Japanese exchange student is happy to be on Thorhild farm during pandemic rather than being stuck in city apartment

A Thorhild County farm is the year-long home for Japanese exchange student Nana Tomlyama. Megan Hay, her fiancé Ian Alexander and their daughters Paley and Skye Hay are Nana’s Canadian host family.

Nana began attending Thorhild Central School in February, just over a month before all Alberta schools were closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She remains in contact with her family in rural Japan and is pleased her family and her schoolmates in Japan are well and safe.

So far, Nana’s favorite thing about Canada is winter activities. Her Alberta family took her skiing on the farm. The girls have fun together, spending a lot of family time together. Instead, like so many others, they are missing out on other planned social and travel experiences. Nana is given English-Japanese dictionary and is learning the English language-Japanese dictionary in the house. She looks up many of the words in her English-Japanese dictionary and in the-english-Japanese dictionary.

Although Nana misses the social interactions with other students at school and worries her English language skills may not develop as she planned, she is happy to be in a rural area where she can go outside to a yard with horses and snowmobiles. This is particularly so because she has some classmates on exchanges to host families in Alberta. They have no host siblings and are confined to apartments or small yards in the city.

“Nana gets up early to exercise and reads a chapter a day. It takes her a long time because she has to stop and look up many of the words in her English-Japanese dictionary and in the-english-Japanese dictionary. She’s in really good spirits, though sometimes difficult.” said Megan.

“Living with a couple of younger host sisters helps Nana with language skills. “To spend time with them is so good for practising speaking English because if I don’t know words they explain it for me,” said Nana. “But when we play with their friends, to understand is sometimes difficult.”

The bus ride to Thorhild was shorter than her trip to school in Japan, and now that she stays home, Nana has more time for sleep, study and activities. In Japan her trip to school was a five minute car ride to the train station, then a 30 minute train ride followed by 40 minutes on a school bus.

“We’re making sure to talk a lot and do their best to help Nana practise her spoken English and absorb Alberta culture.”

Megan says that Nana’s favorite thing about Canada is winter activities. “We’re doing okay,” said Megan. “She’s very determined to get a better understanding of the language. Nana is giving her piano lessons and do their best to help Nana.”

Nana practises her spoken English, and do their best to help Nana. “She’s very determined to get a better understanding of the language. “We’re doing okay,” said Megan. “She’s very determined to get a better understanding of the language.”

“We’re making sure to talk a lot and do their best to help Nana.”

Nana says she’s in really good spirits, though sometimes difficult. “We’re making sure to talk a lot and do their best to help Nana. “She’s very determined to get a better understanding of the language.”

“We’re making sure to talk a lot and do their best to help Nana. Nana is giving her piano lessons and do their best to help Nana.”

“We’re doing okay,” said Megan. “She’s in really good spirits, though sometimes difficult.”
COVID-19 is affecting a local Lions Club. The club has not met as an organized club whose employment or livelihood has been impacted by the pandemic. The club's 70th anniversary, which was planned for the upcoming year has been curtailed. Recently the club decided to suspend their regular monthly meetings until at least the end of the year. May 2020 will mark the 100th anniversary of the local front line workers dealing with sick folks in hospitals and care homes.

Brian Barnes plays his bagpipes as part of an International Bagpipes for COVID-19 event April 2. Held at 20:00 hours Greenwich time, the time in Alberta was 1:00 p.m. when bagpipers throughout the world played Scotland The Brave as a tribute to all those working on the front lines of our community. Barnes played his tribute from the front deck of his home in Thorhild County with his wife, Carolyn, and border collie, Blackie, for an audience. “Besides Carolyn and Blackie, I do not know if anybody heard,” he said. “I played the tune twice, but my fingers started getting cold.” It was a cool 10 degrees Celsius. The sound of bagpipes carries a long way, so maybe some neighbors heard.

FOR LEASE - REDWATER ALBERTA
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Central Air Conditioning
Loading Dock with Power Ramp,
Large Lease Area, High Traffic
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EVERY WEDNESDAY - 9:00 AM
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GRACE BENDIG
BRENDA HRYCUN
780-558-2957 or 780-446-5077

4 BEDROOM CONDO WITH GARAGE
 Lovely 4 level unit 6 bdrm, 3 bath condo with attached heated garage. Features open concept main floor with beautiful floor to ceiling windows overlooking the lake, central air, furnace, HWT, shingles & Apex 16mm windows. Price is $259,000, Call Glenn to view.

