Machinery and equipment assessment decline may result in tax rate hike

Surely Lake County council may have to reconsider its plan to keep 2019 mill rates the same as in 2018 when it comes to setting mill rates later this spring. During the March 28 council meeting Finance manager Brenda Adamson said the assessment numbers for 2019 were received, and they’re not good news. Although the total assessment increased by one percent, the expected tax revenue from that assessment will be lower than last year if mill rates are not adjusted.

The residential and farmland assessment increased by two percent, non residential assessment increased by 2.6 percent and machinery and equipment assessment decreased by 11.7 percent.

“The numbers aren’t what we hoped for,” Adamson said. “Because the tax rate for machinery and equipment is higher than the tax rate for residential and farmland, council will need to consider some changes to the 2019 rates in order to raise enough taxes.”

She is arranging for Accurate Assessment to present detailed assessment report to council. Coun. Randy Orichowski pointed out the 2019 budget was set with no plan to change the mill rates. He said he disagreed with last year’s lowered assessments for some lake lots. Adamson advised that the county may appeal assessments.

Thorhild gives extra two weeks to pay taxes

Thorhild County residents have an extra couple of weeks to get their taxes paid this year.

For 2019, the tax due date is July 15. A 10 percent penalty on unpaid 2019 taxes will be applied July 16. In previous years the tax due date was the last business day in June with penalties applied to unpaid taxes the following day.

“We’ve had issues with people being late because taxes needed to be paid on the last business day of June,” said Corporate Services director Janelle Cornelius during the March 28 council meeting.

She explained that the county bylaw does not set a tax due date but states the tax penalty is applied the day after the due date shown on the tax notice. That allows the county to choose, within the regulations of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), any day for the tax due date.

She recommended the change for this year because the last business day in June is June 28, which would mean penalties for unpaid taxes would technically be Saturday, June 29. Because of the weekend and statutory holiday, penalties would be applied July 2.

The change also provides additional time for council to pass the mill rate bylaw and for staff to mail out the tax notices. If the tax due date was June 28 council would need to pass the mill rate bylaw by its May 14 regular meeting. Staff would have three days to get the final numbers into the system, print the tax notices, and mail them by May 17.

With the July 15 tax due date the 2019 mill rate bylaw needs to be passed by the May 28 council meeting and the tax notices mailed out by June 6. Council briefly discussed the point that next year it can choose to keep the tax due date at July 15 or select a different date. Coun. Wayne Croswell’s motion to keep 2019 mill rates the same as in 2018 when it comes to setting mill rates later this spring.
Thorhild County will repair the roof of the compressor room attached to the Thorhild curling rink and complete a pre-inspection and testing of the piping loop in the concrete floor. No work is planned in the curling rink area at this time.

During its March 26 meeting council authorized up to $42,000 from the county’s accumulated surplus for the work. Reeve Kevin Grumetza commented that the cost seems high. The compressor room is about 10’ by 12’ and is attached to the east side of the curling rink. Infrastructure director Ben Berlinguette said it is a high estimate to cover the worst case scenario such as requiring materials like asbestos being found and removed.

While all councillors agreed with the roof repair project, no decision was made regarding the curling rink building. It is believed to be 45 to 50 years old and has not been used for curling for about 15 years.

“It’s still a functional building even if we just use it for storage,” said Coun. Joyce Pierce. She suggested looking into green energy and co-generation of power to run the building (the curling rink is attached to the Thorhild Community Hall).

“There’s lots of grant funding available right now,” Pierce said. “I think it’s worth looking at.” She added that the return on investment for co-gen projects is 12 to 18 months.

CAO Wayne Franklin said options and costs for returning the building to a functioning curling arena could be done when it appears there is a desire to use it for curling again. That way the latest technology could be looked at. Grumetza said the ice plant was in good working order when it was shut down. The condition of the pipes under the concrete is not known, so the system has to be pressure tested. He said there are options such as surface cooling lines if the below-surface pipes are no longer usable but pointed out they impact building use during the off season.

April Atoma In-Store Super Specials

- **Epsom Salts**
  - Regular $11.99
  - Sale $5.99

- **Zinc Ointment**
  - Regular $5.99
  - Sale $2.99

- **Anti-Nauseant**
  - Regular $6.99
  - Sale $2.99

- **Baby Wipes**
  - Regular $9.49
  - Sale $6.99

- **Eye Care Formula**
  - Regular $13.99
  - Sale $6.99

- **Cotton Swabs**
  - Regular $4.49
  - Sale $2.49

- **Diarrhea Relief**
  - Regular $18.99
  - Sale $6.99

- **Asa 81 Mg**
  - Regular $15.99
  - Sale $7.99

- **Acetaminophen Arthritis**
  - Regular $9.49
  - Sale $4.99

**Seniors Discount**
10% off every day

**10% Tuesday, First Tuesday of Every Month for All Customers**
Sturgeon County has an estimated $2.2 million surplus from 2018’s operations. Administration advises this is an estimated value with accounts still being reconciled and prepared for audit. The audit is expected to be presented to council later this month.

