats, so we will have to wait and see what effect that has on confidence going forward.



Firefighter White Visits Fox Creek Library for Story Time and Crafts. The Fox Creek Library extended its appreciation to Firefighter White for visiting the library to read a story to the kids and join them for crafts. Events like this give children a chance to enjoy hands-on activities while learning something new in a fun, welcoming setting. Visits from community members such as firefighters help keep kids engaged and connected to the people who serve their community, while encouraging a love of reading and learning.

Fox Creek Library photo

Got a camera or like writing about local events?

Regional Press News is looking for contract contributors across our coverage area.

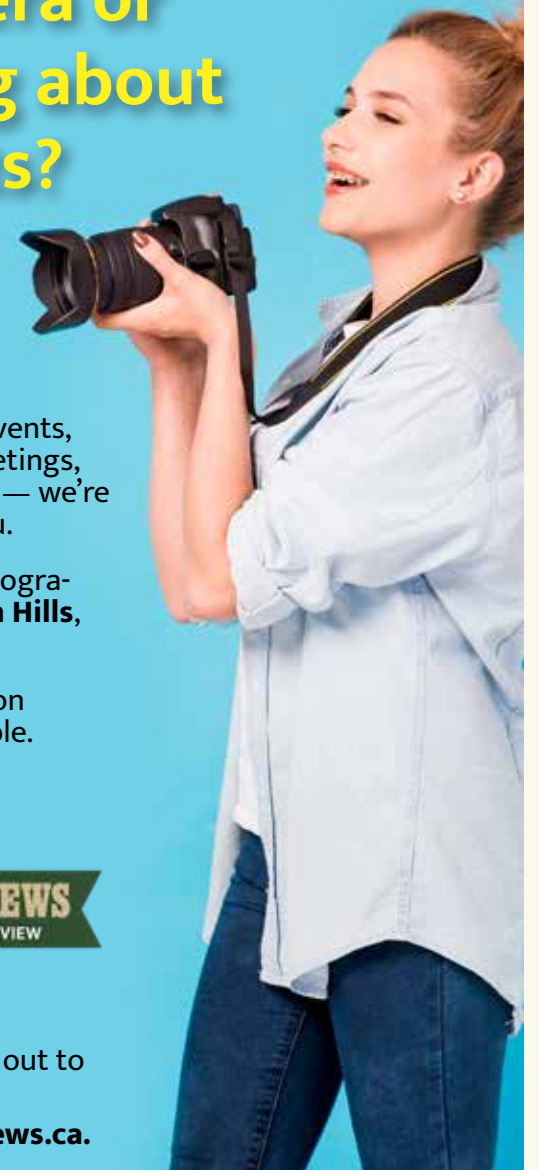
If you're already at local events, sports games, council meetings, or community gatherings — we're looking for people like you.

We need writers and photographers in: **Fox Creek, Swan Hills, and Valleyview.**

Work is flexible. You take on assignments when available.



If you're interested, reach out to Regional Press News at admin@regionalpressnews.ca.





Highway 43 and Highway 49 Roundabout Project moves forward in Valleyview



By Haylee Dianne

A major transportation improvement project at the intersection of Highway 43 and Highway 49 is underway as crews continue construction on a new roundabout designed to improve traffic movement and safety in Valleyview.

The project has drawn attention from residents and motorists looking for a clearer picture of what the completed intersection will look like. A conceptual illustration has been released to provide a simplified view of the planned final design and how the redesigned intersection will connect the community.

Officials have clarified that the illustration is intended as a visual overview only and

should not be considered an exact engineering representation or a construction progress update. Work at the intersection remains ongoing.

The Highway 43 and Highway 49 intersection roundabout is an approved Government of Alberta transportation project designed to improve the movement of traffic through one of Valleyview's key intersections. Official contractor drawings were published on June 22 and provide technical details of the planned design.

As construction continues, temporary traffic changes and detours are in place to allow crews to safely complete the work. Motorists are encouraged to follow posted signage, obey speed limits, and use caution while travelling through the construction area.

The completed



roundabout is expected to provide a smoother flow of traffic by allowing vehicles to move continuously through the intersection rather

than stopping for traditional traffic controls. Roundabouts are also designed to reduce vehicle speeds at intersections and can help

lower the risk of severe collisions.

The project represents an important infrastructure upgrade for Valleyview, creat-

ing a safer and more efficient connection for residents, commuters, and commercial traffic travelling through the community.

For advertising contact us at:
780-706-1858 or email
admin@regionalpressnews.ca

Escape room opens doors to lost library of Atlantis

By Valerie Winger

The Valleyview Municipal Library has a new challenge for puzzle lovers this summer.

The Lost Library of Atlantis escape room opened July 2 and is booking until August 28. It's open to all ages, though anyone under

12 needs to bring along a guardian or another responsible person over 16.

The room comes with a handful of tricky puzzles and some fragile props, so a bit of help and basic reading skills go a long way. The library recommends

groups of three to five players, and most teams should expect to spend about 30 minutes inside.

There's also a leaderboard running for the summer. The team with the fastest time on their first successful escape will take home a trophy.

