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March 8, 2022

EVANSVIEW STAFF DIVE INTO NEW CURRICULUM

Submitted by GYPSD

Evansview teachers started comparing and contrasting the current Language Arts curriculum with the upcoming new Language Arts Curriculum during a recent staff meeting. Both curriculums were cut into

pieces, the current document was glued onto chart paper and separated by outcome statements and the new curriculum was cut into knowledge statements and put into envelopes.

Teachers then looked for similar outcomes in both curriculums and where the

new outcomes are added to inform their planning process over the next 6 months. This monumental task is focusing on Language Arts as well as the incoming Math Curriculums.

Prior to beginning the analysis, ...

Continued on Page 5

PROVIDING RELIEF FOR FUEL AND UTILITY COSTS

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Albertans will see lower fuel and utility bills through action to address rising costs.

Alberta's government will stop the collection of the provincial fuel tax to offer Albertans relief from current high fuel prices. Currently, Albertans pay 13 cents per litre in fuel tax. This change will come into effect April 1.

The federal carbon tax rate on gasoline is set to increase again on April 1, from just under nine cents per litre to just over 11 cents per litre.

"We've heard Albertans' concerns about the rising cost of living loud and clear. While the federal government is set to increase the carbon tax April 1, Alberta's government is taking the opposite approach and stepping up to offer relief.

Stopping the provincial fuel tax puts money back in the pockets of Albertans when they need it most."

Jason Kenney, Premier


"Many Albertans expressed concerns about increasing prices on everyday goods when I consulted with them ahead of this year's budget. The best thing government can do during inflationary times is to spend less, ...

Continued on Page 6



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March 13 - 19, 2022

Farm Safety Week

This week is a great opportunity to stress the importance of keeping our farm families safe and healthy. Inside you will find the latest information to keep yourself, your family, your workers and your operation safe.





PUBLISHED WEEKLY (Zone 1 & 2)
AND BIWEEKLY (Zone 3)

**E.J. Lewchuck &
Associates Ltd.**

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Spruce Grove, AB
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MP SOROKA ASKS WHEN WILL ALL FEDERAL MANDATES BE REMOVED

Submitted by Gerald Soroka
MP for Yellowhead

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, asked the following question in the

House:

"Mr. Speaker, in my province of Alberta, some provincial restrictions have been lifted, other restrictions according to our premier will be lifted very soon.

With hospitalization rates decreasing, many constituents in my riding are asking why the Liberal government has no plan to remove all federal mandates.

Continued on Page 3

WORKING TOGETHER for Safety in Agriculture

You can help build a stronger farm, family, and community, and be part of an AgSafe Canada, by developing a Farm Safety Plan and talking with your family and anyone who visits your farm about safety.

Searle Turton
MLA for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain Constituency

60-210 McLeod Ave. Spruce Grove, AB T7X 2K5
PH: 780.962.6606 Fax: 780.962.1568
SpruceGrove.StonyPlain@assembly.ab.ca

A safe farm is a strong farm, and a strong farm is a successful one.

This Canadian Agricultural Safety Week,
we celebrate Safe and Strong Farms.

For more information on
Growing an AgSafe Canada
visit agsafetyweek.ca.



gerald.soroka.c1@parl.gc.ca
780-723-6068



MP Soroka Asks When Will All Federal Mandates Be Removed

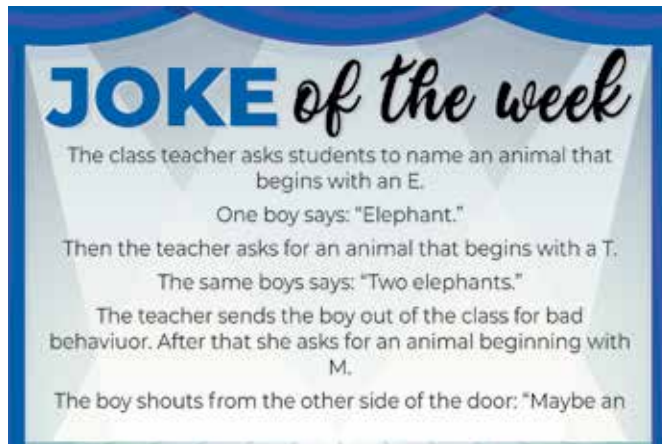
Continued from Page 2

Mr. Speaker, Canadians want to get their lives back. When will this Liberal government listen to science and provinces to remove all federal mandates?"