According to the report to council the surplus is the result of: an additional $495,000 in additional revenue from supplementary taxes; the Designated Industrial Property Hybrid Contract attributing $296,000 in additional revenue; investment income attributing $653,000 in additional revenue; and $259,785 from the sale of road right-of-way to industry in the Alberta’s Industrial Heartland. Besides the increased revenue, expenditures were also below budget substantially in two areas: County salaries and benefits were approximately $1.5 million less than budgeted resulting from staff vacancies in several roles; and the 2018 gravel and dust abatement was $300,000 below budget.

The combined additional revenue and savings on expenditures was offset to a degree by Construction Services coming in over budget for the asphaltic road repair program by $365,000. Grants to organizations are over budget by about $800,000 due to a contribution to Morinville for a Joint Servicing Agreement related to utilities. The joint servicing project for the land now containing the Morinville rec centre was originally contained in the capital fund, however, for accounting purposes was changed to a grant.

The remaining variations involve a combination of factors where categories were marginally over or under budget. The overall surplus from combined operations and capital is expected to be $2.1 million.

However the bottom line in the audited version will show less cash sitting in the surplus as council approved funds going into a variety of reserves on March 26. Administration recommended that council approve four transfers to allocate the projected surplus, including: $259,785 to the Heartland Mitigation Strategy Reserve; $318,000 to the Severe Weather Reserve; $525,000 to the Extraordinary Fire/Disaster Recovery Reserve; and any remaining surplus (approx. $1.1 million) to the General Operating Reserve upon approval of the 2018 Audited Financial Statements.

Metrix Group, Chartered Professional Accountants, is expected to be present the 2018 Audited Financial Statements to council on April 23.
**County Centre Office:**
Ph: 780-939-6321
Fax: 780-939-2076
Toll Free: 1-866-939-9303

**Emergency after hours:**
780-939-4321

**Transportation/Roads:**
780-939-6252

**Dog Licence:**
780-939-4321

**Current Planning & Development:**
780-939-6275

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**FYI Sturgeon County**

9613 100 Street
Morinville, AB T8R 1L9

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**Weekly FYI is digital at sturgeoncounty.ca**
Check out your Weekly FYI online every Tuesday at sturgeoncounty.ca
Starting this year, the “printed edition” will only be available **bi-weekly** in the Morinville Free Press and Redwater Review.
Next print edition: **April 16, 2019**

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**Preparing for the Spring Melt**
Sturgeon County Transportation Services takes a pro-active approach to drainage. Crews start to clear problem areas early in the year before spring thaw arrives.
To reduce the chance of any potential drainage issues on your property, here are some tips:
- Check your culverts and clear snow to help open up any blockages
- Keep stormwater drains clear of debris and ice
- Clear debris out of eavestroughs and direct downspouts away from your home
- Make sure your sump pump and weeping tile is working properly
If you have concerns, please contact Transportation Services at 780-939-6252 or online through Report a Road Concern at sturgeoncounty.ca

**Fluctuating Temperatures Create Thin Ice**
With last week’s warm temperatures, ice is thinning out and is not safe to walk on.
Sturgeon County DOES NOT permit or regulate recreational use of storm ponds. Please practice safety and stay off frozen bodies of water as they can be unpredictable.

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**Spring Offerings from Agriculture Services**

**Sturgeon County Tree Program**
Order by April 12
Residents have an opportunity to purchase tree and shrub seedlings at a reduced rate through the Sturgeon County Tree Program.
There are a variety of native and ornamental species of coniferous and deciduous trees to choose from, as well as shrubs like the Silver BuffaloBerry, High Bush Cranberry and the Northline Saskatoon.

**Rain Barrels and Composters Available**
Order by April 19
Do you want to conserve water and reduce waste?
An easy way to do that is by saving rain water and composting. Order your rain barrels and composters from Agriculture Services by April 19 and pick up in May.
- Rain Barrels $55
- Composters $45 (white supplies last)
- Wingdiggers $15 (white supplies last)

Information on either of these programs is available online at sturgeoncounty.ca or call 780-939-6325.
Don’t hide clubroot infestation, get help managing it

To keep up with the latest research and recommended clubroot management practices, Smoky Lake County revised its policy on how local producers who have fields confirmed to contain clubroot spores should manage them.

“We should talk about this,” said Agricultural Fieldman Tori Cherniawsky. “It’s not something to hide.”

During the county’s March 28 clubroot information session Cherniawsky said the amended policy is based on the newest research. The former policy had been based on the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan, which was done in 2014. “We are no longer to stop you from farming,” Cherniawsky said. “The whole point is to manage clubroot, to work with someone to help you manage it. You will treat a largely infested field differently than other ones.”

She reported that clubroot has been found across the county, so producers should scout and monitor fields for visible signs of clubroot. “If you find something odd, bring it into us,” said Cherniawsky.

