Thorhild Ag Society asks county for annual funding

Thorhild County councillors appeared to look favorably upon the Thorhild and District Agricultural Society’s request for annual funding of $30,000 but didn’t come up with a resolution to approve the funds.

After a lengthy discussion, council unanimously passed coun. Wayne Crowsell’s motion to have administration obtain further information from the Thorhild Ag Society and bring it back to a future meeting.

During the April 9 council meeting Thorhild Ag society president Troy Ventsch and member Penny Fehr presented a five page summary of their Ag Society’s activities and financial situation. The Ag Society was established in March 1973 and has continually served the community since. In current 12 members put in about 1,500 volunteer hours per year.

They operate the Waste Management of Canada Arena in Thorhild, which is home to six hockey and ringette clubs and organizations, two other youth groups, six annual events (including cattle show, rodeo dance, Christmas light up) and numerous other events and activities. Last month it was the host arena for the U14 and U16 Alberta Ringette Provincials.

“We estimated over 750 players and spectators walked through our doors that weekend,” said Ventsch. “We estimated throughout the entire year that over 3,500 different people walked through our doors, many of them not from this area. I do not know of any other facility in our country that has that amount of foot traffic annually.”

“To adequately serve its users, the arena has been regularly maintained and upgraded, including a high efficiency boiler system and new LED lights.

“Other than re-painting the ice compressors every 8,000 hours, we believe the building is good for another 30 years of service to our community,” said Ventsch.

“We’ve been very much on top of everything in that building,” added Fehr. “We’ve maintained a very solid facility, and we’ve kept it up.”

Ventsch said that even with careful planning, the financial situation is deteriorating.

“Increased operational costs, OH&S occupational health and safety directives and general maintenance costs are all contributors to our losses,” he said. “In addition, we would like to be able to hire an additional caretaker and to be able to hold more non-profit agricultural events for our community, of which we can provide as we cannot afford to do so. We have exhausted all our options at this point, and Minor Hockey is no longer in a position to help us out financially. The board has decided to raise the rates of usage of the facility for next season, but we still need financial help to maintain operations, annual help.”

He presented the Ag Society’s formal request for $30,000 in annual funding from the county along with information on what municipal funding some other Ag Societies receive. Smoky Lake County provides annual funding of $60,000 to the Smoky Lake Ag Society and $17,500 to the Ag societies in Vilna and Waskatenau. Rich Valley gives $50,000/year and New Serepta $17,500 to the Ag societies in Vilna and Waskatenau. It is estimated that Vilna and Waskatenau have a $200,000 deficit.

This grant can not be used for operations, according to Ventsch.

“We’ve just got our heads above water—in a cash flow position.”

“We’re in a downhill slide right now,” Fehr said.

“We’ve just got our heads above water—in a cash flow position.”

“Council considered the request for funding later in its meeting Crowsell said that before committing funding to the Thorhild Ag Society council should get information from the Newbrook and Radway Ag Societies and consider budgeting to support them as well.

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Redwater principal lain Jamieson (Left) presents Elder Roy Arcand with tobacco at the start of the blanket exercise held at Redwater School April 9.

Redwater learns history through Blanket Exercise

A Blanket Exercise with content relevant to the Treaty Six area give Redwater and area community members the opportunity to view Canada’s history from a new perspective April 9.

“This was my first exercise, and I really enjoyed it,” said councillor Dave McRae. “It certainly creates an emotional response and highlighted components of our history that most are not aware of. Anyone interested in Canadian history or their own heritage would take away strong feelings from such an exercise. My biggest take away was the original concept of treaty development with the first explorers and how that changed after settlement occurred.”

“This Blanket Exercise was hosted by Redwater School (RSK) and Ochre Park School (OPS) with Sturgeon Public School Division (SPSD) central office. Its 26 participants were led by Coun Elder Roy Arcand of Alexander First Nation and facilitators Kendra Thompson, Kerri Trombley and Ray Soetaert.

“This was OPS principal Roxanne Filipchuk’s fourth Blanket Exercise. “I learn something every time,” she said. She feels the knowledge shared during such exercises is important, especially for parents of school-age children. Today’s curriculum teaches history, including that of residential schools, that was not taught to people who are adults now. Educating communities is one of the Calls to Action that came out of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation process.

Published by Redwater, Alberta, 10-50 Ave.