Reply: Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos (Minister of Health, Lib.):

"Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to hear my colleague speak about science. The science has been

very clear over the last year and a half, that vaccination is not a punishment. Vaccination is protection. Almost 90% of adult Canadians have been vaccinated twice. We are very grateful to the scientists of this country. They have provided us with vaccines that work and are effective."



JOKE of the week

The class teacher asks students to name an animal that begins with an E.

One boy says: "Elephant."

Then the teacher asks for an animal that begins with a T.

The same boy says: "Two elephants."

The teacher sends the boy out of the class for bad behavior. After that she asks for an animal beginning with M.

The boy shouts from the other side of the door: "Maybe an



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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
GOLF CLUB MANAGER**

PEMBINA VALLEY GOLF CLUB LOCATED IN EVANSBURG IS CURRENTLY SEEKING AN INDIVIDUAL TO MANAGE THE OPERATION OF THE PVGC FOR THE 2022 SEASON.

Qualified Applicants Must Possess:

- Multi Tasking Skills
- Strong Computer Skills
- Work well with Staff & General Public
- Prepare Staffing Schedules
- Manage Online Social Media
- Provide Professional Efficient Operations of the Club House
- Wages & Hours to be determined

Please email Your Resume to:
pembinavalleygolfclub@yahoo.ca

Resume Submission Deadline is March 20, 2022
Qualified Applicants will be Contacted

PEMBINA VALLEY Golf Club



PEMBINA VALLEY Golf Club

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Clubhouse Staff**

PEMBINA VALLEY GOLF CLUB LOCATED IN EVANSBURG IS CURRENTLY SEEKING INDIVIDUALS TO FULLFILL THE DUTIES OF CLUBHOUSE STAFF FOR THE 2022 SEASON.

Qualified Applicants must:

- Work Well with the General Public
- Possess Great People Skills
- Work Days, Evenings, & Some Weekends
- Pro Serve Certification is required
- Applicants Must be 18 years or older

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR RESUME TO:
PEMBINAVALLEYGOLFCLUB@YAHOO.CA

RESUME SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MARCH 20, 2022
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONTACTED

Highvale Mine Decommissioning & Reclamation Plan

TransAlta will be submitting under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) a combined Decommissioning Plan and Final Reclamation Plan for the Highvale Mine to the Alberta Energy Regulator in June 2022. At the same time, TransAlta will file a 10-year renewal for the Highvale Mine under EPEA, the Water Act and the Coal Conservation Act.

**TransAlta values engagement with all participants
and we welcome your involvement.**

Public Open House

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022

Time: 3 - 4 pm | 5 - 8 pm

Location: Highvale Mine Building, 4419B Sundance Road,
Parkland County (west of the Sundance Power Plant)

Being mindful of the importance of physical distancing and to comply with provincial health restrictions, participants are asked to pre-register to attend the open house within one of the following one-hour time slots:

3 - 4 pm | 5 - 6 pm | 6 - 7 pm | 7 - 8 pm

To register please contact TransAlta at: 1-877-636-7822
or email: AB_Coal_Communications@transalta.com

Participants who are unable to attend the open house are welcome to send their questions to the above telephone number and email.

For more information visit:

www.transalta.com/highvalereclamation

TransAlta™

Evansview Staff Dive into New Curriculum

Continued from Page 1

... teachers were asked the question, "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer? "One bite at a time." Teachers will be focusing on this task for the remainder of the year during every staff meeting as well as the re-

maining staff Professional Development Days.

By looking at all of the grade levels, Evansview staff will develop a deeper understanding of the curricular objectives for the grades below and above what they currently teach. The focused conversations resulting from this work will

ensure essential outcomes are established and maintained throughout all of the classrooms and grade levels in the upcoming 2022/2023 school year.



MARK SMITH
MLA FOR DRAYTON VALLEY-DEVON

FARM
Safety Week

KEEPING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE

DRAYTONVALLEY.DEVON@ASSEMBLY.AB.CA TOLL FREE: 1-800-542-7307

SHANE GETSON
MLA for LAC STE. ANNE-PARKLAND

FARM
Safety Week

Keep your farming community healthy and safe.

LacSteAnne.Parkland@assembly.ab.ca
#18, 4708 Lac Ste Anne Trail, N. (Box 248)
Onoway, AB T0E 1V0 780-967-0760

parkland county

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SAFETY WEEK

Parkland County takes pride in its agricultural heritage, recognizing that agriculture is more than a way of life - it is an integral component of our business sector and of the sustainability of Parkland County.

