

# REGIONAL PRESS NEWS

FOX CREEK • SWAN HILLS • VALLEYVIEW

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Mayor Glenn Burke photos

## Valleyview Mayor joins Sturgeon Lake Treaty Days celebration

By Valerie Winger

Valleyview Mayor Glenn Burke recently shared his appreciation after taking part in Sturgeon Lake Treaty Days, describing the event as a day filled with community spirit, laughter and hospitality.

Burke said he began the day judging the parade before spending part of the afternoon in the dunk tank, where Chief and Council made sure he got dunked more than a few times.

The day wrapped up with Burke joining Valleyview Councillor Kerri Danner as a judge for the lip sync competition, where he said there was plenty of talent and great energy throughout the event.

Burke also thanked

everyone at Sturgeon Lake for making him feel welcome, saying the kindness, conversations and hospitality meant a great deal.

He said opportunities like Treaty Days help bring communities together and strengthen relationships with neighbours.



## Fox Creek Library encourages creativity with bookmark contest



Fox Creek Library photo

By Valerie Winger

The Fox Creek Library is celebrating creativity with its Erindale Design Resin Bookmark Contest, highlighting a fun activity that brings colour and imagination to the library.

The library recently shared photos from the contest, showcasing a collection of colourful resin bookmarks created as part of the activity. The contest shines a spotlight on creativity while adding another enjoyable element to the library experience.

Creative activities like

bookmark contests help make libraries inviting places where children can enjoy reading, explore their imagination and spend time taking part in hands-on projects. Libraries have long been places that connect communities by encouraging learning, creativity and participation in activities that bring people together.

The Erindale Design Resin Bookmark Contest is another example of how a simple creative project can add to the fun of visiting the Fox Creek Library while celebrating a love of books and creativity.



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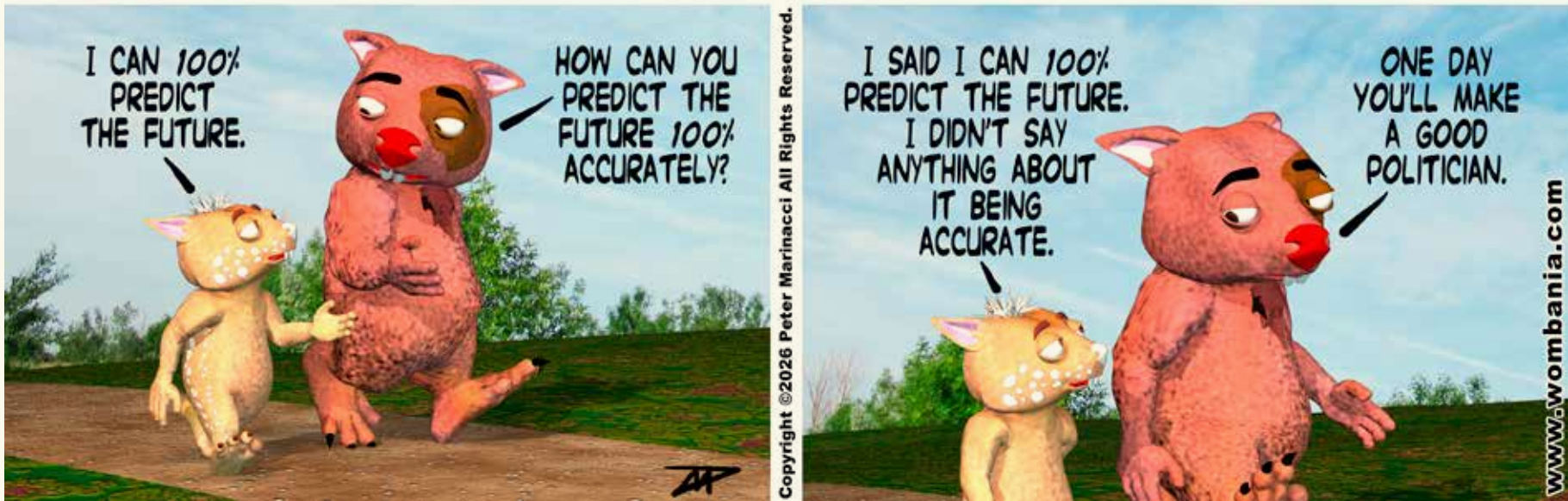
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by PETER MARINACCI



# Valleyview neighbours come together to lend a helping hand



By Shelley Winger

A Valleyview Facebook group is bringing neighbours together to help residents who are facing difficult circumstances.