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Fax: 780-942-2515
Email: redwater@shaw.ca

Advertising DEADLINES
Thursday 2 p.m. for Tuesday edition
County council delays decision on Thorhild Ag Society funding request

Continued from front

“I appreciate that, but we’re dealing with the presentation from the morning,” said reeve Kevin Grumetza (something he repeated several times during the ensuing discussion). “Where could we get the funds?”

CAO Wayne Franklin said the money could come out of the annual budgeted Operating and Capital Allowance, the accumulated surplus or the Legacy Fund.

Crowell’s stance to delay the decision is a change from his actions dealing with the Newbrook arena a few months ago. During its Jan. 8, 2019, meeting council received a request from the Newbrook Recreational and Agricultural Society for $13,500 to operate its natural ice arena for the 2018-2019 season. Council passed Crowell’s motion to grant the funds from the Annual Operating and Capital Allowance with minimal discussion.

Council’s latest discussion touched on who owns the curling rink, whether council should wait to grant funding to the Thorhild Ag Society until its fiscal year end in August, and whether the Ag society needs the funds to repair the compressor to have it working by autumn.

Coun. Richard Filipchuk noted that Venoch and Feith did not say if they have the money to repair the compressor before the provincial grant is received in August.

“I want to make sure they can make ice in the fall, or it’s a disaster for this community,” he said. “That’s separate from long term funding.”

Coun. Joyce Pierce said if annual funding is committed, it should be done for each Ag society in the county.

Coun. Cheryl Patay requested more information before making a decision. Grumetza said he agrees council should get more information and find out if the other Ag societies in the county will request annual funding but felt in the short term council should allocate $36,000 from the Operating and Capital Allowance to the Thorhild Ag Society for this year.

Crowell made a motion that administration consider the operations and maintenance of local agricultural societies and long term funding in 2020 budget deliberations. He later withdrew that motion and made the motion for more information that was passed.

Filipchuk questioned if the Radway and Thorhild Ag societies request funding every year (they have not) and Grumetza said he wished Newbrook Rec and Ag had provided statistics with the number of users of the arena.
Redwater Pioneer Club celebrates 50 years

The Redwater & District Pioneer Club celebrated 50 years of seniors serving their community last week.

Club members and area residents commemorated the club’s 50th anniversary during its monthly supper April 10.

“The club and building have proved to be such an integral part of our community by what it provides,” said past president Claudette Stetsko. “Hopefully, we will be here to celebrate our 100th anniversary.”

Stetsko provided this history. In 1968 a group of local seniors met at the Redwater Legion Hall with the idea of forming the Redwater & District Pioneer Club. With help from the mayor and town council at the time, the group received their Certificate of Incorporation in April 1969. A bunkhouse that was donated to the town by Imperial Oil was leased to the new seniors’ club for one dollar per year.

Members continued to meet at the Legion Hall while they renovated the former bunkhouse. The interior was gutted and remodelled, and by June it was presentable enough to hold an open house. Still, much remained to be done. Money was in short supply, so club members applied for some much-needed grants.

As the years passed, it became apparent the building needed some major repairs. In spite of constantly fixing and the uncertainty in funding, the club celebrated its 25th anniversary in it.

Then a surprising cheque was received from Alberta Lotteries in April 1996 for $125,000 which became a political issue that echoed right to the premier’s office,” said Stetsko. “This started the plan for a new building.”

Later that year, in July, a fire started in the insulation of the Pioneer Club’s building and destroyed it. The Town of Redwater, which was the insured owner of the building, gave club members the options of taking a cash payout or a replacement building. By October construction was underway on the present Pioneer Club building on 50 Street. Donations were given by several businesses in the area and the Redwater Lions Club.

Pioneer Club members celebrated their first monthly supper in the new facility in January 1997. “Since then the club has become a hub for activities that are open to all the community,” said Stetsko, “as well as subsidizing meeting space for the Redwater Lions club, the Hospital Auxiliary and, for a short time, the Redwater Art Society and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Many weddings, funerals, birthday and anniversary events have been held over the years.”
61 properties in Redwater get tax arrears notification

The Town of Redwater listed 61 properties on Tax Notification arrears this spring. Of the 61 properties, 44 are in one development and 17 are throughout the town. Taxes remain unpaid on four of the 15 properties put on tax notification in 2017 and, if the arrears are not paid, they may go up for tax auction in the fall.

One property went to tax sale last year from the 2016 tax Notifications. It did not sell and the town has not taken title of it.

Many factors led to increased County councillor expenses

Smoky Lake County spent slightly less on councillor salaries and benefits last year, but paid out considerably more in councillor expense claims.

