Agricultural disaster declared in Smoky Lake County

Smoky Lake County council declared a state of agricultural disaster June 25.

Reeve Craig Lukinuk said the declaration will help to bring awareness of the unseeded acres, fields too wet to spray, and the flooded seeded acres and pasture acres within the county.

“We can declare it and hopefully the provincial or federal governments will come up with some aid,” said Coun. Randy Orichowski. He saw pictures taken by a drone of farmland south of Waspito and he said, “there’s more water than arable farmland.”

Coun. Johnny Cherniwchan said that even though his area received a little bit less rain than at the western end of the county, there are many seeded fields that were drowned out.

The background material provided by Agricultural fieldman Carleigh McMullin showed from May 19 to June 17 precipitation in the county ranged from around 106mm (a one in six to 12 year rainfall) in the east end of the county to 125-150 (a one in 12-25 year rainfall) in parts of the west end.

The county has approximately 11,500 acres that did not get seeded. Statistics on the number of acres that were seeded before they flooded were not available.

Notification of the county’s declaration of agricultural disaster will be sent to Athabasca-Barrhead-Whitecourt MLA Glenn van Dijken, Minister of Municipal Affairs Kaycee Madu and Lakeland MP Shannon Stubbs.

Redwater Centre

REVIEW

Vol. 29 No. 33 Redwater, Alberta July 1, 2020

email: redwater@shaw.ca
Ph: 780-942-2023
Fax: 780-942-2515
View online: cowleynewspapers.com

Now available at Shane’s Guardian Pharmacy in Redwater, beautiful arrangements to suit all budgets. Special orders also available.

10% Off all regular priced merchandise from July 1 - 10

Does not include prescriptions, lottery, gift cards or phone cards.

The Floral Farm

1-780-650-0292

Thorhild Central School class of 2020 graduate Janna Blok paints her name on the feature rock at the front of the school grounds. Grads were given an opportunity to participate in this decades-long tradition during an outdoor farewell event at the school June 26.

Thornhill

Holy Family Catholic School in Waskatenau had a small outdoor kindergarten grad on June 25.

Students had a scheduled time to come to the school take a picture in a cap and gown and receive the certificate of Kindergarten completion. Teacher Olivia Hirschmann poses with Alyssa Ollika and Principal Farrah Ollika for her Kindergarten picture.

Love Your Dance

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REDWATER CENTRE

READY FOR OCCUPANCY:

mid July 2020, must have references.

To view call Marilyn

780-916-7916
# Community Events Calendar
## July 2020

### Town Office Opening to the Public July 13, 2020
Please follow the COVID-19 guidelines below while visiting the office:
- Entry to the office will be from a well-marked entrance. Only one customer may access the reception area at a time. Should the front counter area and waiting area be occupied, please wait outside the entrance maintaining social distancing of 2 metres.
- You will be required to sanitize your hands with provided sanitizer.
- Please note that if you are sick, exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms or otherwise ill, you should not enter the building. Please phone or email the Town to access services.
- Once you have completed your business with the Town, you will leave through a separate door to maintain social distancing.
- All meetings with staff must be pre-booked and will require social distancing. You will be asked health-related questions prior to entry to ensure the safety of our staff.
- No photocopying, fax services or purchase of promotional items will be allowed at this time.
- The Town has a variety of payment options including: Preapproved Payments (PAP), payments online, or PaySimply.

Contact the Town Office at 780-942-3519 with any questions.

### We've Noticed...
Your tidy, well-groomed yard makes our community a more beautiful place to live! Volunteers for our Redwater In Bloom program will be going yard to yard and handing out recognition cards the week of July 27-August 1. If you would like to volunteer for our annual We've Noticed campaign, call the Community Services Office at 780-942-5100.

### Would You Like to Help?
In the event of an emergency, Pembina Place may be activated as a Reception Centre for evacuees. If you would like to offer your services during a time such as this, please call the Community Services Office at 780-942-4101 for more information. General information meetings and training will be offered during the summer.

### GROW AN EXTRA ROW FOR THE FOOD BANK!
- The Food Bank will gratefully receive donations of fresh produce from your garden. Grow an extra row to share! Call 780-942-2065 to make arrangements for drop off.
- If you are in need of a food hamper, call and leave a message at 780-942-2065. A volunteer will return your call to make arrangements.