The escape room can be booked at the library, located at 4804 50th Avenue in Valleyview. For more information, call 780-524-3033, email librarian@valleyviewlibrary.ab.ca, or visit valleyviewlibrary.ab.ca.





Staying tick-smart during Alberta's outdoor season



By Haylee Dianne

Summer in Alberta brings plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, whether it's hiking local trails, camping with family, walking the dog or spending time in the garden. Along with those activities comes the possibility of encountering ticks, making awareness and prevention an important part of any outdoor adventure.

Ticks are tiny parasites that survive by feeding on the blood of animals and people. They are most commonly found in grassy areas, shrubs, forest edges and other places where they can latch onto a passing host. Although they are small, ticks can transmit diseases, making it worthwhile to check for them after spending time outside.

The species residents are most likely

to encounter in Alberta is the Rocky Mountain wood tick. While blacklegged ticks—often called deer ticks—are occasionally found in the province, Alberta Health says the overall risk of contracting Lyme disease within Alberta remains low because established populations of Lyme disease-carrying blacklegged ticks have not been confirmed. Even so, health officials encourage people to take precautions and remove any attached tick promptly.

Reducing the chance of a tick bite starts before heading outdoors. Wearing long sleeves, long pants and closed-toe footwear can help create a barrier between skin and ticks. Light-coloured clothing also makes it easier to spot ticks before they attach. Insect repellents containing DEET or icaridin provide an added layer of protection when used according to the manu-

facturer's directions.

Once back indoors, a thorough tick check is one of the simplest and most effective prevention measures. Ticks often attach to warm, hidden areas of the body, including behind the knees, under the arms, around the waist, along the hairline and behind the ears. Children should be checked carefully, and pets should also be inspected since they can carry ticks into homes and vehicles.

If an attached tick is discovered, experts recommend removing it with fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull upward slowly and steadily without twisting. The bite area should then be washed with soap and water or cleaned with an antiseptic. Folk remedies such as applying petroleum jelly, nail polish or heat are not recommended because they may make removal more difficult.

People should monitor their health in the weeks following a tick bite. Anyone who develops symptoms such as fever, fatigue, muscle aches or an expanding rash should seek medical attention and tell their healthcare provider about the tick exposure. When Lyme disease is diagnosed early, it is typically

treated successfully with antibiotics.

Albertans can also help provincial surveillance efforts by submitting photographs of ticks through the eTick program, which assists experts in identifying tick species and tracking where they are found across the province.

Ticks are a natural

part of Alberta's environment, but they don't have to spoil a day outdoors. By dressing appropriately, using insect repellent, checking for ticks after outdoor activities and removing them correctly, Albertans can continue to enjoy parks, trails and campsites with confidence.



Blue-Green Algae Advisory Issued for Iosegun Lake



By Haylee Dianne

Visitors to Iosegun Lake are being advised to take precautions after cyanobacteria, commonly known as blue-green algae, was identified in the water.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has issued a health advisory for the area, warning the public to avoid contact with visible blue-green algae blooms and to take steps to protect themselves, pets, and livestock while the advisory remains in effect.

Health officials advise against swimming or wading in areas where blue-green algae is present and recommend keeping pets away from affect-

ed areas. Anyone who comes into contact with a visible bloom should wash with clean tap water as soon as possible.

The advisory also includes precautions regarding fish consumption. Visitors are advised not to feed whole fish or fish trimmings from Iosegun Lake to pets. People should consider limiting their consumption of whole fish and fish trimmings, as toxins produced by blue-green algae can accumulate in fish organs, including the liver. Fish fillets are considered safe to eat.

AHS is also reminding lake users that untreated lake water should never be used for drinking or cooking. Boiling water does not remove the toxins

produced by blue-green algae. An alternative source of drinking water should be provided for pets and livestock while the advisory remains in place.

Blue-green algae blooms can change locations depending on weather and wind conditions, meaning areas without visible algae may still be affected. The advisory will remain in effect until further notice.

While recreational activities may continue in areas where no visible bloom is present, visitors are encouraged to remain cautious and avoid any areas where blue-green algae is observed.

More information and current health advisories are available through Alberta Health Services.



Alberta Health Services photo

SWAN HILLS RCMP

RESIDENCE WANTED

Single Detached Home Needed for RCMP Member Housing

- The Swan Hills RCMP is currently seeking to rent a single detached residence within the community for RCMP member housing.
- Suitable properties should be in good overall condition and appropriate for long-term occupancy.
- Please note that apartments, suites, and other multi-unit dwellings are not being considered at this time.
- If you own a suitable property or would like more information, please contact the Swan Hills RCMP Detachment.

Thank you for supporting policing in our community.

Swan Hills, Alberta

The Swan Hills RCMP is seeking a single detached home to rent within the community for RCMP member housing. The residence should be in good overall condition and suitable for a long-term rental. Property owners with a suitable residence are asked to contact the Swan Hills RCMP Detachment at 780-333-4450.