The county’s audited financial statements for 2018 show total legislative costs of $369,100 ($306,200 in salaries and $62,900 in benefits), down marginally from a total of $369,800 in 2017. Councillor expenses increased by 25 percent, rising from a total of $104,300 in 2017 to $130,300 in 2018.

CAO Cory Ollikka said there were a number of factors contributing to those changes. Salaries are annually increased to cover inflation and the budget for expenses, apart from anomalies, is fairly stable.

The decrease in salaries may largely be attributed to the mileage allowance that is included in salaries. In March 2018 council decreased the mileage allowance from $450/month to $350/month. Although council salaries went up 1.5 percent in 2018, the decrease in mileage allowance resulted in a slight decrease in gross pay.

Ollikka said the increase in expenses is a complicated combination of many factors. For example, a previous councillor was a board member of the Federation of Gas Co-ops and of CCL, so his travel expenses related to those organizations were covered by them. Now, the county pays expenses for all councillors who attend.

As well, having three new councillors elected in 2017 meant additional training and set-up expenses in 2018. It appeared that more councillors attended more conferences and training than the previous year.

“We don’t track that specific detail of information through the financial system,” said Ollikka. “Councillors make motions to attend events, and our auditors cross reference the minutes with our financial statements.”

Riel School
Kindergarten/Great Beginnings
Open House

Wednesday, April 24 - 3:30-5:30 p.m.

• Early registration for 2019/20 school year
• Meet our staff
• See our learning centres
• Snacks provided

Great Beginnings is a pre-school program for children who are at least 3 years of age, but have not yet turned 5, by December 31 of the school year. Kindergarten is for children who are at least 5 years old as of December 31st of the school year.

We look forward to meeting you!

More information?
Call Vilna School @ 780-636-3651
Email: vilna@asperview.org

50 properties in Redwater get tax arrears notification

The Town of Redwater listed 50 properties on Tax Notification arrears this spring. Of the 50 properties, 42 are in one development and 8 are throughout the town. Taxes remain unpaid on two of the 10 properties put on tax notification in 2017 and, if the arrears are not paid, they may go up for tax auction in the fall.

One property went to tax sale last year from the 2016 tax notifications. It did not sell and the town has not taken title of it.
Pursuant to the authority granted by the Minister of Alberta Transportation under the Traffic Safety Act T-4 RSA 2000 and the Act's Commercial Vehicle Classification and Weight Registration, 31/5/2003 with amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 197/2011, Thorhild County orders that effective Thursday, March 21, 2019 percentage axle weight for the following Municipal Roads are:

Highway No. | Description | Percentage Axle Weight
---|---|---
0 | Opal Road | Opal Road – RR 223 South Of Highway ’18 then becoming RR 224 at Center line down to Trp Rd 582 75%
0 | Hospital Street | RR 205 within The Hamlet of Redway 75%
0 | Long Lake Access Road | From Secondary Highway 831 East into Long Lake Provincial Park & The Hamlet of Long Lake 75%
0 | Range Road 191A (Long Lake Drive) | All developed roads within The Hamlet of Long Lake to include the attached out of the area within block 75%
0 | Northbrook Drive, Alder Close, Brookside Drive | Northbrook subdivision (NW2 50-23-W6) 75%
0 | Pinebrook Drive | Pinebrook subdivision (SW2 50-23-W6) 75%
0 | Hamlet of Egmont Streets | All roads within The Hamlet of Egmont – Excluding Trp Rd 584 (48th Avenue) 75%
0 | Hamlet of Opal Streets | All roads within The Hamlet of Opal – Excluding the lane where the railroad tracks were 75%
0 | All other County Gravel Roads | 100%
0 | All other County Oiled Roads | 100%

This order rescinds Order number 01-2019 and shall remain in effect until further notice.

THORHILD COUNTY FAMILY MEDICAL CLINIC

April is Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) Awareness Month. IBS is so common that it’s likely you know at least one person with this functional disorder. About 13-20% of Canadians are living with IBS, however, only 40% of them will seek medical help.

Come into the clinic to further discuss with the Nurse Practitioner.

Appointments recommended but Walk-ins are welcome

Call 780-398-4MED (4633)
Auctioneer Nick Gulka  
Ph: 587-882-4306 or 780-960-1914  www.heartlandauctions.ca

SATURDAY, APRIL 20
WESTLOCK AG BARN
APRIL 20 AT 9AM

8TH SPRING MACHINERY & CONSIGNMENT SALE
A MASSIVE MOVING DISPERSAL from Seba Beach
Huge amount of great brand-name tools!!!