Beginning this year, producers who have Clubroot confirmed on their property will continue to be notified as normal, but will now be required to enter into a Clubroot Management Agreement for the infected field. The agreement contains strategies for reducing spore levels and keeping them low.

Cherniawsky said the seven step management plan details a protocol. The minimum three year rotation is replaced with a longer rotation encouraged on fields with high disease severity. If clubroot is found on those fields, clubroot resistant varieties must be planted.

Weed management includes control of cruciferous weeds during all crop rotations and managing small patches of clubroot through fall plowing infected plants or limiting the soil to increase pH to 7.3.

Reduction of soil movement from infested fields can be done in many ways, including minimum tillage, using grass at entrances and removing large clumps of soil from equipment.

Finally, producers are to advise people accessing infested fields of the presence of clubroot and the requirement for biosecurity measures. Cherniawsky said that is just the “right thing to do.”

About 50 people attended the information session. In response to questions from the floor, Cherniawsky said testing for clubroot is done randomly across the county, mostly at approaches. Landowners are not advised of the test before it's done.

Cherniawsky was asked if she sees a time coming when the county gets more stern with producers who do not follow a three or four year rotation with canola, and what penalties or enforcement can be applied in those situations. She replied the county management can be applied in those situations. She replied the county

International pollinator project ongoing at Thorhild farm

This summer Kenleigh Pasay will wrap up an Operation Pollinator project on Brentgrieve Farm in Thorhild County just north of Redwater. He will then decide whether to continue keeping those two acres in pollinator attracting plants or seed something else there.

The three year pollinator project was designed to enhance the number of pollinating insects on farms and other areas. It focused on creating natural habitats for bees and other pollinating insects, providing farmers with a practical and meaningful way to increase and improve biodiversity on their farms.

“It was pretty successful,” Pasay said. While he could not measure the number of pollinators present compared to before the project plant stand was grown, he noted how well the flowers and grasses in the pollinator seed mix became established.

It was planted in 2017 on a triangle of soil using a little broadcast seeder towed behind a side-by-side. Once established, the plants were left to bloom undisturbed with neither grazing nor mowing applied to them. “It hadn’t done anything with it in 20 years,” Pasay said of the corner of land. It fit into the project’s request for unused or underused land or land that was of a poor quality for what it was being used for.

Several years Pasay may keep pollinator plant species on those two acres, or he may work on getting more organic matter built up in the sandy soil and use it for a niche crop such as garlic.

Pasay directs markets grass fed and grass finished beef and lamb. His operation is part of a family business that includes eggs and cow-calf production.

Pasay is on the Gateway Research Organization (GRO) board of directors. Through GRO and the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) he joined Syngenta’s Operation Pollinator. Seed for the project was supplied by Syngenta through its biodiversity program.

Operation Pollinator sites provide critical habitat to pollinators, improving biodiversity and soil health. The seed mix aims to provide a succession of flowering plants that provide a continuous source of pollen and nectar for pollinators.

Operation Pollinator focused on research and partnerships to promote the health and well-being of bees and other pollinators given their essential role in agriculture and nature. The program’s mandate is to support activities that enhance biodiversity, habitat and other practical initiatives that contribute to healthy pollinator populations.

This program originated in the United Kingdom and has since been expanded to more than 13 countries around the world. The Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC) partnered with Syngenta Canada Inc. to deliver Operation Pollinator to farms in Prairie Canada through provincial organizations such as ARECA.

Don’t buy pet bunny for Easter, says writer

Letter to the editor;

The (March 19) article about keeping farm animals reminds me that rabbits aren’t a good pet for children. Like cows and sheep, rabbits are prey animals. And like the article said about cattle, rabbits live in the moment and are spooked by things we don’t notice. They can notice something odd, bring it to us, said Cherniawsky. With them.

Cherniawsky said the perceived danger was frightening to them, the danger was frighteningly often thumped to warn me of something but I couldn’t understand what was the matter.

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UTILITIES MANAGER

Permanently Full Time

The Utilities Manager position oversees the natural gas utility, water/wastewater and sewer systems. The suitable individual will carry out the following duties under the direction and supervision of the Director of Infrastructure Services:

- Plans, directs and coordinates the day-to-day work schedules and designate tasks for water, wastewater, sewer and natural gas systems.
- Design and prepare all estimate documentation, invoice documentation for custom work and new natural gas initiatives.
- Complete all gas and water loss calculations for regulating station/customer meter reader.
- Administer all aspects of the Health and Safety program to all Utilities department personnel.
- Deal with customer service requests on a day-to-day basis.
- Perform inspections of the distribution systems and facilities at regular intervals according to operations and maintenance procedures and health and safety requirements.
- Inspect and test all fire hydrants, compliance with codes of all regulating bodies, Alberta Environment, Rural Utilities and Energy Utility Board in regard to the necessary reporting requirements for all aspects of the department.