Today, Chris Henderson and Danni Denene administer Valleyview Neighbours Helping Neighbours, a community Facebook group that has grown to 443 members since it was created in December 2025.

The group was originally started by Samantha Proctor, who later moved away. Henderson said the administrators saw a need for a local place where residents could reach out when they needed help.

“We thought this was a great way,” said Henderson.

Since then, residents have stepped up to help their neighbours through donations of food, clothing and everyday essentials.

Food has been the most requested item since the group was

created. Members have responded by donating what they can, helping ensure residents who are struggling have access to something as basic as a meal.

Clothing has also been donated through the group, with members giving away items they no longer need to people who can use them.

The need isn't limited to one particular circumstance. Henderson said the group has helped people in a variety of difficult situations.

“We have helped

people running from abuse, fire victims and just down on their luck,” she said.

In some situations, reaching out publicly for help isn't an option. The administrators can post on a person's behalf when privacy is important, including in situations involving abuse.

The group also recognizes that asking for help can be difficult. Its purpose is to provide a place where residents can support one another without judgment, while encouraging people to access established community resources

when they are available.

Members are asked to check resources such as the food bank and Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) before turning to the group, allowing the Facebook community to complement the services already available in Valleyview.

As the colder months approach, Henderson expects the need for assistance to increase.

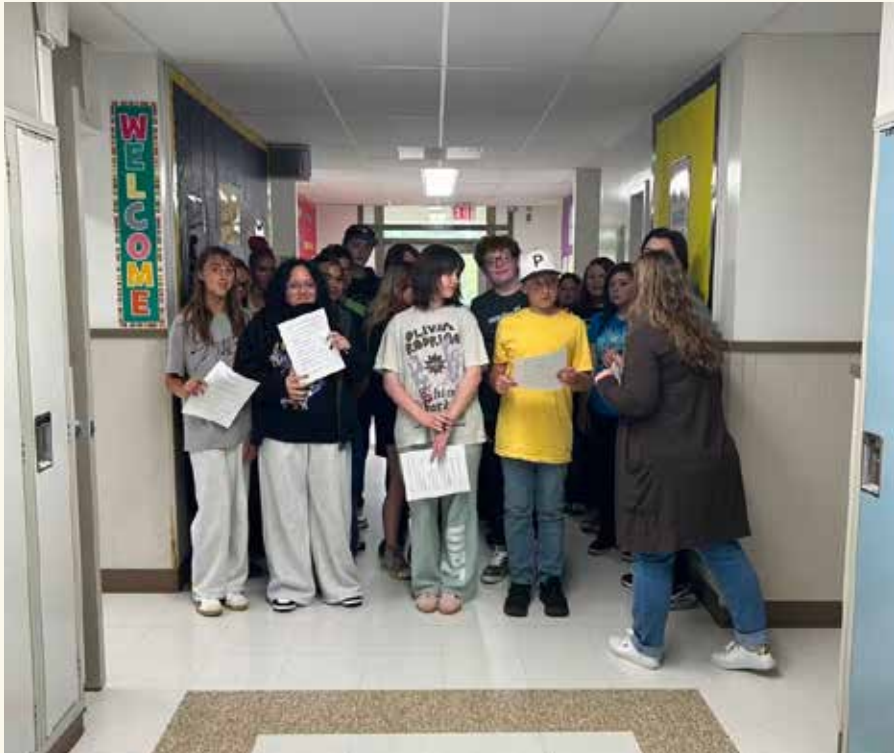
The group hopes to continue connecting residents with food, clothing and everyday necessities throughout the winter, while giving

people an opportunity to help their neighbours in a meaningful way.

It is not a sales or advertising page, and requests for money are not permitted. Instead, the focus remains on community, kindness and lending a hand when someone needs it.

With hundreds of residents now part of the group, Henderson hopes Valleyview Neighbours Helping Neighbours will continue to grow as a resource for people who need support—and for those willing to provide it.

# Swan Hills students kick off health curriculum with scavenger hunt



Working in teams, students used critical thinking skills to decipher clues and find items connected to each challenge. The activity also gave students an opportunity to practise teamwork and communication skills as they made their way through the school searching for answers. The original plans included an outdoor component, but rainy weather moved the activity indoors. Students embraced the change and continued with the scavenger hunt inside the school. The activity combined learning with a fun, hands-on challenge to start the new school year. *Swan Hills School photos*

# RCMP encourage Albertans to verify AI-generated content



By Haylee Dianne

As artificial intelligence becomes more advanced, it is

becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish computer-generated images from real photographs.