### MONDAY
**The Redwater Art Society is holding MAKE ART FOR FUN sessions at the Studio and Gallery (4920-47 Street). There is no fee but you must pre-register at artsocietyredwater@gmail.com.**
There is a maximum of six participants per session.

**Happy Canada Day!**

### TUESDAY
**Art Society - Make Art for Fun (6:30-8:30pm)**

### WEDNESDAY
**1**
**Art Society - Make Art for Fun (6:30-8:30pm)**

**2**
**Art Society - Make Art for Fun (1:00-4:00pm)**

**3**

### THURSDAY
**4**
**Art Society - Make Art for Fun (1:00-4:00pm)**

### FRIDAY
**5**
**Art Society - Make Art for Fun (10:00am-1:00pm)**

**6**

### SATURDAY / SUNDAY
**Continue to take good care of yourself and those around you as we continue through our provincial re-launch during COVID-19. Eat well, rest, connect with others in safe ways, and find ways to be active and have fun during the summer months.**

### 12-30
**Redwater HYPE (Helping Young People Excel) is planning some summer fun. Check out their summer activities and posts on their Facebook page (Redwater HYPE) and Instagram (redwater_hype).**

**Update your resume and get guidance on your job search with the, MCG Career Consultant. Phone 780-899-8130 to set up a phone appointment with a consultant.**

### Need information or assistance?
One call can connect you to community groups, resources & information.

**Town of Redwater - Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) 780-942-4101**

### Public Health Clinic for Children and Adults
Redwater Health Centre
5:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thursdays: July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Providing immunizations, communicable disease control, and healthy beginnings well-child clinics. Call 780-942-6615 to make an appointment.
Thorhild County considering new Road Use Bylaw

Thorhild County council is considering changing its Road Use Bylaw to remove the restriction relating to commercial use of county roads and make it possible for companies making more than five one-way trips daily with loads not originating from or destined to a location within the County.

During its June 23 council meeting gave first reading to a new Road Use Bylaw which would allow through-hauling on county roads provided the company making the haul signs a road use agreement. The requirement for a road use agreement applies to companies with trucks making a total of more than five one-way trips per day.

Reeve Kevin Grumetza expressed concern that a small company making fewer hauls per day over a longer period of time would cause as much wear and tear on the road as a large hauler making many trips over a short number of days but would not have a road use agreement under which damages could be addressed.

Councillor Paul Hanlan said he believed the proposed bylaw and Road Use Agreements would address concerns from the public and council regarding safety, infrastructure and the enforcement of industrial haul routes through Thorhild County.

He said Road Use Agreements have established conditions and would be written having regard for the following:

- Route selection would account for proximity to provincial highways and conditions of county roads accessing them. Route selection could also confirm different routes for loaded and unloaded vehicles.
- Conditions in the Road Use Agreement could cover poor weather conditions, school bus drop off, speed limit and traffic patterns, signage and maintenance of right of way, and enforcement mechanisms for the Road Use Bylaw and Road Use Agreement would also be considered.

Hanlan noted the county has the right to prevent use of county roads by commercial vehicles making more than five one-way trips daily with loads not originating from or destined to a location within the County.

The present Road Use Bylaw, passed in 2018, prohibits use of municipally owned county roads by commercial vehicles making more than five one-way trips daily with loads not originating from or destined to a location within the County.

Agreements will address concerns from the public and council regarding safety, infrastructure and the enforcement of industrial haul routes through Thorhild County.

Skateboard park, campground open

The Redwater town-operated campground and skateboard park are open. Both are subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Town manager Larry Davidson has also announced that the Town office will open to the public effective July 13. The Town staff returned on June 29th as part of a soft launch in preparation for opening to the public. The Town has been successful in date in protecting staff from the COVID-19 virus, and will continue to put in place measures necessary to ensure services can continue to be provided efficiently and effectively.

The office will have protocols in place regarding the use of separate entrance and exit doors, limiting the number of people to enter, and using the hand sanitizer; as well as other standards recommended by Alberta Health.

The town will continue to segregate the different departments as part of its business continuity plan and encourages residents to continue respecting the COVID-19 guidelines and regulations put in place by the province.
Town tax mismanagement

We were told by the Town of Redwater that the swimming pool would not open this year due to COVID crisis and failure by the Town to hire staff. This is not a new issue created by COVID, it has been going on for years. Shortly after this announcement I received a tax bulletin from the Town indicating that the pool operation was approximately $260,000 with expected revenue of approximately $90,000. If the pool was opened, the taxpayers would be left with a tax burden of approximately $390,000. By my grade school math each taxpayer should receive a rebate of approximately $530. I sent an email to the Mayor requesting a rebate on my taxes as we would not have this preplanned expense, therefore all taxpayers should receive a rebate. His reply to me by email was, “that is not how it works”. Then I replied to Mayor Smith, “if that is not how it works, then tell me how it works.”