Thank you to all who contribute to our quality of life by providing access to locally-grown foods, whether directly to consumers, or by sale to local businesses. Our future is growing because of you.

www.parklandcounty.com

Providing Relief For Fuel And Utility Costs

Continued from Page 1

.... borrow less and tax less. That's why today we are introducing new measures to help with the cost of fuel by reducing the provincial fuel tax, providing much-needed relief to everyday Albertans."

Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

Alberta's government will

also provide \$150 electricity rebates to help Albertans pay for the high bills they faced this winter. More than one million homes, farms and businesses are expected to receive a \$50 monthly rebate for three months. These retroactive rebates will help defray the high costs that many families and businesses paid in recent months.

Alberta's government will

work with utilities and regulators to determine exact details, including rebate timing. This includes working to have the rebates applied directly to consumers' bills.

This rebate will combine with the Natural Gas Rebate program announced in Budget 2022 to provide real relief for Albertans.

"Utility prices are in part due to market conditions,

and in part due to punishing policies from the former provincial government and the federal government. As our government works hard to responsibly manage system costs, we are also working tirelessly to increase generation investments to bring new supply on to the market. As this long-term work continues, a rebate to help offset these costs for Alberta families and small businesses will help provide support when they need it most."

Dale Nally, Associate Minister of Natural Gas and Electricity

Collection of the fuel tax will be paused for:

- gasoline – \$0.13 per litre
- diesel – \$0.13 per litre
- marked gasoline and marked diesel – \$0.04

Because the GST also applies to provincial fuel taxes, the 13-cent reduction will also reduce the GST by 0.65 cents per litre, for total tax savings of about 13.6 cents per litre of gasoline and diesel.

The government will review the collection of the fuel tax on a quarterly basis and, if required, consider reinstating collection in stages, based on the average price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) over a number of weeks. The government will not start to reinstate collection before July 1.

Alberta's fuel tax is reported and remitted by refiners and large wholesalers and included in the price Albertans pay at the pump. The government will provide information for stakeholders, including fuel retailers, on the fuel tax pause.

Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Department **FARM SAFETY TIPS**

- Never adjust machinery when it's powered.
- Don't wear loose fitting clothing around moving machinery parts.
- Obtain proper training for the machinery you are using – and know its limitations.
- Go over basic farm safety knowledge with your kids regularly.

Remember, Yellowhead County offers farming related workshops throughout the year.

Don't forget about the Ag Recycling Project for plastics.
Go to www.yhcounty.ca for more information.





Let's Get Ready to Learn!

It's Time to Register for Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten



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**Register
by April 30/22 for
a chance to win a
Chromebook for
your family!**

- Certificated teacher specialized in reading and numeracy instruction
- Play-based, innovative learning
- Early literacy
- Creative and cultural expression
- Early intervention supports and resources

Online Registration opens February 14 - spaces for JK and Kinder programs for September 2022 are limited so don't wait to register!

Niton Central School

English Programs
Junior Kindergarten to Grade 9
nitoncentralschool.gypsd.ca
780-795-3782

Wildwood School

English Programs
Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6
wildwoodschool.gypsd.ca
780-325-3858

Evansview Elementary

English Programs
Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6
evansviewschool.gypsd.ca
780-727-3623

VISIT THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR A VIRTUAL TOUR
Find out more at www.gypsd.ca



FARM SAFETY WEEK

Be SAFE – Plan Ahead Assess Risk

Risk concerns the expected value of results of a situation or event. The value of those results may be positive or negative. In the farming industry, the measure of risk can be rated as high, medium or low. Once the risk has been assessed, through your regular safety checks, employers can determine whether to take immediate action of a hazard or identify those that can be monitored and fixed at a later time. Regular assessment can help with budgeting time and resources for immediate or future repairs.

The following businesses of are proud sponsors of **Farm Safety & Health Week**



Evansburg
Family
Foods

727-4118



Hansdown
Liquor

727-2059



The Dog
Ranch

727-2652



Evansburg
Inn

727-3621



Evansburg
Family
Clothing

727-3526



Evansburg
Pharmacy
"Your Health &
Wellness is
Our Priority"

727-2732



On A Whim
- Ladie's
Consignment

621-6157



Entwistle
Concrete

727-3525



Entwistle
Food
Market

727-3686



Pembina
Esso
Centre

727-2974



Tipple Park
Museum

727-2240



Bang On
Carpentry



241-2711



Wighty's
Tire &
Mechanical



727-4442



The
Co-operator's
-Evansburg

727-3757



Tri-Lakes
Services Ltd.