Qualifications required:

- Gas Class A Journeyman required.
- Water/Wastewater Level 1 Certificate, preferred or equivalent experience.
- Must respond to calls-outs within one (1) hour.
- Confined Space Level 2.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office is essential. Knowledge of Worktech/Pearl asset management program would be beneficial.
- Possess a valid Class 5 driver’s license.
- Successful candidate will be required to provide a Criminal Records Check and Driver’s Abstract.
- Successful candidate must participate in the Fitness-to-Work Assessment.
- Provide leadership, strategic management, performance coaching, supervisory and people skills necessary to positively communicate with the general public, staff, and elected officials.
- Basic knowledge of Human Resource Policies.

The County offers a comprehensive benefit program. Salary to be determined based on applicant’s level of education and experience. Current employees of Thorhild County fulfilling the requirements necessary to be considered for this position.

Thorhild County is requesting interested applicants to submit their resume. The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is hired.

Please forward resumes to: Laurie Andrukhychyn Payroll & Personnel Manager Thorhild County Box 10 Thorhild, Alberta T0A 3J0

We thank all applicants, however, only those individuals selected for interviews will be contacted.
Pierce to include zero cost attendance on work sheet to allow workload review

Thorhild County councillor Joyce Pierce said her full-time job as Town of Bon Accord CAO does not prevent her from attending Thorhild County functions, even though until now she has not listed them on a public platform.

Because Pierce lives in the hamlet of Thorhild she does not claim mileage for attending meetings and events, so her expense claim forms were, more often than not, blank while other councillors listed distances, travel to attend and how much they were paid for those kilometers.

In response to a question on whether her position as the full time CAO of Bon Accord makes it difficult for her to attend county meetings, Pierce said it does not.

“I use vacation days from my full time position to attend meetings and events for Thorhild County,” Pierce explained. “The only time I have had to miss a mandatory meeting was when I went on vacation, so it had nothing to do with working full-time.”

She said that in the future she would list on her expense claim forms the events and meetings she attended and mark the form with zero mileage claimed. That way interested people will know what county activities she participated in.

Pierce said she regularly attends council meetings, Municipal Planning Commission meetings and Thorhild Senior’s Foundation meetings. As well, she attended the adhoc Long Lake Water meetings, Alberta Federation of Gas Co-operatives meetings and the fall and spring Municipal Rural Municipalities Association (MRMA) conventions.

In addition, she often went to the MRMA Zone meetings, attended the Christmas party and summer barbecue for the Neethrold Seniors Foundation and participate in local summer parades as well as neighboring municipalities’ parades.

“I volunteer regularly for the Thorhild Rodeo and other nonprofit organizations when asked,” added Pierce. “I recently attended the Thorhild Central School grade six class to discuss what it is like being a councillor and why I chose to run in the election.”

Councillors are asked to list on councilor expense claim forms and council meeting minutes for 2019 follow.

Last month reeve Kevin Grumetza attended a four-day ASB conference, two council meetings, a seminar, two council meetings and also went to the administration office to sign cheques.

Deputy reeve Cheryl Pasay attended the ASB conference, three committee meetings, a seminar, a provincial consultation meeting, two council meetings and signed cheques for Neethrold Seniors Housing Foundation.

Coun. Richard Filipchuk attended the ASB conference, two committee meetings, seminar, provincial consultation meeting and two council meetings.

Coun. Joyce Pierce attended one council meeting.

Coun. Wayne Crosswell attended a committee meeting and two council meetings.

Playing, Learning & Growing … Together!

Early Learning at H.A. Kostash School

Join us for our Great Beginnings/Kindergarten Information & Registration Night for the 2019-20 school year!

Thursday, April 11th
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
H.A. Kostash School

We would love to meet you and answer your questions!

• Program Information
• Registration
• Dates & Times of Classes

Great Beginnings is an early learning opportunity for children 3-5 years old through a play-based environment. Scheduling options will be based on enrolment.

Kindergarten is for children age 5 as of Dec. 31 of the school year, and is funded by Alberta Education.

For more information, call us at 780-656-3820, or visit hak.aspieword.org

The Village of Waskatenau
2018 Audited Financial Statements are available for pick up at the Village Office during Regular Business Hours.
The lists of candidates in local ridings continued to change as parties prepare for the April 16 provincial election. In the Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock riding, Buster Malcolm, who was previously listed as an independent candidate, is now an Alberta Independence Party (AIP) candidate. The AIP received official party status from Elections Alberta on March 20.

Another change to the Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock riding is the addition of Brad Giroux as an independent candidate. The Elections Alberta website lists the remaining candidates in this riding as Alberta Party Wayne Rulfang, Alberta New Democratic Party (NDP) Theresa Taschuk and United Conservative Party (UCP) Glenn Van Dijken.