The Alberta RCMP is encouraging people to be cautious

when viewing and sharing content online. Before passing along an image or post, people should consider its original source, whether that source is reliable and

whether the information can be confirmed elsewhere.

The RCMP also advises people to consider whether an image may be misleading or being

presented without the full context.

The reminder comes as AI technology makes it easier to create realistic-looking images that may not accurately represent a person,

event or location.

Taking a few moments to check the information before sharing it can help prevent false or misleading content from spreading online.



The images used with this information were generated using artificial intelligence for illustrative purposes and may not depict real people, events or locations. *Alberta RCMP photos*

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# Valleyview upgrading water treatment process with chloramination



By Haylee Dianne

The Town of Valleyview is upgrading its water treatment process with the introduction of chloramination as a secondary disinfection method.

The change took effect August 25, 2026, and is being implemented to ensure the Town continues to meet requirements set by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.

Chlorine will remain Valleyview's primary method of disinfection, while chloramine will be added as a secondary disinfectant.

Valleyview's drinking water is sourced from the Little Smoky River, which naturally contains organic material. When chlorine reacts with that

material, it can produce disinfection by-products known as trihalomethanes, or THMs.

The Town's water system licence requires THM levels to remain below the Maximum Acceptable Concentration. While previous treatment and filtration improvements have helped manage THMs, the Town says adding chloramine as a secondary disinfectant is necessary to provide additional control over their formation.

The change will also provide a more stable and longer-lasting disinfectant residual throughout the water distribution system.

For most residents, the Town says everyday water use will remain unchanged. However, some residents and water users will need to take

additional precautions.

People receiving kidney dialysis can continue to drink and bathe in chloraminated water, but chloramine must be removed from water used as part of the dialysis process. Those performing dialysis at home are advised to speak with their healthcare provider to ensure their equipment is properly equipped to treat chloraminated water.

Owners of aquariums, ponds, reptiles and amphibians will also need to remove chloramine from water before using it with aquatic animals. Unlike humans, fish and other aquatic animals absorb water directly into their bloodstream through their gills and cannot neutralize chloramine through digestion.

The Town notes that

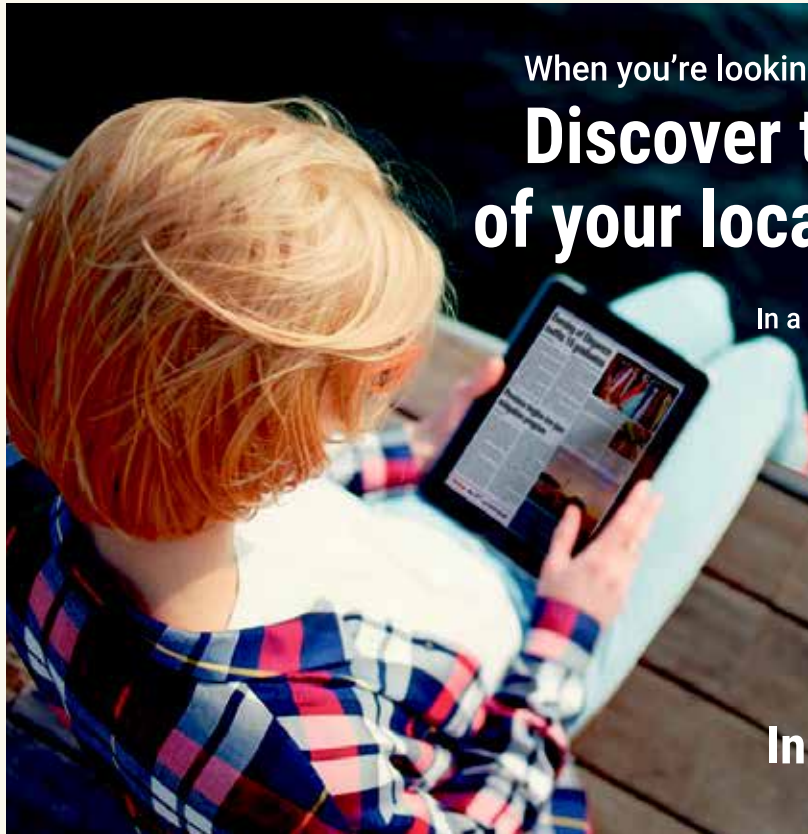
water conditioners and filtration systems specifically designed to remove chloramine are available through pet suppliers and aquarium stores.

Residents who use home water-treatment systems should also check with their equipment manufacturer or supplier to confirm whether their system is designed to remove chloramine.