1-877-
727-3939



FARM SAFETY TIPS

- Hire right - hire the right person and pay them fairly rather than hire an unqualified person for less money then pay for their liability and errors.
- Get a check-up - make sure every worker is checked up on at least every two hours
- Know the code - the Code of Practices for Farm Safety (PEI) has set the industry standard for agriculture
- Train for safety

**The following businesses are proud sponsors of Farm Safety & Health Week
March 13 - 19, 2022**

Derby's
Lakeview
General Store

797-3838



Kokanee
Springs
RV Park &
Driving Range

797-3058



A Tow Truck
Company



797-3869



Dunning's
Water Hauling

773-7491



Sun Gro
Horticulture

797-3019



Tri-Lakes
Services Ltd.

1-877-
727-3939



Bourke's
Farm
Equipment

339-3939



Tomahawk
Tempo

339-2575



Tomahawk
General Store

339-3930



Pinnacle
Renewable
Energy Inc.

1-887-
737-4344



Metrix Group
LLP
-Chartered
Professional
Accountants

727-2017



Pembina
Concrete
Products

727-2702



Tipple Park AG
Foods

727-3740





GUARD YOUR PROFITS

The bottom line for any business is profitability. An important part of maximizing profits is minimizing losses - and that includes non-productive time, costly machinery breakdowns as well as losses due to injury, illness, or death of the farmer, farm family, or farm workers.

Minimizing loss begins with making safety a priority, conducting a safety audit on your farm, keeping all machinery in good repair with guards and shields in place, having adequate accident insurance coverage, training workers in safe practices, leading by example every day.

FARM SAFETY & HEALTH WEEK

MARCH 13TH - 19TH

The following businesses are proud sponsors of Farm Safety & Health Week

Wildwood Bigway 325-3870	U.F.A. - Wildwood 325-3866	Wildwood Ag Society 325-2424	Violet Gardens & Greenhouse 621-4774
Wildwood Ladie's Aid 325-2180	Wildwood Legion Br # 149 325-2015	D+L Rehn Contracting Ltd 723-0332	Jane's Hair Care 325-3749
Murd's Plumbing & Heating Ltd. 712-3630	Wildwood Community Association 514-6105	Forestland Construction 325-2634	Vixon Contracting Inc. VIXON 241-0366

FARM SAFETY & HEALTH WEEK

MARCH 13-19, 2022

Farm Safety Tips

When farming please follow these precautions in order to keep yourself, your family and your workers safe:

- Decrease your risk of being crushed by using lockout procedures before beginning any maintenance or repair work. Lockout means to physically neutralize all energies in a piece of equipment. Machines, devices or power transmission lines can be de-energized by applying blocks to all parts under tension or pressure, bleeding the hydraulic pressure from the lines or by releasing pressure from a coil or spring.
- Provide a safe, fenced play area for all children and supervise closely. The working area of the farm is not a playground any more than a construction site or other industrial area would be a play area. Review the safety rules on your farm with your family often. Fence off all manure, retaining ponds and dugouts, and lock buildings containing hazardous goods.

The following businesses are proud
sponsors of Farm Safety & Health Week

Traveller's Hut
& Gas Station
-Wabamun
892-3252

Shoreside
Inn & Suites
892-4773

Ray's
Market / Bigway
Foods
892-2230

Wabamun
Home
Hardware
892-4969

A.T.B.
Financial
-Wabamun
892-7927

Wabamun IDA
Pharmacy
892-2278

Wabamun
Hotel
892-2224

Fence Link
974-4958

Wabamun
LAKE INN
892-2424

Trades
Automotive &
Welding Ltd.
892-4500

Wabamun
Marina & RV
Park
892-3008

Rocko's
Rentals &
Services Ltd.
718-3850



Notice of Public Hearing PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENT TO BYLAW NO. 03.17

PURSUANT TO SECTION 692 OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT, BEING CHAPTER M 26 R.S.A. 2000 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO:

Notice is hereby given that all Public Hearings will begin at 9:30 a.m. on **March 8, 2022**, in the Council Chambers of the Yellowhead County Administration Building located at 2716 1st Avenue, Edson, Alberta.

The purpose of this hearing is to allow persons to make known their views with respect to the proposed Administrative Amendment to Bylaw 03.17 being a document entitled "Edson Intermunicipal Development Plan" dated August 2017.