Municipal District of Greenview Council highlights

Press Release

Support for Regional Tourism Organization Designation

A letter of support will be provided for the Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association's application to become the designated Destination Marketing Organization for Northwestern Alberta. The designation would support a more coordinated regional approach to tourism promotion, helping communities work together to raise awareness of local attractions, experiences and destinations across Northwestern Alberta.

Council's support recognizes the potential value of stronger regional tourism marketing and collaboration. The letter does not commit Greenview to future membership, participation in governance or any financial obligations.

Greenview Supports RMA Justice Committee Application

Greenview's Deputy Reeve and Councillor Tom Burton received Council's support to apply as the District 4 representative on the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Justice Committee. The committee will examine rural crime, community safety and the criminal

justice system, then develop recommendations for policy and legislative reform. This appointment would provide Greenview with a direct voice in this work, helping ensure the experiences and priorities of Greenview and other rural municipalities are considered in recommendations to government.

Greenview will cover the Deputy Reeve's per diem costs if the application is successful, while the RMA will cover eligible travel, accommodation and meal expenses.

New Strategic Plan Sets Greenview's Priorities for the Council Term

Greenview's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan will provide a framework for municipal decision-making, budgeting and work planning over the next four years. Council approved the plan's content, with Administration to complete the final design and formatting before it is released publicly.

The plan establishes four priorities: Driving Proactive Asset Management, Supporting Vibrant Communities, Planning for Our Financial Future and Empowering Economic Success. Key areas of focus include developing a consistent user-fee framework, supporting sustainable

community groups, using data to guide recreation decisions, strengthening financial reserves, modernizing municipal processes, and promoting tourism opportunities.

Guided by Greenview's vision of a healthy, safe and sustainable community, the plan will help Council and Administration align municipal services and investments with long-term community needs. It will also provide residents with a clear framework for understanding Council's direction and measuring progress throughout the term.

Grande Cache Transition House Golf Tournament Gets Greenview Support

The Grande Cache Transition House Society will receive a \$2,000 sponsorship and up to \$100 of in-kind support for the second annual Heart on the Green Golf Tournament, taking place August 29, 2026, at the Grande Cache Golf and Country Club.

Council approved the support to help raise funds for the Society's shelter, intervention, transportation, emergency supplies and outreach services for women and children experiencing violence in Grande Cache and surrounding communities.

Town of Fox Creek receives funding approval for Inclusive Playground Project

Town of Fox Creek Press Release

The Town of Fox Creek has received funding approval through the Alberta Recycling Management Authority's (ARMA) 2026-27 Tire Recycling Community Grant Program to support the installation of recycled rubber surfacing at the Fox Creek Inclusive Playground. This grant provides up to \$30,000 in funding toward the project using recycled tire products manufactured from Alberta scrap tires. The funding will

help create a safer, more accessible play space for children and families of all abilities while giving new life to recycled Alberta materials. The pour-in-place rubber surfacing will provide a durable, accessible surface that improves mobility for wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers while creating a safe, long-lasting play area.

The Inclusive Playground Project reflects the Town's commitment to creating recreational spaces that can be enjoyed by everyone. By incorporating recycled tire products into

the playground's design, the project will also help divert Alberta scrap tires from landfills and put recycled materials to practical use within the community, further supporting environmental stewardship.

The Town of Fox Creek extends their thanks to the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) for its support through the 2026-27 Tire Recycling Community Grant Program. The project is expected will be completed in 2027 in accordance with the approved funding agreement.

GET YOUR BUSINESS IN FRONT OF

LOCAL READERS

EVERY PUBLICATION

YOUR BUSINESS CARD AD IS A SIMPLE, AFFORDABLE WAY TO STAY VISIBLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

For just

\$40 + GST per publication

your business name, contact details, and services are placed directly in front of local households.

NO DESIGN WORK NEEDED.

Just message us and we'll build your business card ad for you.

Perfect for:

- Trades & contractors
- Home-based services
- Small local businesses
- Community groups & events

Book your spot today by emailing admin@regionalpressnews.ca or message us on Facebook or call **780-706-1858**.

CLASSIFIEDS

Auctions

WARD'S AUCTIONS. Sturgeon County Online Auction of Vehicles, Tools, Equipment, etc. on August 8th. Preview August 7th. Current items include Bayliner Boat, BMW 440i, Lincoln MKX, Honda CRV, Quad, 3-Point attachments. Mini-Skid, trailers, lathe, milling machine, hand tools, antique Ford tractor, etc. WardsAuctions.com. Brad Ward 780-940-8378.

Buildings For Sale

INTEGRITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS since 2008 BUILT WITH CONCRETE POSTS. Barns, Shops, Riding Arenas, Machine

Sheds and more, sales@integritybuilt.com 1-866-974-7678 www.integritybuilt.com.

Coming Events

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

Services

PRIVATE MORTGAGE LENDER. All real estate types considered.

No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. 403-543-0927; www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca.

Travel

OSOYOOS LAKESHORE VILLA: Executive lakeview villa in Osoyoos, BC, breathtaking lake and mountain views; just 3 minutes from town. Vacation in Canada's warmest destination. Or warmer weather, two luxurious 5-star resort units in Phoenix, Arizona. Doug 306-716-2671 or visit osoyooslakevilla.com.