Unlike chlorine, chloramine is more persistent and will not simply disappear by allowing water to sit or by boiling it.

The Town is advising residents who have questions about the change or their individual water-treatment needs to ensure they are using equipment appropriate for chloraminated water.





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# Valleyview residents weigh in on 2027 budget priorities



By Haylee Dianne

Valleyview residents and community members have provided the Town with feedback on the issues they would like to see considered as Council prepares the 2027 municipal budget. The Town gathered public input earlier this summer through three opportunities: an online community survey, a Budget Open House and an Online

Brainstorm Board. The feedback has since been compiled into the Town's 2027 Budget Public Participation Report, which was presented to Town Council in August.

The community survey received 92 submissions, with 83 unique responses included in the analysis. The Online Brainstorm Board received 10 posts, while four written feedback ballots were submitted during the Budget Open House.

Municipal services

remained a major focus among survey respondents.

Street and alley maintenance, along with water and wastewater services, were each identified as either critical or important by 93 per cent of respondents. Solid waste management followed at 91 per cent.

Of the services surveyed, street and alley maintenance showed the largest gap between its perceived importance and residents' satisfaction, making it

the area identified as needing the greatest overall attention.

Unsightly property control also recorded comparatively lower satisfaction levels. This corresponded with written feedback calling for improvements to community beautification and the overall appearance of Valleyview.

Other services, including solid waste management, the

Community Hall, library services and ice rinks, received comparatively strong satisfaction ratings.

Written submissions also highlighted several recurring themes. Residents raised the need for improvements to streets and sidewalks, more opportunities for walking and biking, continued support for recreation and efforts to improve the community's appearance.

Long-term infrastructure requirements were also identified, along with concerns related to affordability, safety and mobility.

The feedback will be

considered by Town Council as part of its 2027 Budget deliberations this September.

The public participation report is intended to provide Council with an overview of broader community priorities while also documenting the individual suggestions received during the consultation process.

Public input will be considered alongside infrastructure requirements, municipal service needs, the Town's financial capacity and other information available to Council as it works through the budget process.

## Fox Creek Library invites readers to Silent Book Club

By Valerie Winger

The Fox Creek Library is inviting readers to bring a book and enjoy a quiet evening of reading at its next Silent Book Club on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. at The Last Crumb.

The library shared a reminder about the upcoming meeting, along with photos from its

Silent Book Club.

According to the library, participants can arrive at 5:45 p.m. to order food or drinks and find a seat before a brief introduction about what everyone is reading. From 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., the evening is set aside for an hour of quiet reading, with optional visiting afterwards.

Silent Book Clubs offer a simple way for people to enjoy reading alongside others, and libraries continue to provide welcoming spaces where communities can come together through books.

The next Fox Creek Library Silent Book Club takes place Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. at The Last Crumb.



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## FOX CREEK'S SILENT BOOKCLUB

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SEPTEMBER 24TH

**What to expect at bookclub. 5:45pm**

**PEOPLE START TO ARRIVE, ORDER DRINKS OR FOOD. FIND A SEAT**

**Quick introduction of what each person is reading**

**6pm-7pm Settle in for a hour of reading, once the hour finishes, patrons pay any owing tabs, optional visiting.**



# Getting the house ready before winter arrives



By Haylee Dianne

Fall has a way of sneaking up on us. One day the windows are open and the yard is still being used for summer evenings, and the next, frost is showing up on the grass in the morning and winter suddenly feels much closer.

For homeowners, this is the time of year when a little preparation can pay off. Before the snow arrives and temperatures begin to stay below freezing, there are a number of things around the house that are worth checking while the weather is still manageable.

The furnace is a good place to begin. After spending much of the summer sitting idle, it will soon be doing some of the hardest work of the year. Homeowners should check the furnace filter and replace it if necessary, while also making sure heating vents and registers are clear. Having the furnace looked at before the cold weather arrives can also help identify problems before they become an emergency on a particularly cold night.

The rest of the house can use a quick inspection, too. Walk around windows and exterior doors and watch for places where cold air could find its way inside. Worn weatherstripping, cracked caulking and small gaps around frames may not seem like much during

the fall, but they can become noticeable once the furnace is running regularly. Sealing those areas can help keep warm air inside where it belongs.

Outside, the roof and eavestroughs deserve some attention before snow starts to pile up. Leaves and other debris can collect in gutters during the fall, while damaged shingles or loose areas may be easier to spot and repair before winter weather sets in. Downspouts should be clear and directing water away from the foundation.