As per the following:

The suggested amendments are as follows: 1. Due to the condensing of a number of Land Use Districts, the six land use districts mentioned on page 11 Section 3.5, have been amalgamated into a new district. This new district has been mentioned in general terms consistent with best management practices for relating Statutory Plans (IDPs) to Lands Use Bylaws. 2. On page 12 Section 3.8, there is a specific reference to a district which existed in Yellowhead County's previous Land Use Bylaw. As per the above approach, the new intended land use is being referenced generally. 3. The opening sentence of Section 3.10 includes a reference to the "Rural Land Use District" of the former Yellowhead County Land Use Bylaw. Due to the comprehensiveness of the current second paragraph of the section, it is recommended the initial sentence simply be removed. 4. Page 15 Section 4.4.1 makes specific reference to a district contained within the form Land Use Bylaw, that being the "Rural Industrial District". The proposed amendment's intent is to refer generally to land designated as "Industrial" on Map 8.

All written submissions will become public information upon receipt by the Yellowhead County Council. Copies of Bylaw No. 03.17 are available for public inspection during regular office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Yellowhead County office located at 2716 1st Avenue, Edson, Alberta. Further information may be obtained by contacting the office at 723-4800, or 1-800-665-6030.

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2. Check regularly to see if Road Bans are in place.
3. Make sure you have your road-use agreements in place.

WWW.YHCOUNTY.CA



REGISTER YOUR EQUIPMENT FOR 2022 WITH YELLOWHEAD COUNTY



Deadline for Registration is April 1, 2022.

All equipment hired by Yellowhead County **MUST** be registered annually by the deadline.

Yellowhead County will select equipment that is the best suited for the work to be done and provide the most cost effective level of service.

For more information or to register your equipment, call the Infrastructure Services Department at (780) 723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030.

TAX TIME IS COMING!

Get your taxes done - free!



Yellowhead County Volunteer Income Tax Program!

Eligibility Requirements:

Tax Returns must be simple (no business or farm income, no capital gains, no depreciation and not a death return)

Must be a resident of Yellowhead or Parkland County

Reminder: A current tax return is required for federal benefits to continue without disruption, ex: child tax credit, government pensions.

For more information, please call Yellowhead County at 780.325.3782.

For Low Income Individuals:

- i. 1 person income \$35,000 or less
- ii. 2 person income is \$45,000 or less
- iii. More than 2 persons is \$45,000 plus \$2,500 for each additional person.

This program will start March 1, 2022 to ensure that everyone receives all of their tax slips.



GETTING FOLKS TO THE TABLE TO TALK

Finding Fairness in Farm Transitions

With Elaine Froese

MARCH 15, 2022
7:00 PM

Join Farm Transition Specialist Elaine Froese to discuss "Finding Fairness in Farm Transitions" on March 15, 2022 at 7:00pm.

You can register at: <https://bit.ly/3G9bEay>

This event is brought to you in partnership by WCFA, Battle River Research Group, Foothills Forage & Grazing Association, Lakeland Applied Research Association, and North Peace Applied Research.



CRA Tax Benefits and Scams Online Presentation



March 15 Online Presentation

Canada Revenue Agency Outreach and Yellowhead County FCSS invite you to the following online session on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 3:00 pm

Presenter – Sandra Paul from Canada Revenue Agency Outreach

Scams – How to recognize a scam, examples of Fraudulent communications, and How to protect yourself from Identity Theft.

Benefits and Credits for All – Canada Child Benefit, Child Disability Benefit, Disability Tax Credit, GST, Canada Workers Benefit, and Climate Action Incentiv

To register and receive the online link to participate, please call the Yellowhead County Wildwood Office at 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935 or email Karen Schatz at kschatz@yellowheadcounty.ab.ca



Psst...!
Don't get caught by scammers.

The easiest ways to avoid a scam?

SECREC Y IS YOUR WEAPON!

- ✔ Use a unique password for each account.
- ✔ Be suspicious if someone asks you for personal information.
- ✔ Don't share your security codes, user IDs, passwords, or social insurance number.
- ✔ Be cautious before you click on a link.

These tips are from
Canada.ca/be-scam-smart
Visit to learn more.



Need a job this summer?
We are HIRING!
 Seasonal Positions 2022





APPLY TODAY!
 VISIT:
www.yhcounty.ca/jobs

Looking for a summer job starting May 2022?
 Look no further!

Yellowhead County Ag Services is hiring.

- **Weed Inspector**
- **Agricultural Labourer**

www.yhcounty.ca/jobs



Need a job this summer?
We are HIRING!
 Seasonal Positions 2022




APPLY TODAY!
 VISIT:
www.yhcounty.ca/jobs

Looking for a summer job at the Green Grove Pool in Niton?
 Look no further!