45 ACRES WITH HOUSE AND SHOPS BY REDWATER
Pride of ownership bordering The Town of Redwater with city water. Formerly operated as a welding manufacturing & general contract business. The 5600 sq ft shop is the office space, warehouse, shop, power house, 14X30' office, 40X60' shop, classroom, tool storage, storage, tooling & office, wire & metal working. 6 bdrm, 2 bath home with a large crawl space area. The shop was recently zoned for an industrial use (SA-1). Call Hull to view for more information.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
In Thorhild
1024 sq ft bungalow and shop on 1/2 acre in Thorhild. Basement has been recently finished and has separate entrance and a 2 bed 1 bath suite. Call Hull to view for more information.

House and Shop in Thorhild
5 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2400 sq ft bungalow with a 50x60 shop. Main floor has 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, family room, office, laundry, 2nd kitchen, in-suite gas line, 2 sets of drmr and 24'x24' garage. Lots of storage in the 40X60 shop. Price is $335,000, Call Hull to view.

2 BEDROOM UNIT IN THORHILD
In Thorhild, this 999 sq ft unit is available for a very affordable price. This is perfect for the working couple or for the retired couple who is looking for a great location in the Hamlet of Thorhild, close to shopping, for this very affordable home. Price is $79,900. Call Hull to view.

1/2 MILE OF LAKEFRONT ON HALF MOON LAKE
A half mile of lakeshore on south side of Half Moon Lake, only a half hour north of Edmonton. Swimming, boating, fishing, etc. with a clean, safe environment. Beautiful natural scenery, lots of parking and grass. A great property with room for everything. Rent before rent for extra income. Price is $1,390,000. Call Hull to view.

1024 sq ft bungalow in Thorhild. The 1800 sq ft home is on a 30 x 100 lot. The house is 4 bdrm, 2 bath and has a 24 x 40 shop with a 14 x 20 office. The property is on a 30 x 100 lot. The home is $335,000. Call Hull to view.

REDWATER LIONS faced with cancelling planned activities

The club had also to cancel a Lion’s training seminar slated for Pembina Place on May 30th. The remainder of the club’s 15 year commitment gathering requirement and the club felt the added crowds would be irresponsible to local residents who have been living with selfish isolation, social distancing and self-quarantine measures.

Dave McRae, President

Local bagpipers join world
Together to tribute to front line workers

The club’s 70th anniversary. The club will also be communicating electronically with club members to erect a new executive and to make decisions on annual grants usually given out by the club in June.

The club will be moving forward in May to plant 100 white spruce seedlings in a nursery on the golf course. These trees were offered to the club by the clubhouse owner, generated by a generous donation from a local citizen.

A group of 20 golfers will donate $158,800 to the club to assist a golf club to plant 1000 trees in 2020 to celebrate 100 years of Lions in Canada. This project will not interfere with any of the COVID-19 guidelines and will only involve a few club members but hopefully will provide suitable trees for transplanting onto the course in the future. The club is also moving forward with plans to co-sponsor a District Convention in late October here in Redwater. It is hoped that by then there will be a relaxation of restrictions so that the anticipated 160 delegates can attend the two day event. This would certainly be an economic benefit to the area.

The Club would like to remind everyone to be safe and if there is anything that the club can help out with please send an email to McRae@shaw.ca or call 780 222 6609.
North Corridor Co-op grocery clerk Jessica Pierce serves customers wearing disposable gloves and working behind a plexiglass shield March 31. In addition to those safety measures, the store has tape on the floor to assist customers in keeping the separation mandated by Alberta Health Services to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Redwater senior assistant Post Master Karen Luger is ready to serve customers March 31. Her disposable gloves and the plastic shield at the front of the counter are measures put in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

NEWTHORAD SENIORS HOUSING FOUNDATION

On behalf of the Newthorad Seniors Foundation Board, we want to applaud everyone that makes the Newthorad community continue with as much normality as can be expected. As we listen daily to the Chief Medical Officer, the Premier and the Prime Minister, we all comprehend how serious COVID-19 is. The uncertainty of not knowing when it will cease and the fear and anxiety of what the new normal will be.