After March 20, the Morinville-St. Albert riding, which includes Redwater and area, also saw a previously independent candidate, Mike van Velzen, become listed as an AIP candidate. Elections Alberta now has the candidates listed Alberta Advantage Party Tamara Kry-wick, NDP Natalie Bimie, Alberta Party Neil Komatsa, UCP Dale Nally, Green Party Cass Romyn and Alberta Independence Party Mike van Velzen. March 29 was the last day candidates could register. The Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock constituency covers a huge area from west of Swan Hills to just west of St. Paul and from the south boundaries of Smoky Lake, Thorhild and Westlock counties to the north boundary of Athabasca County. The Morinville-St. Albert riding covers the east half of Sturgeon County and a portion of St. Albert, with its greatest number of voters residing in St. Albert.
Smoky Lake County had a very strong financial position, says auditor

There were no surprises, and the county passed," said Barb McCarthy with JMD Group LLP when she presented the consolidated financial statement to county council March 28.

The accumulated surplus for 2018 was $741,500. It consisted of a net $143,000 in unrestricted surplus, $73,600 in restricted surplus and $524,900 of equity in tangible capital assets.

The county gas utility also did well in 2018.

"All in all, the gas utility had a very good year," said McCarthy. The gas system finished 2018 with net financial assets of $1.8 million, up from $1.5 million in 2017. It had a surplus of $109,000 for the year.

McCarthy noted that the county had increased penalties and costs of taxes which increased from $111,400 in 2017 to $146,800 in 2018. The increased penalties are the result of increased unpaid taxes of about $1 million. This is in a large part due to a few large gas tax accounts belonging to oil and gas companies.

"It’s good news," said coun. Lorne Halisky.

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County needs to spend over a million dollars per year on bridge work or close some

Thorhild County will create a strategic plan for bridges to determine which, if any, can be closed or restricted and how much the budget annually for bridge repairs during the next few years. This process is intended to help council-los decide whether or not to create a bridge project manager position within the county. Planning will be done during a future special council meeting.

During the March 26 meeting CAO Wayne Franklin said many of the county’s crossroad timber bridges need to be repaired or replaced. “If you do not spend more than $1 million per year in the next 10 to 12 years, you’re going to end up with closed bridges,” he said.

Reeve Kevin Gramatetz opposed closing any county bridges and the roads they are on. He suggested an alternative would be to designate some bridges for heavier traffic and restrict the weights crossing other bridges.

“The province says rural Alberta matters,” said Gramatetz. “They need to step up and help all municipalities with their bridges. It’s up to us to make a strong enough argument to get that funding.” One way or another he believes council, now or in the near future, will have to come up with a funding strategy to bridge a gap program — if a grant is received for the bridge work.

Coun. Joyce Pierce objected to having an on-staff project manager because if a consultant is hired for bridge projects, 80 percent of that cost would be covered by a bridge program grant — if a grant is received for the bridge work. She said an on-staff project manager would be the best idea of having a project manager but was not prepared to make that decision without first having a bridge replacement strategy.

Coun. Wayne Crosswell said he cannot see the county spending $4 million per year on bridge programs could be undertaken without increasing taxes. He said, “They need Crosswell up and help them with the issue.” He had not previously heard of spending $8,000 per year on bridge inspections. (He has been on council 12 years.)

Franklin said bridge inspections are part of the annual budget. The county contracts inspections which are done on a rotating schedule based on bridge ratings. An on-staff bridge project manager would do those inspections.

Council considered administration’s request for the new project manager position during its March 12 meeting. No decision was made at that time, as council requested more information on bridges and their condition.

During the March 26 meeting administration provided a list of the county’s 85 bridges, their estimated maintenance costs and when they are scheduled for replacement. Estimated costs are $70 million over the next 53 years. Over the next 10 years about $44 million will be required for bridge work. That averages $4.4 million per year, including about $440,000 per year in engineering, which Franklin said a project manager could do. An additional $38,000 is required for annual bridge inspections.

Franklin said that even if the county closes bridges and does only $1 million per year in bridge work, having a project manager makes sense. If the county is going to replace a bridge in 2020, work on that project needs to begin this summer.

“A hired consultant gets 80 percent grant funding from the province,” said Pierce. “I don’t agree with this at all.” She also pointed out that hired consultants are chosen for specific skills. An on-staff project manager may not have all the specialties the municipality needs.

Franklin said he believes the county has enough bridge projects to keep a staff bridge project manager busy for 10 to 15 years. He pointed out that the bridge grant funding the county received this year is the first it got in seven or eight years and felt it is wishful thinking to expect regular grant funding.

This year the county is spending $5.4 million to replace four bridges that were closed after last spring’s flooding. It received a total of nearly $3 million in funding from the Local Road Bridge Component of the provincial Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) for three of the bridges and not for the fourth. This grant is cost shared with the province paying 75 percent and the county 25 percent with the final amount based on the actual eligible costs.

Crosswell asked if there are bridges serving a few people who could take other routes. Franklin said the vast majority of county bridges serve under 100 vehicles per day and most have fewer than 50 per day. He felt the county could not ask farmers to go around eight to 10 miles to get to fields.