Then I receive a notice advising that the Town is taking us further into debt to improve the white elephant, lovingly referred to as the Pembina Place for hockey. I am concerned about even more debt load taking us further into debt to improve the white elephant, then tell me how it works.”

I then replied to Mayor Smith, “if that is not how it works”

His email reply to me by email was, “that is not how it works”. Therefore all taxpayers should receive a rebate. His email to the Mayor requesting a rebate on my taxes as we would not have this preplanned expense, therefore all taxpayers should receive a rebate. His reply to me by email was, “that is not how it works”. Then I replied to Mayor Smith, “if that is not how it works, then tell me how it works.”

Residents want tax rebate to reflect cost saving to town of pool closure

Last week I received a notice from the Town that they are starting a town property assessment. Surprisingly my property was selected to be part of the first 1/3 of town taxpayer properties to be assessed. I was told that we cannot afford. Last week I received a notice from the Town that they are starting a town property assessment. Surprisingly my property was selected to be part of the first 1/3 of town taxpayer properties to be assessed. I was told that we cannot afford.

Also the Town failed to attach a cheque made out to me to do the work for the contractor. I can only assume that the contractor is probably charging about $200 per property and never leaving their comfortable bed. I will reply to the Town Council before they again suggest I leave Redwater. No, I will not be run out of town.

-Lorne Wog, Redwater

-Phone: 780-942-2885
-Fax: 780-942-3385
-Email: redwater@shaw.ca

Town WCB policy in case of injury as I am performing this task. Also the Town failed to attach a cheque made out to me to do the work for the contractor. I can only assume that the contractor is probably charging about $200 per property and never leaving their comfortable bed. I will reply to the Town Council before they again suggest I leave Redwater. No, I will not be run out of town.

-Lorne Wog, Redwater

No new COVID-19 cases in 3-county area for five weeks

There have been no new COVID-19 cases reported in this area during the past five weeks. As of June 26 there were seven reported cases (all now recovered) of COVID-19 in Sturgeon County west and its smaller urban centers. There were no reported cases in Sturgeon County east. The Town of Morinville had three reported cases, all of which are now recovered. Both the Thorhild and Smoky Lake county regions continue to have zero reported cases according to the Government of Alberta website June 26.
After 40 years of teaching elementary school, Betty Rosichuk from Thorhild Central School at the end of June, was looking back on how those years flew by,” said Rosichuk. “I didn’t expect it. It’s been an incredible journey.”

These last three months of her career were the most unusual. Google Meet and Google Hangout replaced classroom higs and hallway high fives. “The hardest part for sure was not seeing the students,” Rosichuk said. “This is not real life the way I would like to go, but we have to accept it.”

In a way, being separated from her students makes it a little easier for her to retire. “I love the kids, I really do. That’s why it’s so hard for me to quit. I’m a friend, a mother, and a teacher. We have fun in the classroom. I learn a lot with them, I love my job, but I know the time has come to leave.”

While she thinks it is a little easier to go when there are no students in the school, she would love to see them all again and hug them. She hopes to host a farewell for them in the fall.

When Rosichuk was a little girl attending Vilna School, she wanted to be a teacher. After graduating high school she, along with some friends, moved on to the University of Alberta. Her friends were in the Education program to become teachers, so she wanted to do something different. She took Business Administration and Commerce, a program she felt at the time had very few women. Upon receiving her degree, she went into the Bachelor of Education program, specializing in Social Studies.

She graduated with her teaching degree in 1980. Having completed six years of university, she was ready to travel and planned a trip to Europe at the end of August.

First she attended a homecoming event at Bellis. There she chatted with the Smoky Lake School Division superintendent, Mr. Cooper. A few days later she came home from picking blueberries and the phone was ringing. The Thorhild School Division superintendent, Mr. Miller, called to offer her a job teaching a grade two-three class in Radway. She took the job, and never did go to Europe.

“Teaching at Radway School was an awesome experience,” Rosichuk said. “I was welcomed with open arms to an amazing staff, awesome students and fantastic parents. I immediately became part of the Radway community. There that included 110 students, six teachers and four education assistants.”