As we move forward, we see the many true heroes of the Newthorad community that work to keep it running smoothly, getting the most up to date information to the residents/their families and having a positive attitude. To the resident families that care about the residents to follow the protocol and think of creative ways to say “Hello, how are you?” The residents, themselves, who are struggling with themselves, who are struggling with the restrictions imposed but are making the best of it.

Again, the Newthorad Seniors Foundation Board, thanks you and wishes good health to all.

Cheryl Pasya, Chair
Kevin Grumetza, Board Member
Joyce Pierce, Board Member

Sturgeon County controls weeds, brush, and trees on Sturgeon County lands and road allowances. Control methods such as roadside mowing, weed trimming, hand picking, brushing, and herbicide applications are used in order to:

- Improve visibility and safety for motorists
- Reduce road maintenance costs
- Reduce fire risk and allow for proper drainage
- Prevent the spread of weed species

If you would like to request that we do not conduct herbicide applications adjacent to your property, landowners have the option to enter into a Limited Control Area Agreement with Sturgeon County.

Limited Control Area Agreements

Landowners who wish to restrict herbicide applications from occurring on municipal lands adjacent to their property can enter into a Limited Control Area Agreement with Sturgeon County. Limited Control Area Agreements are only valid for the year that they are issued and must be renewed on an annual basis.

Property owners/residents who choose to participate in this program will be responsible for all weed and grass control on municipal lands for which their Limited Control Area Agreement applies.

The deadline to complete a Limited Control Area Agreement is May 4, 2020.

For more information please contact Agriculture Services at 780-939-8349 or email agriculture.services@sturgeoncounty.ca or visit our website www.sturgeoncounty.ca/services/Agriculture-Services/Vegetation-Management.

City of Edmonton’s Mosquito Control Program

The City of Edmonton may conduct mosquito control measures within some road allowances in Sturgeon County as part of their 2020 Mosquito Control Program. Mosquito control is not applied to individual properties. Several OPT IN agreements for any neighbourhood must be received for treatment to occur instead of the mosquito control applications will only take place if a number of opt in agreements are received for any given neighbourhood.

To OPT IN for this service contact Agriculture Services at 780-939-8349 or agriculture.services@sturgeoncounty.ca.

These agreements are valid for the year they are issued and must be renewed annually. For more information on the City of Edmonton’s Mosquito Control Program please visit www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/parks/edmonton-mosquito-control-program.aspx or call 780-442-5311.

www.sturgeoncounty.ca

On Behalf of Council,

Reeve Kevin Grumetza
Div. 2 Councillor
(780) 288-5308
kevin.grumetza@thorhildcounty.com

UPDATE – APRIL 2020

The Council and I understand that this is a very stressful time for our community and for every resident. We wish to thank everyone (including first responders, caregivers and our youth) as well as the businesses of Thorhild County for their understanding and cooperation in responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic. I believe that it’s important to note that Thorhild County has been recognized for its calm, and appropriate, response to this pandemic and I am sure that we will continue to act with the best interests (and protection) of our community in mind.

The County monitors the ongoing situation through Public Health Canada and Alberta Health Services as well as regularly meeting with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency. Please visit www.thorhildcounty.ca for more information. Additionally, Alberta Health may be reached at 811 for information regarding COVID-19.

In late March the decision was made to temporarily close the County’s Administration and Public Works Buildings to the public. This is one way that we can promote social distancing and flatten the curve in the spread of this virus. Our staff remain available by phone at (780) 398-3741, by fax(780) 398-3748 or by email.

Operationally, in 2020, the spring gravelling maintenance program has just been completed. Currently, as in past years, we are now preparing for the possibility of flooding as a result of this spring’s thaw. I thank residents for their patience and remind everyone to forward all flooding concerns to the HOTLINE at 1-(825) 845-2020 in order to ensure a rapid and coordinated County response to issues. Please note that the County has delayed the commencement of most summer programming (including the opening of the Thorhild swimming pool) pending further direction from the province. We look forward to proceeding with these programs when deemed safe by our residents in order to maintain sanitary conditions.