It is also time to put summer plumbing to bed. Garden hoses should be disconnected and stored, and homeowners should make sure outdoor water lines are drained or shut off as appropriate for the home's plumbing system. A frozen pipe can cause considerable damage, making this a small job that is worth doing before the first hard freeze.

The yard itself can also be part of the seasonal cleanup. Patio furniture, gardening tools and other summer equipment can be put away, while branches that could become a problem under heavy snow or ice should be dealt with. Clearing leaves and other debris from around the property can make spring cleanup easier as well.

For rural homeowners and anyone living near trees or heavier vegetation, fall is also a good opportunity to take another look

at the area surrounding the home. Keeping vegetation maintained and reducing combustible material close to buildings are part of FireSmart practices and can help reduce the potential impact of wildfire.

Preparing for winter does not stop at the front door. Alberta weather can bring power outages and severe storms, so it is worth making sure emergency supplies are easy to find. Flashlights, batteries, blankets, warm clothing and other basic supplies should be kept somewhere accessible rather than packed away in a place that is difficult to reach.

Homeowners who depend on a sump pump may also want to consider how it would operate during a power outage and whether a backup option is appropriate for their property.

None of these jobs are particularly exciting, and few homeowners probably have "clean the eavestroughs" at the top of their list of favourite fall activities. But dealing with them now is generally easier than trying to solve the same problems in the middle of January.

The first snowfall will eventually arrive. Getting a few of the less glamorous jobs out of the way beforehand can help ensure that when winter does settle in, the focus can be on staying warm rather than discovering what should have been fixed in the fall.



**Before and after:** Cleaning out eavestroughs is one of the fall maintenance jobs that can help prepare a home for the winter months. Removing leaves and debris allows water to drain properly and helps prevent potential problems when snow and ice arrive.

## Fox Creek sees increase in people arriving without housing or employment



By Haylee Dianne

Fox Creek Community Services has reported an increase in individuals and families arriving in the community

without employment, housing or financial resources.

The issue was raised during the Town of Fox Creek's August 10 council meeting, with the information included in the council highlights released by the Town.

According to the

report, some individuals and families are arriving in Fox Creek without having secured employment or accommodation in advance and are expecting to find work after arriving in the community. The Town did not provide a specific number of people involved

in the increase in its council highlights. The situation is one of the issues being monitored by Community Services as it continues to respond to the needs of people in the community.

Fox Creek has local resources available for people who

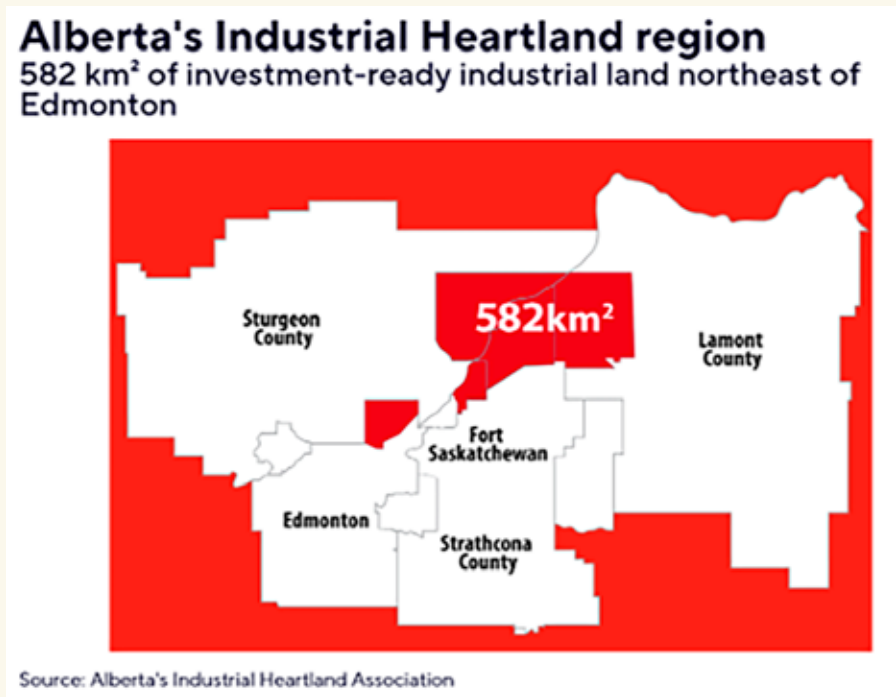
require assistance. The Fox Creek Community Resource Centre provides access to community and employment-related services, as well as connections to other supports.