Yellowhead County is hiring:

- **Senior Lifeguards**
- **Junior Lifeguards**

www.yhcounty.ca/jobs




EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Accounts Payable Clerk
LOCATION: EDSON OFFICE
COMPETITION NO. 22-017

Reporting to the Accounting Supervisor, the Accounts Payable Clerk is responsible for performing accounting duties and maintaining information related to Accounts Payable for Yellowhead County. This position will assist the Director of Corporate Services and the Accounting Supervisor with all financial and clerical duties as assigned.

The salary range is currently \$56,930 - \$72,065 per year.

Yellowhead County offers a competitive benefit plan. To apply please submit resumes online at www.yhcounty.ca/jobs

A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online. The competition will remain open until **Friday March 11, 2022**.

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

Payroll Department
 Yellowhead County
 Email: jobs@yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

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




EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Facility Fleet Maintenance
LOCATION: EDSON OFFICE
COMPETITION NO. 22-016

Reporting to the Manager of Transportation Services, Facilities and Fleet Maintenance is responsible for the maintenance and care of County owned buildings, grounds and other facilities, and vehicle fleet in Yellowhead County.

The salary range is currently \$66,182 - \$83,790 per year.

Yellowhead County offers a competitive benefit plan. To apply please submit resumes online at www.yhcounty.ca/jobs

A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online. The competition will remain open until **Friday March 18, 2022**.

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

Payroll Department
 Yellowhead County
 Email: jobs@yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

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



WHAT MATTERS TO YOU –DEMOCRATIC ATROPHY & ENERGY DEPENDENCE

Submitted by MLA Shane Getson

There is an old saying that many have heard over the years, "Use it or lose it". Now, I have to admit, when I hear that saying what initially comes to my mind in the past was regarding physical activity, and mental acuity. If you don't work the brain, pushing it, learning something new, then we start to lose the ability to rapidly absorb information and develop new skills. Physical exercise is similar, weight training and my nemesis, cardio.

I had never really considered the dangers that "Democratic Atrophy" could have on our province, or our country until the last several months, with February 14 being the crescendo. When the emergency act (war measures) was so easily invoked, and then later passed in the house of commons, it made me shudder. How could such a heavy piece of legislation suspending rights and freedoms so easily be used, for which it was so obviously never intended.

I find it ironic that we fight for the rights and democratic freedoms of others abroad to have this happen at home because we really don't use the system that we have in place. We are suffering from Democratic Atrophy, caused by Demo-

cratic Complacency.

I decided to jump in 4 years ago now to find out how to be part of the solution, rather than being frustrated by the problems. I found out how the system works and wanted to help by being a voice at the table, rather than shouting outside from across the street. I'll share with you how you can feel less frustrated, have a more powerful voice, and to have a real impact on the direction that the decision makers are making. If this sounds like a bit of a late night infomercial, it's for effect, but instead of having the thigh master laying around, you just may have a membership card in your pocket at the end of this article.

Here are the steps, to get your democratic muscle back.

1. Buy a membership to a political party (one at a provincial and federal level to start)

2. Keep informed of what is going on not only in the media but the party. Constituency / Riding associations. Honestly, they can be fun, and we need to make them that way again. It should be about engaging with the community and helping out where we can.

3. Help pick your candidates to run in the next election. Typically, this is a nomination race. If you want your vote to

really have an impact, this is the place. Most races are low volumes of overall votes...2000 or less. So, 1/2000 is a big deal compared to 1/50,000 for the provincial election. When you do a good job of picking your candidate's, then you have a far better chance for Democratic Representation.

4. Take part in leadership reviews, and leadership races. These are the folks in our Canadian system that end up in the top positions of power and are the ones who pick their cabinet ministers to form government. When you realize how few people vote in the leadership races, or leadership reviews, it's astounding. Small groups of people are choosing who can make the decisions for the province or the country for the next 5 years. Leadership reviews are a big deal, and should be treated as such, but you must play to have a say.

5. Keep engaged, hold your representatives accountable, and offer good advice. When the system is functioning properly, it is with real engagement. It may make you feel better to just cast stones from behind the keyboard, but that only really goes so far. As corny as it sounds, it's a team effort.

When we flex our democratic muscle everyone

wins, when we don't, we end up where we are at today. It's awfully hard to make a change when somebody else picked the person driving the bus. There are mechanisms along the way however that do allow you to influence, or swap out the driver, but you must have your ticket, be sitting in the first few rows, to be able to give feedback.