County waste and recycle collections continue operations on the same schedule. The Thorhild and Long Lake transfer stations remain open to the public and maintaining regular hours while all “Give and Take” locations are currently closed. County staff wait on the weather to proceed with the balance of our 2020 spring & summer projects.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Municipal Enforcement Services continue to provide services through 1-(825) 845-2020

Thorhild County Family Medical Clinic remains open (by appointment) please call (780) 398-4633

Family and Community Services may be reached at (780) 398-2810 or (780) 656-6260

All other County services can still be reached by calling (780) 398-3741

I encourage us all to take this pandemic seriously and be diligent in how we interact with each other. Always practice social distancing, increase your hygiene and cleaning measures, and follow the self-isolation standards set by Alberta Health Services which can be found at www.alberta.ca/coronavirus.

I am very proud of our community and our Thorhild County staff. Council and I are confident that we will emerge as an even stronger community out of this COVID-19 pandemic.

On Behalf of Council,

Richard Filipchuk, Div. 1 Councillor (780) 656-6522 richard.filipchuk@thorhildcounty.com

Cheryl Pasay, Chair Div. 2 Councillor Joyce Pierce (780) 271-8458 cheryl.pasay@thorhildcounty.com

Kevin Grumetza, Board Member Div. 3 Councillor Wayne Crosswell (780) 977-2643 wayne.crosswell@thorhildcounty.com

Reeve Kevin Grumetza Div. 4 Deputy Reeve Cheryl Pasay (780) 717-2769 joyce.pierce@thorhildcounty.com

Joyce Pierce, Board Member Div. 5 Councillor Wayne Crosswell (780) 977-2643

Wayne Crosswell@thorhildcounty.com

Phone: 780-398-3741 www.thorhildcounty.ca 801 - 1st Street, Box 10, Thorhild AB T0A 3J0

THE REVIEW, Redwater, Alberta, 780-942-2023, email: redwater@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Wednesday, April 8, 2020, Page R3
MEDIA RELEASE: APRIL 2, 2020

With the complex concerns around COVID-19 evolving quickly in Canada and around the world, it has become clear that we must all do our part to help. We continue to navigate this challenging time and wanted to give you an update on the actions we are taking to support our ratepayers. In light of the spread of COVID-19, Smoky Lake County has reviewed all operations and implemented specific continuity plans. The County is adhering to the protocols from Alberta Health Services, and will be implementing all reasonable measures of Social Distancing in all departments.

The health and wellbeing of our workers and citizens is of the utmost importance. For the most part, most County services will continue normally, as many of our operations do not require close, social interactions.

The Smoky Lake County Main Office building and the office at the Public Works Shop will remain closed to public access until further notice. Again, all County services will continue as normal, other than direct, physical contact with County staff. Court staff will continue to provide all services through telephone, email, fax, on-line payments, regular mail, and via the drop box at the Main County Office and Public Works Shop. The County Shop will continue to receive pre-arranged arrangements.

Administration is working closely with Municipal Affairs to follow their guidelines on virtual meeting delivery to our citizens. Council is also working on establishing a meeting schedule for April. The schedule and delivery method will be posted on our website and social media once it becomes available.

We would like to remind our citizens that all Albertans have a responsibility to help prevent the spread. Take steps to protect yourself and others:

- Practice social distancing
- Practice good hygiene: wash hands often for at least 20 seconds, cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid touching your face
- Monitor for symptoms: cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat
- Isolate for 14 days upon return from travel and monitor your health
- Isolate for the legally-required 10 days if you have any symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or medical condition
- Take the COVID-19 self-assessment if you’re concerned about your health

Residents are encouraged to visit the Government of Alberta website for more information: [www.alberta.ca/covid19](http://www.alberta.ca/covid19)

To get through this pandemic, we need to think of others, be kind and caring, and continue doing our part to keep each other safe and healthy. Thank you for your continued patience and support as we all work through this unprecedented situation together.

Cory Oliwki. CAO
Smoky Lake County

For more information call: 780-656-3730

NOTICE: ROAD BANS

Effective MARCH 5, 2020 at 8:00 AM the following road restrictions are in place:

**Gravel Roads**
Prior to any type of hauling, Public Works must be contacted as several gravel roads may be banned from any type of hauling.

**Public Works may accommodate heavy hauling during early morning periods when the frost is still in the ground.**

**Posted Oil Based and Paved Roads**
75 % Axle Weight

Any and all proposed hauling activity must be reported by contacting:

Bob Novoselsky, Public Works Foreman 780-655-5100
Doug Ponich, Public Works Manager 780-655-5101

Smoky Lake County appreciates your help in keeping the roads in great shape over the spring thaw.