The council discussion highlights the importance of people planning ahead when

considering a move to Fox Creek, particularly by securing employment and accommodation before arriving.

The Town has not indicated whether the increase is expected to continue, or provided further details about the number of people affected.

# Beating strong: Alberta's Industrial Heartland



By Rob Roach, ATB Economics

## Key points

- The Alberta Industrial Heartland region is a major hub for value-added processing of Alberta's oil and natural gas resources.
- The construction of Meta's \$13 billion data centre in the region along with an accompanying \$4.6 billion natural gas-powered electricity facility has added tech to the region's repertoire in a big way.
- As economies of scale and industry clustering gain even more momentum, the region is poised for strong growth going forward.

## Zeroing in

There are many unique regions within Alberta, with each of them contributing to the overall economy. One of these regions — dubbed Alberta's Industrial Heartland — is having its annual conference today in Edmonton (our Chief Economist Mark Parsons is speaking at the event), so we thought we'd provide an update on some of the exciting economic developments taking place there.

As Alberta's first Designated Industrial Zone (DIZ), the Heartland region utilizes centralized environmental baselines and streamlined regulatory approvals, significantly lowering the time and cost required for companies to bring capital-intensive industrial builds online.

## Adding value

As its name suggests, expanding industrial capacity in the Heartland is an important part of its growth story and is a key driver of Alberta's current and ongoing economic success.

As Canada's largest hydrocarbon processing region, Alberta's Industrial Heartland adds value to Alberta's abundant energy resources. While investment in the extraction (a.k.a. upstream) side of the energy sector is still well below 2014 levels in Alberta, there has been a significant increase in capital spending on new downstream facilities designed to process oil and gas resources here at home (see the chart top).

The momentum is tangible, with major projects like Dow's Fort Saskatchewan Path2Zero net-zero expansion project, Air Products' net-zero hydrogen energy complex, Yellowhead Pipeline Project, Imperial Oil's renewable diesel facility, and the Alberta Corridor Export Rail Terminal Project transforming the region.

These projects build on the success of those recently completed, like the Interpipeline Heartland Petrochemical Complex. They're multi-billion dollar investments that are having a material impact on Alberta's economy and outlook.

## Adding data centres to the mix

Big Tech is also finding a home in the Heartland with Meta Platforms Inc. building a \$13 billion data centre in Sturgeon County.

At peak construction, Meta estimates that more than 3,000 construction workers will be onsite with approximately 300 full-time workers needed when it's operational. The facility will use power generated in Alberta by a new 932 MW natural gas-fired power generation facility. Scheduled to be operational by 2030, the Greenlight Electricity Centre is a \$4.6 billion project.

## A bright future

The intersection of energy resources, value-added processing, and A.I. data processing in the Heartland bodes well for its ongoing role as a driver of economic activity and growth in the province. From hydrogen production and carbon capture to biofuels and petrochemicals, the region's focus on low-carbon processes will help Canada compete in global markets at a time when the world is looking for a safe and secure supply.



## Canadian Natural steps up for Fox Creek nurses



Canadian Natural's \$5,000 donation to the Friends of Fox Creek Hospital Society contributes to nurses in Fox Creek participating in essential courses, including Advanced Cardiac Life Support, the Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course and the Trauma Nursing Core Course.

## Congratulations

**Amy Jaquish** of Okotoks has been chosen as the winner of the C.A. MacLean Local Journalism Grant, in recognition of her award-winning essay on the current challenges facing local news outlets.



Pictured: AUNA and C.A. MacLean director Amanda Zimmer (left) presents Amy Jaquish with a cheque for \$2,000.



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# Mobile mammography service to visit Swan Hills

Press Release

The Screen Test program will be in Swan Hills in September to provide screening mammograms to eligible individuals aged 45 to 74. A mobile mammography trailer will be at the Swan Hills Health Care Centre, located at 29 Freeman Drive, from September 28-29.

Screening is available at no cost for eligible individuals, but appointments are required. Call 1-800-667-0604 to book an appointment or learn more about the program. A mammogram is an X-ray of the breast. Screening mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early when treatment may work better. Getting screened for breast cancer saves lives.

More information about breast cancer

screening and who is eligible can be found by visiting [https://screeningforlife.ca/breast/get-screened/#who\\_should\\_get\\_screened](https://screeningforlife.ca/breast/get-screened/#who_should_get_screened).

Visit <https://screeningforlife.ca/breast/screen-test-mobile-clinics/> for more information and a complete listing of communities that the Screen Test mobile visits.