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT & MORE: 
- New livestock gates, panels, 24 ft free-standing panels
- New salt blocks and mineral
- New barn shavings
- New 18 ft free standing sheep and light duty panels
- New 30 ft harrow packers
- IH grain cart with galvanized tank, 300 bu...
- 80 ft sprayer with 500 gallon poly tank
- Cockshutt 20 tractor
- JD Press Drill
- NH 7 ft pto cutter bar
- NH manure spreader, new axle, tire
- MF 1560 round baler, 540 oto, newer wide belts, working unit
- MF 124 square baler
- NH 1033 p-type bale picker, 540 PTO
- Hesston 14 ft hydro-swing haybine, 540 PTO
- 16 ft vibr-chisel, Tebben MFG
- JD 5-bottom trip plow
- Heston 565-A rd baler, 1000 pto, wide belt, twin, monitor, clean unit
- Inland 30 ft harrow packers

CARS AND TRUCKS & TRAILERS: 
- 1978 Ford 800, tandem, 15`box, 5+4, runs and drives
- 2006 F-350 1 ton, deck truck, 304 k, good rubber, good shape
- 2005 F-350 w/ 18 ft enclosed van, dualls, like new rubber, clean, 230 k, 6.0 Power Stroke
- 2003 Ram 1500, 4x4, gas
- 2004 F-350, DSL, 1 ton, 4 door, 6ft box, 400K, good runner
- 1987 Chev truck, reg cab, 8 ft box, gas
- 2000 IH Deck Truck, 18 ft deck, new rubber, Cat DSL engine, 202 kms, pintle, 5 sp, 11R-22.5 tires
- 1997 Ford Escort, 148,000kms, new battery
- 2004 Ford E-350 DSL van, 14 pass, VG rubber, pw, pd, air & tilt, OD, cruise, p-seats, 424 kms
- 2006 Chrysler PT Cruiser, 4 dr, 131K, new rubber
- 48 passenger school bus with Cummings motor, runs great
- SINGLE AXLE 14 ENCLOSED TRAILER - TILT CAR TRAILER

NEW BUILDING SUPPLIES: 
- Spruce trees
- NEW barels shop oil, gear oil, HYD and more
- Steel wheels off old tractor
- 20.8 X 38 clamp on duals
- 18.4 X 38 clamp on duals
- 1930 Oliver tractor wheels, steel, near 500 plus landscape bricks

MAJOR ITEMS: 
- MF 59 tractor, super shape, 3pt, multi power, complete engine overhaul
- MF 59 bucket and blade, fire chains
- MF 59 2-wheel hd cart, full size, 8 ft long trailer, 2 wheel

**AUCTIONEERS NOTE**
- David and Louise are moving to town and have a wonderful selection of tools and acreage items in terrific shape. They are well known in their community and are outstanding individuals that will be missed. Dave has been a popular mechanic and his tools are in fine shape. Expect the best!

**MAJESTIC ITEMS:**
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Students learn
Reconciliation through
Artistic Expression

Students at Ochre Park School (OPS) in Redwater participated in the aboriginal studies program Reconciliation through Artistic Expression early this month. Celina Loyer from the Musee Heritage Museum in St. Albert shared her knowledge of water and land connections through an Indigenous perspective with all classrooms in the school.

OPS vice principal Kendra Thompson said that to express what they learned and document their journey in cultural understanding, every student will decorate one square for a collaborative quilt.

OPS received a grant from the Aspen Foundation for the Reconciliation through Artistic Expression project. The Aspen Foundation is dedicated to providing citizens with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that empower them to contribute fully to a healthy, just, and democratic workplace, community, and society through participation in labor and social justice initiatives.

The Musee Heritage Museum offers curriculum-based programs for all grade levels in areas of Aboriginal and historic content. Programs focus on history and St. Albert, natural history or individualized programs that are created to meet individual classroom needs based on curriculum standards and expectations.

Celina Loyer from the Musee Heritage Museum in St Albert speaks to students at Ochre Park School in Redwater of an Indigenous perspective of water and land connections as part of the Reconciliation through Artistic Expression program.

Ochre Park School in Redwater grade four student Jayde Finnegan examines a Metis sash during a Reconciliation through Artistic Expression program.
Young authors show creativity and skill

The 14th annual Budding Authors Evening hosted by the Friends of the Redwater Public Library Society featured 16 students in grades two to four who presented writing projects they had done at school.