Contract Trucks & Equipment: Notice to Register

To be eligible, contractors must complete and submit ANNUALLY a Registration Form listing each piece of equipment they wish to hire out. All contractors shall comply with the terms of the County’s agreement and provisions of the conditions as outlined within “Hiring of Contract Trucks and Equipment”. Forms are available on the County website at:


Registration forms must be received by the Public Works Shop, 5004 - 50 St Smoky Lake on or before,

**Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 4:00 PM**

* Please contact the Public Works Shop for any questions and directions on how to submit registration forms at 780-656-3755 *
2020 Road Dust Control/Suppression Application

Smoky Lake County Public Works is accepting applications for bids mix oil or magnesium chloride dust control/suppression for rural roads within the County in front of residences in accordance with Policy No. 03-33-13: Dust Control. Payment must be received with applications. Fees are as follows.

**Magnesium Chloride**
- **$50.00 for two (2) applications**
- The first application will take place in late spring. Upon inspection in September, a decision will be made on whether to proceed with the second application in the fall or wait until the following spring. Conditions of the treatment will determine the timing of the second application.

**Blade Mix Oil**
- **$3,000 for 2 ½ inch thickness**
- Length for the dust control/suppression will be 150 meters (500 feet). Any additional length of dust treatment will be at the full cost to the applicant.


**Please contact the Public Works Shop for any questions regarding methods to submit applications and fee payment at 780-656-3755.**

**Deadline to apply is Friday, May 1, 2020 @ 4:00 PM**

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### Smoky Lake County Waste Transfer Station Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfer Station</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoky Lake Landfill</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 AM to 4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spedden Landfill</td>
<td>Wednesday &amp; Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 AM to 4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellis Transfer Station</td>
<td>Wednesday &amp; Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 AM to 4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilna Transfer Station</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Saturday</td>
<td>9:00 AM to 5:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waskatenau Transfer Station</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9:00 AM to 5:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Waterline Construction Update**

Beginning April 1, 2020 the contractor PCL will begin construction of a water reservoir facility south of Range Road 203 and Township Road 610. This is the final phase of the White Fish Lake extension of the Regional Waterline construction.

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### TEXT4HOPE

**Supporting Mental Health & Wellness in a Time of Stress & Isolation**

A new Alberta Health Services program Text4Hope - a free service providing three months of daily Cognitive Behavioural Therapy based text messages written by mental health therapists. Text4Hope is an evidence-based tool that helps people identify and adjust the negative thoughts, feelings and behaviours a pandemic might be expected to provoke.

Through a set of daily messages, people receive advice and encouragement helpful in developing healthy personal coping skills and resiliency. Community members simply subscribe to receive ongoing supportive content. This program provides one-way communication and does not replace other mental health therapies and supports.

For more information visit: [www.albertahealthservices.ca/Text COVID19HOPE to 393939 to subscribe.](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/Text COVID19HOPE to 393939 to subscribe.)

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### Thank You

Reeve, Council & Staff would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the Volunteers

who donate their time and hearts to our communities.

*National Volunteer Week April 19-25, 2020*
Marilyn Drader
780-736-2243

Reader questions

Letter to the editor:

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, is writing to farmers in order to help with agriculture while a million Canadians are unemployed. Isn’t it time for our Canadian citizens? Why do we need farmers when we have so many folks out of work?

This is just one of many tone-deaf moves by the federal government. It’s no joke to us that the carbon tax up 50% on April 1st. Neither is it funny that Prime Minister Trudeau sent China 16 tons of medical supplies while our workers are being brought in while our workers are out of work. It makes about as much sense as shipping ice to Antarctica.

I feel outraged that we need to have 60,000 foreign workers in to help with agriculture when we have such a heavy unemployment rate here in Canada. This is just one of many tone-deaf moves by this government.

I pray for the continued health and safety of our workers, as well as the health and safety of our farmers.

—Bruce Jackson
COVID-19 Special Edition

April Meetings
14 Regular Council & Committee of the Whole to Follow 9 a.m.
21 Municipal Planning Commission 9 a.m.
21 Subdivision and Development Appeal Board 2 p.m.