Just imagine if we had picked a different PM as a country, do you really think Stephen Harper as an example would have pulled out the emergency act, rather than talking with the organizers of the convoy, or even had taken us down this path in the first place? What would our energy policy look like, do you think Europe would have been so dependent on Russia right now, or would we as Canada been meeting that need, and have in a peaceful way contributed to mitigating conflict by supplying energy demand.

Your voice and vote matter, you must flex your democratic muscle, and you have to know where and when you can use it to have the most impact. So please, get off the bench, and get into the game, we need each other to make our communities, and our province a better place.





MAKE YOUR VEHICLE LESS VULNERABLE TO THEFT

Vehicle theft is something few people imagine happening to them. Until it does. While many motorists may think technology has done wonders to curb vehicle theft, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration notes that a motor vehicle is stolen every 46 seconds in the United States.

Auto theft is sometimes mistaken as a victimless crime. After all, insured motorists are typically reimbursed for stolen vehicles, and drivers whose cars are returned after being stolen can simply

submit a claim to have any damages paid for by their insurers. But this characterization of auto theft is untrue, as all motorists, whether their car's been stolen or not, pay for auto theft. The Insurance Bureau of Canada notes that each year auto theft costs Canadians roughly \$1 billion. That figure includes the \$542 million insurers pay to fix or replace stolen vehicles each year. Those costs are ultimately passed on to customers, who then indirectly pay for the actions of car thieves.

Curbing auto theft is not necessarily the job of drivers, but there are things motorists can do to reduce the likelihood that their car will be stolen by opportunistic thieves.

Avoid keyless ignition systems. Drivers who live in areas that are vulnerable to auto theft may want the peace of mind that comes with traditional keyed ignition systems instead of the more modern and flashy keyless ignition systems. While vehicles with keyed ignition systems are stolen every day, some

thieves may find it easier and quicker to steal cars or trucks with keyless ignition systems. Thieves can copy keys used in traditional ignition systems, but that process may require access to the original key and tends to take longer than it takes for thieves to reprogram keyless ignition systems once they're inside a car. Reprogramming devices are not legal, but they are available and can be used to shut off automobile alarm systems in a matter of seconds.

Continued on Page 17

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Make Your Vehicle Less Vulnerable To Theft

Continued from Page 16

• Lock your vehicle at all times. One of the simplest ways to protect a vehicle from prospective thieves is to always lock the windows and doors, even when you're inside the vehicle. Auto thieves like things to go quickly and smoothly, and locked doors and rolled up windows only complicate things for thieves. Get in the habit of locking the vehicle when you're driving, as unlocked doors make it easier for carjackers to surprise unsuspect-

ing motorists.

• Park smart. Some motorists like to park far away so their vehicles are not at risk of being dinged or scratched by inattentive drivers and passengers getting into and out of nearby vehicles. Others may simply not have the patience to find parking spots in well-lit areas close to home or storefronts. But thieves may target vehicles parked nowhere near foot or automobile traffic. Always park in parking garages or other well-lit areas, which deter thieves from breaking

in and driving away with your vehicle.

• Etch the VIN onto your windows. Car thieves are not in the auto theft business so they can build a fleet of stolen cars. Upon stealing a car, many car thieves head right for a chop shop, which is a place where stolen cars are disassembled and then sold for parts. By etching the VIN, or vehicle identification number, of your car or truck on your vehicle's windshield or windows, you may be making your car less attractive to prospective thieves and the

chop shops they do business with.

Vehicle theft remains a problem even as technology has done much to prevent it. But drivers can take steps to reduce their risk of being victimized by car thieves.