Over 50 people made up the audience listening to the young authors at the Redwater library on April 8.

“Everyone was impressed by the creativity, use of vocabulary and caliber of writing in general,” said Friends chair Diane Achtyrmichuk.

“Students were also commended on the courage and confidence it takes to read before an audience. Each participant was presented with a certificate and a bag of gifts. All presentations were thoroughly enjoyed by all. We hope these students return next year for another opportunity to show off their writing and reading success.”

A variety of genre were presented, the most popular being fictional adventure stories such as The Haunted Hotel, The Snowman at Night, I Caught a Leprechaun, and Magic Door and Ghost Girl. There were also several retellings of classic fairytales, The Gingerbread Man: The Gingerbread Karate Kid, Gingerbread Pirates, and The Gingerbread Body Builder. A welcome addition to the program were a few informative compositions such as When I Am a Hundred and a reading of I Am a Number from the book Diary of a Wimpy Kid.

“We hope these students return next year for another opportunity to show off their writing and reading success.”

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Count Yourself In! Complete the Census Online

Sturgeon County is conducting a municipal census between April 15 and June 30.

Why should you complete the census?
Did you know that Sturgeon County receives up to $178 in provincial and federal grants for each resident counted? These funds help to plan for municipal services like roads and social programs.

Completing your census online is quick and easy. Watch your mail for a Census letter with your PIN, then go to sturgeoncounty.ca/census to count yourself in!

Census workers will be going door-to-door two weeks after PIN letters are mailed to offer residents another way to complete the census. If you have completed your census online, a census worker will not visit your home.

Land Use Bylaw Amendments
Sturgeon County continues to fine tune the Land Use Bylaw in order to keep abreast with the changing needs of our agricultural and residential community as well as industry. These changes require regular text amendments to the Bylaw—amendments that can become quite technical and difficult to understand.

For the next round of amendments, we’ve developed an infographic that addresses four of the main amendments to make the content easier to understand. Watch Sturgeon County social media platforms and look for the print ad on April 23 and 30 right here in the Morrisville Free Press and Redwater Review.

Upcoming Events from Agriculture Services
Order Rain Barrels and Composters by April 19.
- Rain Barrels $55
- Composters $45 (while supplies last)
- Wingdiggers $15 (while supplies last)

Tree Maintenance Workshop
Wednesday, May 16, 6 – 9 p.m., Cardiff Park
Do you wonder, when is the right time to prune your trees? How much do you prune or how much do you water and when?
We’ve got your answers at a free workshop Please register by May 11.

Pocket Gopher Trapping Demo - Save the Date!
Thursday, May 30; 6–8 p.m., Location: TBA.
More information is available online at sturgeoncounty.ca or email agriculturalservices@sturgeoncounty.ca or call 780-939-8349.

All Sturgeon County offices will be closed Friday, April 19 and Monday, April 22 for Easter.
New management strategies to slow spread of clubroot in Thorhild County

Thorhild County is following a new management strategy to slow the spread of clubroot. During its April 9 meeting, council adopted the same clubroot management agreement as neighboring Smoky Lake County and approved having a GIS clubroot mapping system set up.

“Smoky Lake County did an agreement and put it out to tender and Board (AA) Association,” said assistant Ag fieldman Sarah Kassian. “It’s a good agreement to let people know how to deal with con-
formed fields. Smoky Lake County’s fieldman made a point that being neighbors and having a consistent way of regulating clubroot will be great for our farm-
ers, especially the ones that farm in both countries.”

The agreement is based on the Alberta Clubroot Management plan and contains both required actions for infected fields and recommended strategies for pre-
venting the spread of clubroot. The map showing where infected fields have been confirmed will allow custom operators, fertilizer and fuel delivery drivers, and pipeline workers to know where they should take extra precautions to prevent transfer of soil.

The seven step management plan details control practices for fields confirmed to be infected with clu-
bro. A minimum three year rotation is required, with an extended rotation encouraged on fields with high disease severity. If canola is grown on those fields afterwards, resistant varieties must be planted.

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

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

Finally, producers are to advise people accessing infested fields of the presence of clubroot and the requirement for biosecurity measures. Before this agreement was adopted, Thorhild County followed the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan. While that management plan is based on that manage-
ment plan (which is five years old), it includes strate-
gies (such as controls for small patches of clubroot) based on current research.

Council questioned whether pipeline contractors going from field to field need to follow the manage-
ment plan, or if it needs to be added to the county’s road use agreement. Director of Infrastructure Best Berlinguette advised such management actions are written into the contract with people working for the county.