Council Extends Tax Payment Deadline, Waives Residential Penalties for Water

On March 31, Sturgeon County Council voted to waive residential penalties on unpaid municipal water and wastewater accounts from March 31 to June 30 while assuring disconnections of these services will not be performed by Sturgeon County during this time period. Council also passed a motion to extend the deadline for municipal taxpayers for 2020 taxes from the last business day in June to August 31 without penalty. After August 31, all regular tax penalties will apply which include a 6% penalty on September 1 and October 1.

"We do encourage taxpayers who are able to continue paying their tax and utility bills on time to do so, but we recognize the financial hardships many residents are currently facing," comments Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnativ. "This provides financial flexibility to residential utility account holders financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to prioritize their financial obligations without the fear of penalty or disconnection."

For more information, residents can call 780-939-4321 or toll free at 1-866-939-9303 or email Taxation at taxation@sturgeoncounty.ca, and Utilities at utilitybilling@sturgeoncounty.ca

Stay Current With COVID-19 Updates

Sturgeon County buildings are closed to public access, but staff is working remotely and available for day-to-day business.

For those who require emergent service or time sensitive business, please call 780-939-4321 or Toll Free 1-866-939-9303 to book an appointment or be directed to any department.

Check our COVID19 page at sturgeoncounty.ca for local updates like:
- Parks & green spaces are open, but use of play structures are strongly discouraged.
- Rosedale Landfill and Redwater Waste Transfer Station are open during regular hours, with social distancing protocols in place.

Help is Available

We understand not everyone has access to reliable internet.

Family & Community Support Services is available for those who are struggling, need food, medical supplies or transportation to special medical appointments or just someone to talk to.

Please call 780 939-8332 or 780-722-1479 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and someone will get back to you as quickly as possible.

Alberta Health Services has resources and services available. Remember, if you are struggling, you are not alone.

Here are some quick links:
- Addiction Helpline - 1-866-332-3232
- Family Violence - Find Supports - 310-1818
- Income Supports - 1-866-644-5135
- Kids Help Phone - 1-800-668-6868
- Mental Health Helpline - 1-877-303-2642
- Toll Free Crisis Line/Distress - 780-482-4357 (HELP)

Sturgeon County offices will be closed Friday, April 10 & Monday, April 13 for Easter.

Weekly FLY is digital at sturgeoncounty.ca

Printed in the Morinville Free Press and Redwater Review bi-weekly.

Next print edition: April 15, 2020

Meetings are now electronic in accordance with section 199 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA). Council Chambers is closed to the public; watch the live stream at sturgeoncounty.ca

Essential Service - Ongoing Water Testing

Even in a pandemic, Sturgeon County technicians still need to access your property to collect water samples for testing - one of the essential services we provide.

Due to COVID-19, technicians will do their best to collect water samples outside per Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines. As a precaution, technicians will be wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as a mask/respirator and gloves to enter a resident’s home or business.

These samples are collected to ensure the water we supply to our customers is of the highest quality and safe for consumption, meeting the standards set out by Alberta Environment. Please be kind and courteous to our technicians as they collect samples. Technicians will always be clearly identified by a Sturgeon County vehicle and an employee identification badge.

Order Trees, Rain Barrels & Composters

Agriculture Services is here to support your Spring projects! Trees & Shrubs can be ordered until May 5th and Rain Barrels & Composters are available to order until April 29th. Social distancing procedures will be in place during pick-up times.

Orders and payment information, along with program details & pricing is available at sturgeoncounty.ca, then click on the sturgeoncounty.ca button on the home page to place your order. For more information please contact 780-939-8349 or agricultureservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. New users will need to create a profile - click on the Support/Tutorials button for assistance signing in.

Online Registration and Payment Available

Many programs can now be accessed online for registration, ordering and payment at sturgeoncounty.ca

Water & Bulk Water accounts, Fire Permits, Dog Licences, Agriculture Services Programs & Rentals, Report a Road Concern (Potholes, etc.), Maps & Property Viewer and more, are accessible online.

Residents may also sign up for email subscriptions like: Email Alerts & News, News & Events, Utility Alerts and Road Reports and Utility E-billing.
Love Your Dance has become the first dance studio to earn safety certification.