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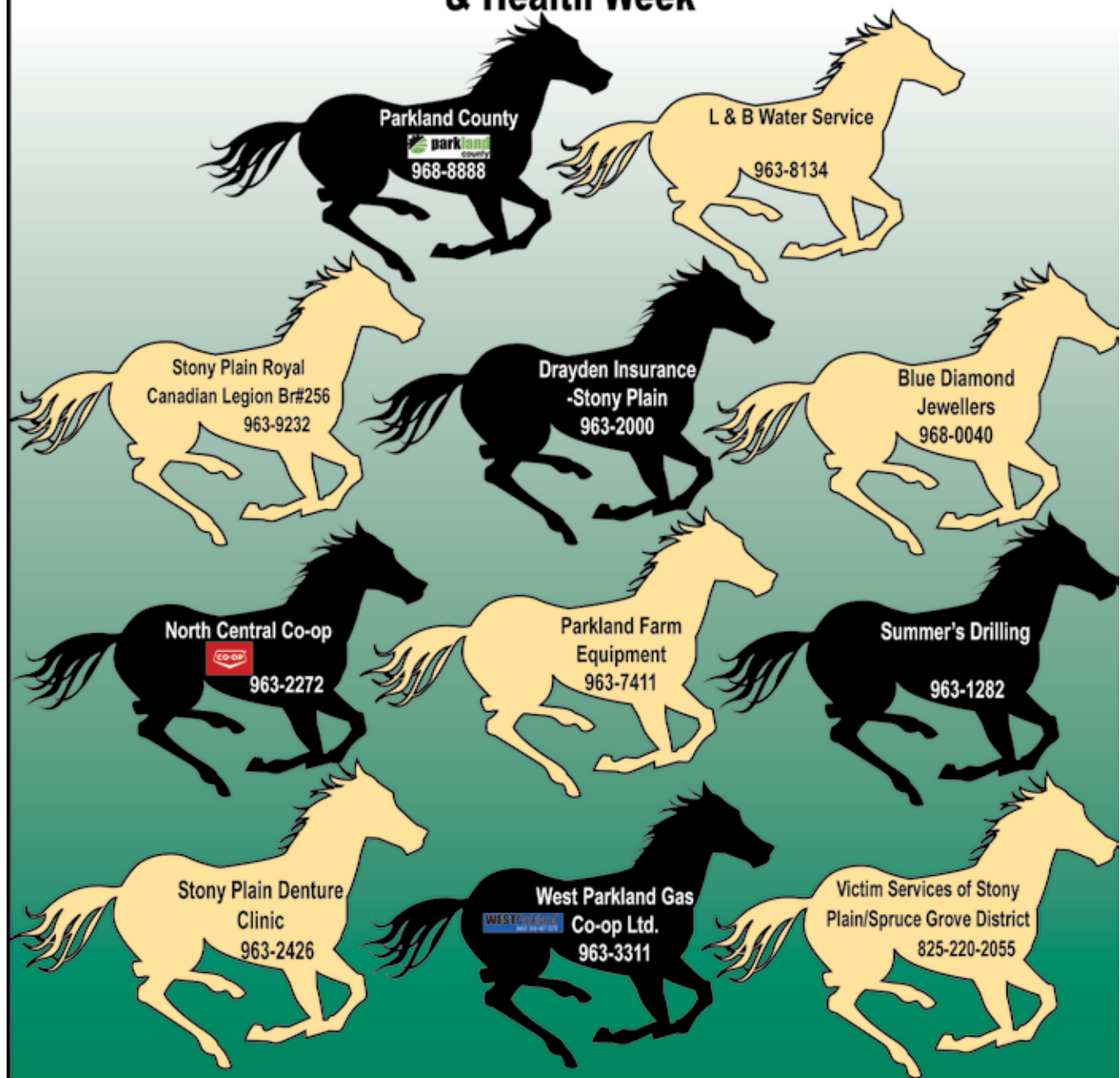
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FARM SAFETY WEEK

is a great opportunity to stress the importance of keeping our farm families safe and healthy. The agriculture industry is unique in that so many of its members live, work and play at the worksite. This often increases the level to which farmers and their families are exposed to dangerous chemicals, machinery and livestock. Because of this potentially hazardous environment, it's essential that each and every person on the farm is experienced and knowledgeable in the area of farm safety.

- Handle cattle with respect and awareness. They have the strength and speed to cause serious injury.
- Never operate machinery when you are fatigued, stressed or highly medicated.
- Always read and follow owner's manuals and safety decals on all equipment.
- Outfit all farm buildings with smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

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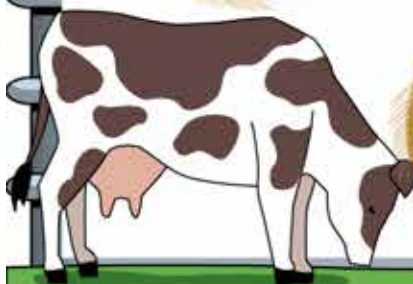
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Horne, Ruby May. May 9th,
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of the week

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Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

ANSWER:

2	4	6	5	1				
7		1	3					2
	3		7		6			
	9	8		6		1	2	
				3		5	8	
			8			7		4
8		3	2				4	
1		7					3	6
4	2	9	6	5				

2	4	6	5	1				
7		1	3					2
	3		7		6			
	9	8		6		1	2	
				3		5	8	
			8			7		4
8		3	2				4	
1		7					3	6
4	2	9	6	5				

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