“Some Kind of Wonderful” - Received a gold medal for their performance. The performance team from Love Your Dance studio in Radway took to the stage March 21-24 at the More Vibe Dance Festival hosted at the Arden Theatre in St. Albert. The performance team took 15 routines to be adjudicated for both their overall presentation and technical abilities. The team was awarded: 13 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals, 3 Outstanding routines, 3 Choreography awards, 1 Adjudicator’s Choice award, 1 Most promising routine, and 4 On-Stage Scholarships.

STURGEON

Sturgeon County residents Jessica Steele and Moose were spotted walking along 50 Avenue in Redwater March 27. Moose is usually an indoor kind of animal who spends a good deal of time in front of the television, “My kids sit on it like a chair,” said Steele.

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**REDWATER RECOLLECTION** -- The original Pioneer Club in Redwater was a former Imperial Oil bunkhouse donated to the club by the town of Redwater in the 1960's and located just down the sidestreet from the Legion Hall. The building later burned and sod was turned on the current Pioneer Club building in 1996 with the construction complete in January 1997.

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Anthony "Tony" CHIZEN

It is with heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Tony Chizen on March 24, 2019, at the age of 86 years.

Tony is lovingly remembered by numerous family members and friends.

He is predeceased by his wife; Vi, wife; Pat, parents Marie and Daniel, sister; Stephanie, brothers; Nick, Mike and Joe.

Funeral Service was held on Monday April 1, 2019.

Donations in his honor may be forwarded to the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation/Amputee Support, 10230-111 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0B7

Photos, memories and condolences may be shared with Tony's family at www.serenity.ca

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SCREENING ASSESSMENTS BEGIN IN MARCH FOR THE 2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR.

Do you believe your child may benefit from attending an Enrichment or Headstart program? If so, call our office to book a screening assessment.

**Enrichment**—for children who are 3 years, 8 months as of September 1, and are assessed as being cognitively advanced.

**Headstart**—for children between the ages of 3 years, 8 months and 5 years as of September 1, who have an identified mild to moderate delay in one or more of the following areas: speech—language, fine motor or social skills. Children 2 years, 8 months as of September 1, will be considered if the delays are severe.

**CALL STURGEON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT 780.939.4341 ext 1257 TO BOOK A SCREENING ASSESSMENT**

Children must be screened and qualify for this program under Alberta Education guidelines.

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Olivia Berry - Received the Most Promising Novice Modern/Contemporary Solo 11-15yrs and a gold medal. Olivia was also awarded an on-stage scholarship for her jazz performance. The performance team from Love Your Dance studio in Radway took to the stage March 21st-24th at the More Vibe Dance Festival hosted at the Arden Theatre in St. Albert. The performance team took 15 routines to be adjudicated for both their overall presentation and technical abilities. The team was awarded: 13 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals, 3 Outstanding routines, 3 Choreography awards, 1 Adjudicator’s Choice award, 1 Most promising routine, and 4 On-Stage Scholarships.

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The REVIEW, Redwater, Alberta, 780-942-2023, email: redwater@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Tuesday, April 2, 2019, Page A11
from clubroot in this region

Clubroot research results from 2018 are in, and while Canola Council of Canada agronomist Dan Orchard described the number of new strains as "surprisingly bad news," he also shared double-digit management strategies for producers.

Clubroot is in the soil, and everyone wanting to get a harvest off their canola fields has to learn to manage it. And managing clubroot involves more than planting resistant varieties of canola.

"Nobody's really safe, except in the areas where they don't get rain," Orchard said during the Smoky Lake County information session March 28. "Learn to grow canola with clubroot. The lower the spore load in the soil, the easier it is to manage.

Last year a number of new strains were found in Alberta. Of the 29 strains reported in Alberta, Orchard said that 23 are resistant varieties of canola.

Orchard said spread of spores and numbers of spores in infected soils can be managed in a number of ways. It has been spreading in Alberta by about 30 kilometers per year.

Although some clubroot is spread by wind erosion, producers can control most of the ways spores get carried between fields. Orchard said taking 20-30 minutes to knock most of the dirt off equipment will remove 90-95 percent of the spores.

"A half hour for a rough cleaning is reasonable," he said. "It's okay if you can't do everything: it's not okay if you do nothing." A pressurized water wash increases the numbers to 95-99 percent spore removal. Adding disinfectant spray increases that to 99.9 percent spore removal.

While that will reduce spore transport, it doesn't impact existing spores in infected fields. A two year break from growing canola can reduce spore counts from 100,000 to 1,000 spores per gram of soil. During the two years when crops other than canola are grown, cruciferous weeds such as Shepherd's Purse and Wildkweed need to be controlled.

Orchard said it takes about five years for producers accustomed to a wheat-canola rotation to adopt a three year rotation in all their fields. In areas around Edmonton, including Sturgeon County, the spore levels are so high a two year break is not long enough to have an impact on them.

"Almost all spores die within two years," Orchard said. "The ones that live, live 15 to 20 years. You won't get rid of it. You can control it.

Using clubroot resistant varieties of canola is not the whole answer, but they are part of the management strategy. In some fields the spore counts are now so high that even resistant canola can not be grown.