Coin. Richard Filipchuk said the last few compa-
nies working on large-diameter pipelines in the coun-
try had wash pits for their equipment. Kassian said, “Pipeline companies are very good at contacting us and asking for what we want them to follow.”

Berlinguette said his greatest concern is when cus-
tom spraying is done because those contractors go from field to field and they do not have road use agreements. Filipchuk pointed out custom operators carry water with them, and they could clean off their equipment at field approaches.

Kassian said fertilizer delivery to fields is also a potential way of spreading clubroot, so county staff talks to those companies about having drivers knock soil off their vehicles when leaving fields.

“With the help of ACER, the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan, we can prevent clubroot taking over,” Filipchuk said. “It’s very important.”

The Alberta Clubroot Services does random test-
ing yearly of at least 10 fields. The number is depend-
ent also on if further testing is completed by Victor Manolii and staff with the University of Alberta (U of A). ASB staff co-ordinate with the U of A to inspect more fields. Agricultural Services Pest Inspectors conduct random clubroot surveys each growing season.

Farmers with concerns about a field do not need to wait for it to be random-

It doesn’t happen very often, but cousins Leo Halonen (L-R), Donald Koistinen, Nestor Halonen, Ron Koistinen and Joyce Olikkia all got together for a visit at the Thorhild Lodge Easter bake sale and tea. The April 12 event was in support of the Hearts For The Golden Age Society.

Redwater Chopped winners Gavin Kraljicek (Standing L-R) and Blake Mills watch with Redwater Community Services program co-ordinator Shae-Lynn Onufriuk as judges Charity Melnick (Seated L-R), Jeremy Pilko and Braedon Olsen prepare to taste their winning pizza. The judges thought both entrees made by the Chopped contestants were very tasty; these tortilla pizzas won due to originality. They had a shell with cheese, then another shell, then a spiced up tomato sauce with some ketchup added in, and chicken, bacon bits, pear and cheese on top, decorated with lettuce leaves and shaped cucumber slices. Chopped was a Spring Break program held for eight to 12 year old chefs March 29.
Redwater author a double winner

Redwater author Falon Christine Fayant is a double winner with her essay “Sometimes, I’m Afraid”.

For this essay Fayant was shortlisted for an Alberta Literary Award, the Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award. She also won first place and a $3,000 Kemosa Scholarship for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Mothers Who Write.

“I was really surprised,” said Fayant. “I didn’t expect that at all.” Sometimes in the middle of the day she stops what she’s doing and thinks, “Me, short listed?!”

Reid Van Camp said of Falon’s essay, “Incredible. Wow!” So riveting. She is free! This story will help so many readers. I’m humbled by the strength it took her to write and share this. Mahsi cho.”

“Sometimes, I’m Afraid” is about fears and inner dialogue a person might have in making an event. It’s about doubts, fears and worries, but at the end Fayant left her readers with a sense of hope about the capacity of the human heart to heal and move past fears.

Fayant lives in Redwater with her three children, aged 11, nine, and four. Her children inspire her ambition to follow her writerly dreams.

She loves everything magical, focusing on middle grade, young adult, and adult speculative fiction. She also writes literary short stories and creative nonfiction. Her unpublished young adult novel ‘Shadow of the Moon’ was a finalist in the Canadian Society of Children’s Authors, Illustrators, and Performers 2017 Writing for Children Competition. Recently, Fayant enrolled in the University of Calgary’s online Creative Writing Certificate program. She is honored to receive the second annual Kemosa Scholarship.

The Writers’ Guild of Alberta (WGA) announced it received 190 submissions from which 24 finalists in eight categories were chosen. Fayant is one of three finalists for the Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award.

A shortlist reading event will be held in Edmonton May 5. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the Alberta Literary Awards Gala on June 8 in conjunction with the WGA annual conference.

The set up of the clinic and its 2018 operating the clinic.

Redwater volunteers Vicky Rozak (Left) and Doreen Stachniak enjoy coffee and visiting during the Redwater Pioneer Club’s weekly morning coffee April 4. “Because we volunteer, life’s too much fun to slow down,” said Stachniak. “We’re told we shouldn’t waste our talents; if we have them, we should use them.” She volunteers with the Pioneer Club, church, Jeannie and Friends Singing group, the Redwater Art Society, church, Jeannie and Friends Singing group, the Health Care Centre Auxiliary and a choir. In the background Cliff Van Meter and Lionel Keats play a game of 8-Ball.