“Most of my teaching back then would be done on a blackboard using chalk, and the chalk dust would get on your hands, so I was constantly washing my hands and breathing in that chalk dust,” she recalled. The school had minimal technology, but it did have a Gestetner printer.

“I remember in my first month of teaching when I was using the photocopy machine, late on a Friday evening after everyone she had gone home,” said Rosichuk. “It started on fire. I panicked, screamed, and then unplugged it. Needless to say, it didn’t work after that.”

About a week later the overhead sprinklers started leaking and flooded her classroom. She had to move to a different room.

Rosichuk was a prankster. She liked to joke with students and staff, and to sneak up on people to startle them or poke them.

“After scaring one of my colleagues as she came out of the washroom, her initial reaction was to fight, not to be frightened, so she hit me several times,” said Rosichuk. “She must have thought I was a punching bag because she kept doing it for what seemed like an eternity.”

“Every night I would have fun with that event by reporting ‘the fight’ to the school superintendent.”

Rosichuk taught a grade three-four class in Radway for 32 years. When that school closed in 2012 because of low enrolment, she moved to Thorhild.

By reporting ‘the fight’ to the school superintendent. “For the first time in my career I taught a single grade four class,” Rosichuk said. “What a blessing that was. The class sizes were big, but I didn’t have to teach two classes to the students.”

Besides technology, discipline also changed. “I’m so glad that things have changed,” said Rosichuk. When she began teaching students could be sent to stand in a corner or a teacher could strap children’s hands for continually not having their homework done.

“Now a role reversal with students one time, and was sent to the corner by the ‘student teacher.” Of course, that was when the principal came into the room.

“I have been blessed with teaching in a small school and then the big one,” said Rosichuk. “Each school has its pros and cons, and I was thankful to experience both and to be a part of the amazing school families. I had an excellent rapport with everyone. I will miss immensely working with all the amazing staff, awesome students and fantastic parents. I sincerely miss the hugs, the memories, the high fives, the smiles, the stories and the closeness of the school’s families. I have seen a lot of changes in education over my career, but the one thing that has not changed for me is my love of children.”

She and her husband, Nestor, have three children of their own: Dentr, Kyle and Carly. She met Nestor at her cousin’s wedding.

Forty years flew by for retiring teacher Betty Rosichuk during her first year of university. They dated for seven years before they got married and had their first child seven years after that.

Last summer they drove across Canada with Carly. This year they had planned to go to Yukon Territory, but have cancelled that trip. Instead, they will be spending a lot of time at their cabin at Garner Lake. Rosichuk likes to putter at home, volunteer, go for walks and work in the garden. She is looking forward to some day becoming a grandmother.

Forty years flew by for retiring teacher Betty Rosichuk
Redwater Library now open, including two public use computers

The Redwater Library opened to the public, with limits, June 23. The Summer Reading Program also began that day. Curbside pickup of library materials continues for patrons who prefer that process. “This is the soft opening, the transition period,” said Library Board member Gale Gray. Library patrons are restricted to the lobby area and to two public use computers.

The library closed to the public in mid March because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but staff continued to provide services through curbside pickup of borrowed items and by receiving new materials. More than 100 new books were added to the library’s collection during the past three months. Patrons may borrow books, movies or other items which are part of the Redwater collection or are electronic. No inter-library loans are being done at this time. They can order materials online through Trac on the library’s website or by calling the library.

Before opening last week the library had plexiglass barriers donated by Redwater Glass installed and physical distancing spots marked on the floor.

Vilna Boomtown Days cancelled

Vilna’s annual Boomtown Days parade and festival will not be held this year. “We are not running it this year,” confirmed Mary Lynne R. Campbell, ICD.D Superintendent/CEO of the Vilna Boomtown Days parade and festival that, unless a petition of owners for a vote on Bylaw No. 02-2020 is demanded, as provided for by the terms of the Capital Borrowing Regulation 83/2019 of the Education Act, the said Board of Trustees may pass the said borrowing bylaw.

Dated at the town of Morinville, in the Province of Alberta, this 25 day of June, 2020.

Per:
Mary Lynne R. Campbell, ICD.D Superintendent/CEO

Further information can be found at www.sturgeon.ab.ca
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- And any other inquiries regarding Co-op’s energy product line-up

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Co-op Energy Product Hotline

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