When spore levels reach 100,000 per gram of soil, above ground symptoms of clubroot become visible.

"It's phenomenal how bad it can get below ground before you see it above ground," said Orchard. "Check any patch that looks suspicious.

If a producer does not have much time for scouting fields, he recommended checking field entrances and along water courses. When a small patch of infected plants is found, a good way to control it is to pull up the plants and burn the roots.

Another control is to seed grass at entrances and along water courses. The grass roots stimulate clubroot spores to grow, and they do not multiply because grass is not a host plant. In eight weeks the spore count can dramatically decrease. As well, the grass will prevent movement of soil and prevent spores from being spread.

Lasing fields to raise the soil pH to 7.3 looks promising as a long term control of clubroot. However, because pH can vary widely within a field, soil testing and variable rate application is needed.
Change thinking to transition into regeneration agriculture

A change in thinking can make sense of regenerative agriculture and create profits while building up soils and livestock health.

“We can do it; we just have to change our minds about how we do things,” said doctor of veterinary medicine Matt Van Steelandt during the Gateway Research Organization (GRO) Feb. 22 update. “Regenerative agriculture is a brain transformation, usually spurred by something. For me it was overland flooding and wetlands.”

He has about 500 cattle on Triple V Ranch in the southwest corner of Manitoba. It is a land of native grass, sandhills and wetlands that gets flooded on a regular basis.

Perhaps we might be part of the cause,” said Van Steelandt. “Perhaps we might be part of the solution; we can be the villains; we can be the heroes of the environment.”

To lessen or reverse those changes, Van Steelandt said a paradigm shift needs to take place to put the land first. He recommended five actions that protect and build soil.

Maintain soil armour – keep soil covered with residue and living plants to reduce erosion, cool the land, suppress weeds and create habitat for critters. Minimize disturbance caused by grazing, fertilizers and chemicals. Van Steelandt said some of these can be done some of the time, but it’s best to not do all of them all the time.

Create plant diversity on the land because the native potential polyculture is very different from the annual monoculture found in our traditional agriculture. For example, his silage consists of peas, oats and radish which gives his polyculture a legume, warm and cool grasses and warm and cool broadleaf plants.

“Not just a nice story,” he said. “It’s science that plant diversity increases plants’ and soil health.” A mixture of varieties of plants supplies better nutrition to the soil biology and allows plants to exchange nutrients with each other.

Having live plants roots in the ground as long as possible. Plants feed soil microbes, use the sun’s energy and protect the soil. Cover crops can be grown in the same field, before, during and after annual grain crops. He said fields under regenerative agriculture have shown a 29 percent lower crop yield while making 78 percent more profit than traditionally farmed fields.

Van Steelandt’s fifth recommendation is to integrate livestock into soil management plans. Animals co-evolved with soil ecosystems and are an important part of soil management. Plant variety is important here, too. If a cow will eat something, it’s not a weed; it’s forage.

That doesn’t mean grain farmers have to diversify their operations to include animal husbandry. To maintain soil health Ward and Joanne Midleton, who have an organic grain farm north of Morinville, partnered with an area livestock producer to manage their fields on part of the year. That helped address their concerns about organic export from their land for part of the year. That helped address their concerns about organic export from their land while making 78 percent more profit than traditionally farmed fields.

Regarding animal care, Van Steelandt advocated management that supports animal health. “I think we’re over-using pharmaceuticals,” he said. “We’re creating a system that gets animals sick. Wouldn’t it make sense to have a system to keep them healthy?” He proposed replacing pharmacology with farmeducation.

That transition begins with getting livestock out on the land and keeping them there: from calving to grazing to extensive winter grazing. The soil in fields where cattle were bale grazed retains more water and grows more grass.

Rene Victoor of Sturgeon County asked how Van Steelandt spreads the residue that gets left where cattle bale graze. “I don’t,” Van Steelandt replied. “If the residue is really thick, he puts a lot of yearlings on the field to tramp it in. Otherwise, he just leaves it. Van Steelandt urged producers to be adaptive. Get educated on a biological approach to soil fertility: measure things like living microbial biomass and bacterial to fungal ratios. Test for organic acids as well as inorganic nutrients.

Finally, he addressed carbon tax and the perception that livestock farming is a large contributor to the creation of greenhouse gases. “Agriculture can sequester carbon,” he pointed out. “We know how to build soil. We don’t need to be the villains; we can be the heroes of the environment.”

Thorsted Ukrainian Dance Club Instructors Odessa Bahri and Jessie Balan stand with their Group 3 class at the Westlock Rodyna Ukrainian Dance Festival held on March 16th. This group did very well at the competition earning 2 gold metals, 1 silver metal and Most promising Award for their performance.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Permanent - Full-Time Position

The Town of Redwater is situated just 35 minutes north east of Edmonton and borders the Alberta industrial heartland; this community is poised for significant growth. Redwater offers great recreation, culture, education and health care to the area residents. Visit our website to learn more about our great community: www.redwater.ca

If you enjoy working in a positive environment and are looking for a career opportunity that encourages growth and educational opportunities, this position will interest you. Our team is seeking a Bylaw Enforcement Officer who is highly motivated and enthusiastic who will fill the role of a Bylaw Enforcement Officer.