Thorhild County's medical clinic serves 2,000 patients and earns provincial recognition

During its first year of operation the Thorhild County Family Medical Clinic served 2,010 patients, achieved provincial recognition for medical services innovation and became a training site for nurse practitioners taking their practicums. The clinic’s first year of operation was funded by the county Legacy Fund; Alberta Health Services is preparing to cover some costs in the future.

“I think it’s fabulous for the municipality to have medical services available on a walk-in basis five days a week,” said Mervin Gumenick. “That’s well above the service level that we had in the past. I highly encourage residents to continue to use the facility and services provided.

Without patients, we have no clinic.”

The medical clinic opened in April 2018. It is staffed by Nurse Practitioner Colleen Carter, who sees patients in the clinic and during her weekly visits to Thorhild Lodge. For the clinic’s first five months of operation, Dr. Francois Erasmus extended his Redwater practice and worked out of the Thorhild clinic and during her weekly school and community for services.

The Government of Alberta’s Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RHPaP) recognized Thorhild County and did a video about the clinic and the county’s innovative solution for providing medical services. Community Services manager Car- olyn Sedlowsky was also asked to participate in a presentation on rural health care at the recent Rural Municipalities Association convention.

Hiring of nurse practitioners to provide health care services is increasing in rural Alberta. Thorhild County is presently in discussions with the executive director of Aspen Primary Care Network (PCN) and Lake Area PCN regarding receiving Alberta Health Services (AHS) funding for the Thorhild clinic.

Franklin said the county was told it will be receiving funding support. “Staff are still in talks with the PCN about what sort of support will take,” said Franklin. “It may be a fee (paid by AHS, not patients) for service, but it also could be full or partial salary reimbursement or our Nurse Practitioner might become a direct employee of the PCN. I understand we’ll get funding; I’m not sure of which process.” He added that this will probably not be confirmed until after the provincial election.

Sedlowsky said it looks like the county will receive $100,000 to $125,000 in funding for the clinic. That would cover a good portion of its operating costs. This year the county budgeted $172,400 from Legacy Fund reserves for operating the clinic.

Nurse Practitioners are experienced registered nurses with graduate education and training in advanced clinical practice who are licensed to practice in Alberta and are regulated by a professional college. They conduct comprehensive health assessment, diagnose health/illness conditions, and treat and manage acute and chronic illness as well as order and interpret screening and diagnostic tests, perform procedures and prescribe medications and therapeutic interventions.

George and Elsie Schatz (L-R), Marie-Lyn Starnes, Chyrennie Shaw, nurse practitioner Colleen Cartier and Rebeca Hansen celebrate the first anniversary of the Thorhild County Family Medical Clinic April 10, 2019.
Sturgeon gives initial reading for zero increase in tax rate for 2019

Sturgeon County council unanimously supported the first reading of its Taxation Rates bylaw on April 9 which contains a zero increase in taxes for 2019.

“The 2019 Taxation Rates Bylaw proposes a 0% increase in municipal property taxes, the same percentage increase presented in the budget. This bylaw reinforces Council’s direction to respect residents and minimize the impact taxes present in a poor provincial economic climate,” states information presented by administration.

The report shows the County will raise $67.6 million in total property tax revenue including reappraisals (compared to $68.6 million in 2018). Of that, general municipal property taxes amount to $50,061,338 ($49.3 million in 2018). Administration points to an additional huge factor in the County finances: “The Sturgeon Refinery revenue was not included in the budget cycle allocated to capital projects and reserves and as such, will not impact operations.”

The report notes that municipal taxes are the most important single source of revenue for Sturgeon County. “Approximately 76% of operating revenues in 2019 will be derived from municipal property taxes.” While the tax rate is not increasing, individual properties may see some variations as a result of changes in assessment. “Assessments used for budget purposes are estimated approximately eight months prior to the availability of final figures. The estimate is required to gain an understanding of the net impact the budget will have on property taxation.” While the tax rate is not increasing, individual properties may see some variations as a result of changes in assessment. “Assessments used for budget purposes are estimated approximately eight months prior to the availability of final figures. The estimate is required to gain an understanding of the net impact the budget will have on property taxation.”

The report notes that municipal taxes are the most important single source of revenue for Sturgeon County. “Approximately 76% of operating revenues in 2019 will be derived from municipal property taxes.” While the tax rate is not increasing, individual properties may see some variations as a result of changes in assessment. “Assessments used for budget purposes are estimated approximately eight months prior to the availability of final figures. The estimate is required to gain an understanding of the net impact the budget will have on property taxation.”