Screen Test is improving access to cancer screening for thousands of individuals in Alberta communities where mammograms are not readily available.

In addition to mobile mammography clinics, screening can also be performed at specific radiology clinics and some hospitals. Individuals aged 45 to 74 can discuss their breast cancer risk with their healthcare providers to determine

whether screening is appropriate for them and book with a radiology clinic or with Screen Test mobile mammography. For more information, visit [screeningforlife.ca/where-to-get-screened.ca](https://screeningforlife.ca/where-to-get-screened.ca).

Care is a lifelong commitment for Primary Care Alberta. We plan, fund and support primary healthcare across the province, improving access to care providers and offering front-line services through Health Link 811 and public health teams. Throughout the health journey, we are by your side – managing, preventing and reducing illness. Along with our partners, we nurture the connections our communities need to thrive and strengthen the health of all Albertans.

Northern Gateway Public Schools photos



## Seven local students join international artificial intelligence research project

By Valerie Winger

Seven Northern Gateway Public Schools students are taking part in an international research project looking at how artificial intelligence could affect learning and well-being.

The group includes four Grade 12 students from Fox Creek School and three from Hillside Junior/Senior High in

Valleyview.

The students are part of the Students at the Table project through the Youth AI Research Network. They will work with university professors, researchers and Northern Gateway Public Schools educators alongside school teams from Finland, Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, Canada and Norway.

The project asks

students to explore the question: Given the possible futures of artificial intelligence, what are our questions in terms of Learning Well and Being Well?

Throughout the project, the students will share what they learn in their school communities, develop a school action plan and connect with students and educators from around the world.

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- ✓ Health care background is an asset

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**TIP #1**

POSITIVE COMMUNICATIONS TIP

**Respect that everyone communicates differently.**

COMMUNITY WISDOM SERIES



**PUTTING A FACE ON SUICIDE**

**Tyler Meier**  
Age 19

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.

**TIP #2**

CONFLICT RESOLUTION TIP

**Be willing to compromise.**

COMMUNITY WISDOM SERIES

# World Suicide Prevention Day encouraged Albertans to start the conversation

 **By Haylee Dianne**

Albertans were encouraged to start conversations about suicide and mental health as World Suicide Prevention Day was recognized on September 10.

The day provided an opportunity to raise awareness about the far-reaching effects of suicide, which can impact individuals, families, workplaces and communities. According to Recovery Alberta, suicide claimed more than

720,000 lives around the world each year.

Recovery Alberta emphasized that talking openly about suicide did not increase a person's risk. Compassionate conversations could instead help reduce risk and encourage someone to seek support. Asking someone directly about thoughts of suicide could also be an important first step toward getting help.

The agency encouraged people to use the acronym REACH when supporting someone who may have been struggling. The approach included recognizing signs that

someone may have been having difficulty, engaging in conversation and listening with compassion, asking directly about thoughts of suicide, connecting the person with supports and services, and helping by taking care of one's own mental health and well-being.

Starting a conversation could sometimes feel difficult, but reaching out and listening could help reduce isolation and connect someone with support. Recovery Alberta provides mental health, addiction and recovery services for Albertans and their families, including crisis support,

treatment and recovery programs. Information about available services was available by calling 211 or visiting Recovery Alberta's website.

Anyone experiencing immediate danger or an emergency was urged to call 911, go to the nearest emergency department or contact the Suicide Crisis Helpline by calling or texting 988.

World Suicide Prevention Day served as a reminder that support was available and that reaching out, whether for yourself or someone else, could be an important step toward getting help.



## Municipal District of Greenview Council highlights

Press Release

**Greenview Supports Suicide Prevention Awareness Event**

Greenview will provide \$5,000 in sponsorship to the Resource Centre for

Suicide Prevention for the 16th Annual Chair Extraordinaire event, taking place September 26, 2026, at Evergreen Park in the County of Grande Prairie. Funding will come from the 2026

Community Services Sponsorships budget. The annual event raises awareness of mental health and suicide prevention while encouraging open conversations and reducing stigma. The

Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention provides education, training and support services to individuals, families and organizations throughout Grande Prairie and the surrounding region.

### CN Rail Delegation to be Requested to Address Greenview Concerns

Rail safety awareness remains important to Council, particularly for communities located along rail corridors. While Council did not approve the proposed Rail Safety Week proclamation, the discussion highlighted several local rail-related concerns that require further attention.