Love Your Dance has become the first dance studio in the region to achieve Youth Protection Advocates in Dance (YPAD) certification. The certification marks its commitment to keeping kids happy, healthy and safe in dance.

YPAD is the nation’s only dance certification program focusing on both safety and wellness for dance students. To earn the designation, studios must complete two training tracks. The first track centers on dance safety and educational best practices. It focuses on background checks, CPR and First Aid, abuse awareness and prevention, injury prevention and response, and safety and emergency preparedness. The second focuses on the wellness and development of youth dancers and covers social media, social media safety, today’s dance culture, developmentally appropriate artistry, body image, nutrition, disordered eating, bullying, and conflict resolution.

Only studios that complete both tracks are eligible for certification.

“We want to do more than just teach great dance at LYD,” said studio owner Nathan Young.

“We want to help develop healthy, happy dancers with an environment that focuses on the well-being of kids. Of course, this also helps us contribute to a sustainable, safe future for dance overall.”

Love Your Dance is place where dancers of all ages, shapes and sizes, develop a passion for dance as they learn to dance and perform. Opening in 2014 in Chipman Alberta, Love Your Dance, has since moved into their home studio in Radway, with an outreach program in Westlock. LYD offers classes to 68 students aged 3-42 in a number of dance styles including Jazz, Hip Hop and Acro. With a focus on teaching dance foundations, LYD is working on ‘At Home’ dance lessons to offer the community.

YPAD was founded in Los Angeles in 2012 by hip hop professional Leslie Scott Zanovitch and her husband Joseph Zanovitch as a response to negative trends toward commodifying and exploiting youth and adults in performing arts. In 2014, industry professional Misty Lown became its visionary sponsor, and her ‘More Than Just Great Dancing’ affiliation program became YPAD’s first certified organization. Lown’s studio, Misty’s Dance Unlimited, also became YPAD’s first certified dance studio. YPAD leadership transitioned to Lown in 2019. The Zanovitches today continue to serve on YPAD’s advisory panel.

Love Your Dance became the first area dance studio to earn safety certification.

Daryl Michaluk
May 16th, 1970 -- April 10th, 2019

We mourn for you who were and for who you might’ve become.

Love your family,

Koni, Warren, Lyndzee, Ryan, Gordon & Stella

A special floural arrangement -- These are the results of staying at home because of COVID-19 and enjoying the flours my sweetheart sent. Easter Paska ready to bake, whole grain buns, and a display of 11 flours. With a little imagination the flours make a pretty flower. All purpose white wheat flour and corn flour with whole grain oat, dark buckwheat, Park wheat, flax, Spelt wheat, Red Fife wheat, barley, soft white wheat and dark barley flours. With the flour shelves at local stores going empty quickly after new stock arrives -- bringing your sweetie flours takes on a new meaning among the baking crowd.
It’s hard to believe it’s been only four weeks, says Sturgeon as it carries on business not as usual

With “90% of staff off-site quite quickly,” Chief Operations Officer (COO) Scott MacDougall provided Sturgeon County Council with an update on COVID-19 effects on operations, at their March 31 meeting.

“It is hard to believe it has only been four weeks,” he said, as job prices are down. “Employ people where we can,” he said.

Coun. Karen Shaw pointed out they should be “looking at re-deploying our own staff first” before going outside and contract workers.

MacDougall concluded the administration is “looking at both ends of the lens based on the outbreak.”

Community Services has suspended tasks such as recreation and wellness programming, summer program, early childhood program, bus services, in person counselling, group counselling and the Block Party initiatives.

Protective Services has suspended firefighter training and community activities as well as fire prevention activities.

The COO said Infrastructure Services has looked at priority service delivery and are looking at what can be deferred or delayed. Utilities priority includes emergency utility operations (water/sewer line breaks, sewer backup response, environmental spill response and debris operations, utility meter lift station complaints and emergency utility operations (water/sewer line breaks, sewer backup response, environmental spill response and debris operations, utility meter lift station complaints and drinking water testing.

Transportation/Engineering has planned and scheduled work such as snow and ice control, gravel road grading, oil road repair/rehab and reactive work such as culvert repair/flushing, sign installations, brushing, spot graveling, pot hole repair, patching, guardrail repair and maintenance prioritized.