Reporting to the Town Manager, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer is primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with municipal bylaws. Responsibilities include:

- Conducting routine patrols
- Responding to and investigating bylaw related complaints
- Issuing notices, tickets and tags
- Working collaboratively with various enforcement agencies (RCMP, Alberta Fish & Wildlife, SPCA, Human Society)
- Developing ongoing information in relation to bylaw compliance in the community

Applicants must be available to work various shifts that include a rotation of days, some evenings and weekends.

The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Comprehensive understanding of bylaw enforcement functions and protocols
- Post secondary education in law enforcement is an asset
- Knowledge of applicable provisions of the Municipal Government Act
- Competent with Microsoft Office programs
- Class 5 Alberta driver’s license

A detailed position description is available on our website: www.redwater.ca

The Town of Redwater provides a competitive salary and benefits package. Please forward your resume and three work related references to:

Deb, Human Resource Manager
Town of Redwater, Box 397, Redwater, AB, T0A 2W0
Email: deb@redwater.ca
Fax: (780) 942-4211 ph: (780) 942-3529

Deadline for submissions is April 23, 2019.

The Town of Redwater thanks all applicants for their interest, however only those who have been selected for an interview will be contacted.

Find us online:

www.cowleynewspapers.com  Tuesday, April 2, 2019 1 & 2 year olds, full

CAREERS


FABRICATION FACILITY - Battleford, SK. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction. May 1 in Edmonton. 2490 +/- sq ft home. 2.6 +/- million tonnes proven gravel reserves. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokerage: Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate

PROVEN GRAVEL RESERVES - Sundre, AB. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, May 1 in Edmonton. 3500 +/- sq ft home. 2.6 +/- million tonnes proven gravel reserves. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokerage: Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate


1 & 2 year olds, full

FABRICATION FACILITY - Battleford, SK. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, May 1 in Edmonton. 2490 +/- sq ft home. 2.6 +/- million tonnes proven gravel reserves. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokerage: Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate

IMPROVEMENTS - Sylvan Lake, AB. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, May 1 in Edmonton. 3.56 +/- title acres. 300 +/- million tonnes proven gravel reserves. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokerage: Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate


BULL SALE

SIMMENTAL BULLS

UNRESERVED ANTIQUE COLLECTOR AUCTION. Saturday, April 13, 9AM - 4PM. Edmonton - Western Exp. Centre. 780-437-349-2222. www.wildroseantiquecollectors.ca

Antique & Sale. Sellers from across Canada. Special auctions by accredited appraisers. Minimum 3 forms per Saturday, April 13, 9AM - 5PM, Sunday, April 14, 10AM - 4PM. Edmonton Expo Centre 780-437-9722. www.wildroseantiquecollectors.ca

TROUBLE WALKING? Hip or knee replacement, or conditions causing restrictions in daily activities? $2,500 tax credit. Disability Tax Credit. 1-844-422-7372.

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BRIDGE 2

COMING EVENTS

EASTER HAM BINGO & Bake sale: Sat Apr 13, 9AM at Waugh Recreational Society Hall. 4:30-7:30PM. Bake sale 7:00pm bingo, doors open at 6PM, 20 ham bingos, 2 cash bingos, concession, door prizes & more. Everyone welcome. For info call 780-348-5308 or 780-348-5372.

Antique & Sale. Sellers from across Canada. Special auctions by accredited appraisers. Minimum 3 forms per Saturday, April 13, 9AM - 5PM, Sunday, April 14, 10AM - 4PM. Edmonton Expo Centre 780-437- 9722. www.wildroseantiquecollectors.ca

BULL SALE

SIMMENTAL BULLS 1 & 2 year olds, full blood, full registered, polled & horned, streamlined for easy calving, muscled, quiet, all bloodlines. www.smiereranch.ca. 780-9722. www.wildroseantiquecollectors.ca
Prices effective Thursday, April 4th - Wednesday, April 10th.

Sale starts this Thursday!

**FAST FEAST - TURKEY MEAL KIT**
A feast that will feed six to eight guests!

Turkey Meal Kit includes:
- Pre-cooked Fresh Turkey
- Red Skin Mashed Potatoes (skin on)
- CO-OP® Chicken Gravy
- Sweet & Zesty Carrots
- CO-OP® Gold Cranberry Sauce
- 2 boxes Brownberry Stuffing Mix

Enter our EASTER DRAW for a FREE KIT*

Turkey Meal Kit
94.99

Kraft Dinners 156 g – 225 g
10 for 10.00

Campbell Soups 284 ml
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Value Pack, Cut by your local butcher. Aged 14 days
2 lbs for 10.00

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Baby Potatoes 680 g
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