Council directed

Administration to invite a delegation from CN Rail to address outstanding concerns related to the transportation of dangerous goods through Greenview communities, the removal of safe recreation crossings, and compliance with provincial weed legislation. The discussion recognized the value of rail safety education while identifying matters Council wishes to address directly with CN Rail.



# Fox Creek prepares for new inclusive playground



By Shelley Winger

Fox Creek families will have a new place to play to look forward to next spring, as work moves ahead on replacing the aging playground at the Lions Park and Splash Park site with a new inclusive playground.

The existing playground equipment is being removed as the Town prepares the site for the new facility, which is expected to be installed in spring 2027.

The project has been in the Town's capital planning for several years. The Lions Playground was originally listed as a \$520,000 capital project in the Town's 2025 budget and was carried forward into the 2026 capital program. Council's January 2026 capital budget update identified funding for an all-inclusive playground at the Splash Park location to replace the aging equipment.

The project is part of

a broader focus on infrastructure and community amenities included in the Town's 2026 capital budget.

In a May 5 news release announcing approval of the 2026 operating and capital budgets, Mayor Gilmour said the budget reflected "a great deal of work" by Council and Administration to balance rising costs with the needs of the community.

"We were very mindful of the financial pressures residents and businesses are facing and made the decision to hold municipal tax rates steady wherever possible, while still investing in essential services and infrastructure," Gilmour said.

The new playground is intended to provide a more inclusive recreation space for children and families, replacing equipment that has reached the end of its useful life.

With the Lions Park playground temporarily unavailable, families still have several other playground options around Fox

Creek.

Marnevic Memorial Park is home to the community's largest playground, featuring a bulldozer slide, spinning wheel and large gliding swing. The playground was also previously recognized as one of Canada's Coolest 150 Playgrounds.

The COPS Playground, located near the ball diamonds, curling rink, arena and community hall, provides another option for families.

The Splash Park site has also been part of recent discussions about improving amenities at Fox Creek's parks. In June, Council considered a request for public washrooms at Marnevic Memorial Park and directed Administration to relocate one of the existing portable washrooms from the Splash Park to Marnevic Park.

While the new Lions Park playground is still several months away, the project represents a significant investment in one of Fox Creek's community

recreation spaces.

Once complete, the inclusive playground will give local families

a new space designed with a wider range of children and abilities in mind, adding

another recreation option to Fox Creek's collection of community parks.



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# Cool weather, warm welcome at Keyano Daze



By Dean LaBerge

Cooler-than-expected weather may have put a chill in the air, but it didn't stop Swan Hills residents from turning out for the second annual Keyano Daze community fair on Saturday, September 12.

The Swan Hills Chamber of Commerce kicked the day off with a delicious pancake breakfast. For a modest price, breakfast included pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, fruit, and coffee or juice to drink.

With the most important meal of the day taken care of and a live DJ, sponsored by Pembina Pipeline, the crowd pumped up as the fun shifted into full swing with a variety of

activities, entertainment, and an outdoor market.

The petting zoo was a crowd favourite, with a large collection of cuddly animals, including a variety of exotic chickens, ducks, geese, bunnies, kittens, potbelly

pigs, miniature goats with kids, sheep with lambs, alpacas, and a miniature highland cow with her calf. The friendly critters drew a steady stream of children, teens and families from the moment the petting zoo's gates opened until it was time to pack up for the day.

The kids were also thrilled to let loose and burn off some energy on a trio of bouncy houses. Close by, Swan Hills FRN (Family Resource Network) and FCSS (Family & Community Support Services) hosted a station with large bubble wands and balloons.

Roaming circus performers Demmi and Spandy Andy delighted the crowd with spontaneous performances, dance parties and "play shops," keeping young

spectators entranced as they shared some tricks of the trade, from spinning multiple plates on poles to dancing with ribbon wands and mastering the hula hoop.

Monty the Moose, the Mission Possible mascot, also made the rounds, greeting attendees, posing for pictures, and getting in a little dance or two.

Of course, no community fair would

be complete without plenty of great food. Three food trucks kept attendees supplied with mini donuts, frozen yogurt, and Thai food during the day before the grills fired up for a free community barbecue at 4 p.m., sponsored by Super A Foods.

For those looking for a break from the outdoor festivities, the Swan Hills Community Club

sponsored an afternoon bingo at the Keyano Centre.

As the daytime festivities wound down, Keyano Daze wasn't finished yet. The celebration moved inside the Keyano Centre for an adults-only dance sponsored by Mission Possible, giving the grown-ups a chance to take over the dance floor and close out the second annual community fair.





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