Other funds being collected through property taxes are for three requisitions: the 2019 HomeLand Housing requisition of $150,498 (increased by 57% due to tax rate increase of 6%) has been received; the 2019 Alberta School Foundation requisition is estimated at $16,619,992 net; and the 2019 Designated Industrial Property requisition of $680,093 (an increase of 57% due to tax rate increase as well as assessment).

The taxation rate bylaw may be changed during council debate as it is considered for three readings before going into effect. When first reading of a bylaw is the introductory step, with second and final reading the normal stages for questions and debate however the achieving a zero tax increase was surprisingly subdued during the session, with no member of council taking the opportunity to verbally celebrate it.
This year Thorhild County will hold its first volunteer appreciation event in at least a decade. A barbecue style supper will be served to attending volunteers at the Thorhild rodeo grounds June 14. Volunteers will each receive a coffee mug with the county logo and “2019 volunteer.”

During the April 9 council meeting Community Services manager Carolyn Sedlowsky recommended the event be held June 14 because that was the only weekend with no other major events scheduled in the county during that general time frame. Council unanimously approved the plan and the presentation of mugs.

“The role and work of every volunteer in the county is important as they keep services in the communities and make the county a more desirable place to reside,” said Sedlowsky. “It is proposed to recognize all volunteers instead of offering a volunteer of the year award.”

Sedlowsky said that because this is a new event and the number of attendees is unknown, a supper that is easily adapted to large and small events was planned.

Council budgeted $8,000 for this event.

Newbrook residents are being asked if they desire transportation for a regularly scheduled shopping trip program.

During its April 9 meeting Thorhild County council directed administration to research if a shopping trip program would be used by residents in Newbrook and whether a community organization or individuals would cover part of the cost. Council conditionally approved $2,500 in funding for the program to come from the county’s accumulated surplus.

The Newbrook shopping program could be similar to the program in Radway which offers two trips per month, one to Thorhild and one to Redwater. The county van is used for transport and about 14 residents participate per month.

The Radway program is funded with $840 per year from each of the Radway New Horizons Seniors Centre and the Radway Lions Club, so participants ride for free. Thorhild County contributes the remaining $1,920 required to pay for the driver and bus usage.

Residents going on the monthly seniors’ excursion trips organized by the Thorhild, Radway and Newbrook Seniors’ clubs pay $10 ‘petron’ for busing.
CAREERS

Requests Applications for the following Support Staff positions:

Educational Assistant – Thorild Central School

Thorild Central School is located approximately 100 km northeast of Edmonton. TCS offers a wide range of programming for approximately 300 students for our fully inclusive Grade PK-12 school. Nurtured in a nurturing community, TCS works with community, families and supporting agencies to provide a safe, caring, welcoming and respectful learning environment.

TCS is recruiting to an Educational Assistant for junior and senior high students, commencing as soon as possible, for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year ending on June 30, 2020.

Submit Resume to Aspinview Human Resources in Microsoft Word or PDF format. All applications received by April 19, 2021 will be given careful consideration; however, this competition will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

We appreciate interest in this position; however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Human Resources - Aspinview Public School Division #78
Email: careers@aspinview.ca

Competition Number: TCS291906

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CAREERS

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CAREERS

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- Lawn maintenance and litter control
- Work safely in accordance with Rosedige Health and Safety program
- Report bylaw infractions to manager or site supervisor
- Provide active assistance to inspector during independent investigations, safety meetings, and promote a positive attitude toward health and safety
- Regular cleaning of scales, removing build-ups of snow, ice, and debris
-舍得 supply, check for unacceptable waste and encourage recyclable material are placed in the appropriate waste segregation areas.
- Make disposal and recycling information available to facility users. Ensure policy and procedures as necessary
- Periodically inspect recycling areas to ensure the proper sorting of material
- Accept waste oils, and other liquids permitted to our recycling centre
- Open and close the main gate daily
- Maintain signs in a condition of good repair. Wash signs as required to uphold clear appearance
- Maintain fences as required to ensure site security
- Regularly inspect guard water monitoring wells
- Inspect, restock and maintain first aid kits
- Inspect fire extinguishers monthly

Requirements:
- A valid Class 5 Alberta operators license
- Physical ability and dexterity to perform a variety of manual skills (lifting, bending, squatting etc.) working outdoors in all weather conditions
- Strong customer service skills, including the ability to work well with others and efficiently performing general labour duties. Responsibilities include (but not limited to):
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