MacDougall noted only one crew will work culvert replacements and gravel surfacing is reduced to priority roads. Reactive Work includes debris suppression in industrial and high traffic commuter routes, street sweeping, as well as resurfacing, curb and gutter repair, crack filling and line painting.

Agriculture priority delivery is handling legislative requirements (Weed Control Act, Pest Control Act), hazardous tree removal, park and trail maintenance, grounds and facilities maintenance, tree program, Environmental Farm Plan support/approvals, provincial & federal grant applications.

Fleet priority delivery is fuel supply continuity, essential equipment repair support, 2-way radio system up-time continuity and HVAC system monitoring in all buildings as well as legislative requirements.

MacDougall noted the focus is on how staff can work off-site, following safe work practices. Ongoing planning and adjustments will continue “as we understand the impacts of this,” he said, “until we move into a new state of norm.”

Coun. Patrick Tighe suggested deferrals for things such as culvert repair/flushing, sign installations, brushing, spot graveling, pot hole repair, patching, guardrail repair and maintenance prioritized.

Financial & Strategic Services saw “most services continuing unchanged or shifted to online delivery. Projects continue unchanged (re: scope and costs); some time delay if internal and external engagement is required.”

Corporate Services also has many aspects continuing unchanged. New efforts around the pandemic include employee support and communication on COVID-19 responses, prioritization in response and developing, implementing and monitoring controls and risk management strategies.

Development Services such as permitting, subdivisions, safety codes, land use planning, project management, etc are continuing unchanged or shifted to online delivery. “Temporary suspended services include customer counter service, application meetings, public engagement projects, business and site visitations, (sites now assessed digitally),” MacDougall said.

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Coun. Patrick Tighe suggested deferrals for things such as brushing /site lines, and with the tough economic conditions for many businesses, “it may be advantageous to continue the programs using con-
Sturgeon County residents facing financial constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic received a little easier as Council approved changes to tax penalties, utility penalties and disconnection procedures, at the Council meeting March 31.

Prior to the health crisis, utility accounts not settled within 30 days of the billing date had a 2.5% penalty applied and disconnection on all accounts which remained unpaid after the 15th of the month following the month in which the account was rendered. Once disconnected, a reconnect fee plus all outstanding rates and charges had to be paid in full before service was re-established.

By now the majority of residents agreed that the reconnection fee is not a viable option for many residents who are able to continue paying their utility bills on time to do so, but we recognize the financial hardship many residents are currently facing,” commented Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw later. “This provides financial flexibility to residential utility account holders financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to prioritize their financial obligations without the fear of penalty or disconnection.”

Administration researched how other municipalities in the region are responding and implementing utility billing changes. “The majority are in alignment with the three month penalty cancellation period and eight out of 11 municipalities surveyed were not disconnecting due to non-payment during this time,” Yanew said.

Administration’s proposal was that regular utility bills would continue over the next three months however no penalty fees or service disconnection would be applied to any residential utility account during this time.

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With council approval of amendment of Bylaw 1498:20 - 2020 Tax Penalty. Sabrina Duquette, Acting Manager of Financial Services noted: “In light of the Covid-19 global pandemic, Sturgeon County should consider implementing important financial measures to assist citizens during this critical time. Municipal taxes are the most important single source of revenue for Sturgeon County. Approximately 75.7% of operating revenues in 2020 will be derived from municipal property tax.

Following administration’s recommendation Council gave all three readings to the amendments for the tax penalty bylaw only for the 2020 year. Instead of a penalty of 6% applied to any current tax balance unpaid following the last business day of June (the deadline for tax payment) and another 6% on August 1 for unpaid taxes, the payment deadlines was extended to August 31, 2020 with the penalty applied on Sept. 1 for the first penalty and Oct. 1, 2020 for the second penalty on current years taxes not paid.

“We do encourage taxpayers who are able to continue paying their tax and utility bills on time to do so, but we recognize the financial hardship many residents are currently facing,” commented Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw a day later. “This provides financial flexibility to residential utility account holders financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to prioritize their financial obligations without the fear of penalty or disconnection.”
In an effort to keep our team members and customers safe and healthy amid the current COVID-19 situation, we are temporarily suspending our Reusable Bag Program. We ask that you please leave your reusable bags at home.

The 5¢ fee for single-use plastic bags will be waived until further notice. Just one of the many steps we are taking to reduce the spread of this virus.