Six inches of rain floods streets, yards, basements in Redwater

Parts of Redwater were under water June 7 and for a weekend of rain.

Town manager Larry Davidson said it was one of the heaviest rainfalls in recorded history, with approximately six inches of rain falling over a three day period. The town is applying for disaster relief funding and will assist residents with funding applications.

"The morning of June 7 town staff brought in four hydrovac trucks to protect manholes and catch basins and also set up several large pumps to pump the storm drainage system in key areas. Pumping continued during the week to mitigate more washouts while protecting the lift stations."

Infrastructure manager Nawaz Panhwer said part of the problem is that water flows into the town from the surrounding fields and overloads the drainage pipes which were sized to accommodate flood runoff within the town. The town had the sidewalk south of 46 Avenue cut open in a couple of places to allow water to flow onto the avenue and over to pumps and ditches instead of flowing over residential lots and flooding homes. Panhwer said administration has plans to upgrade pipes in that area, which is an older section of town.

As well, flow in the main drainage ditch along the west side of 44 Street was increased by cutting open the access road to the Public Works building.

"Staff contacted Alberta Transportation and the Alberta Emergency Management Agency regarding the flooding."

"The Town is currently applying for Disaster Relief Funding to address these additional costs," said Davidson. "The Town is also investigating potential Disaster Relief Funding to assist affected residents, and while funding is not guaranteed, we are hoping that we will be successful. I would encourage any resident who has been impacted by overland flooding to contact the town with details of their concerns to assist in a resident disaster relief program application."

Because of the heavy rains June 5-8 Thorhild County declared a state of local emergency on June 8. Council subsequently declared a state of agricultural emergency during its June 9 meeting and will lobby Minister of Agriculture Devin Dreeshen to establish a disaster recovery program for 2020.

Agricultural fieldman Clarence Dowhan said that if the province gives financial aid only residents from counties that declared an agricultural emergency can access the funds.

"I'm concerned we are on the verge of an agricultural emergency," he said, adding that there is tremendous psychological stress on farm families.

He reported about 75 percent of county fields were seeded before the deluge, and of those, only about 60 percent may produce a crop. Farmers hope to still seed about 20 percent of county fields and five percent will not be seeded this year.

Coun. Cheryl Pasay noted cattle producers will need extra pasture and asked if administration was in touch with cattle producer associations to see what they are doing and if Athabasca-Barrhead-Whitecourt MLA Glenn van Dijk was aware of the situation.

Dowhan reported that producers have land, pasture and hay crops in jeopardy and are not sure if they will be able to take off sufficient hay this year.

"Pastures have a foot of water on them," said coun. Richard Filipchuk. "Sometimes farmers are making hay by the end of June. This year they will still be underwater." He said declaring an agricultural emergency will let producers know council is aware of their difficulties and supports them. He also noted that with many gardens under water, seniors and other residents who depend on gardens to reduce their food costs will be impacted.

Dowhan advised the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) has a chart with parameters for declaring an agricultural disaster and he feels Thorhild County past the 50 percent threshold for declaring.

"I think, in the best interest of the county as a whole, if there is something we can do to bring help to our producers, we should do it," said reeve Kevin Grumetza.

Hanlan opened the Incident Command Centre June 7 to co-ordinate the county’s response to the flooding. At that time overland flooding affected the southern part of Thorhild County from RR233 east to RR195 and from Hwy 18 south to Tyip Road 580. Lift stations throughout the county were reaching critical levels.

By mid-week 31 roads had been closed because of flooding and washouts. Half a dozen of them were open by Friday.
Flooding photo posted to facebook by Shawn Elliott June 8 with caption "More flooding... and haven't seen a Town of Redwater truck all week.

Story on front page.

Waskatenau roundabout construction among upgrades on area highways

Construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Hwys 28 and 831 near Waskatenau began last week.

Traffic travelling in all four directions is disrupted and being detoured. Drivers should be prepared for heightened congestion, speed reduction, temporary traffic signals and traffic delays. According to the province, work is expected to be underway during daylight hours from June 12 to Oct. 15.

“The county has been lobbying the provincial government for many years to try to have this done,” said Smoky Lake County reeve Craig Lakunk. “We are so happy with Alberta Transportation that this project is finally moving forward. The four-way stop on that intersection was a major safety concern for motorists and pedestrians. We’re looking forward to it being completed.

A few miles north, at the intersection of Hwys 831 and 155, crews are working on the roundabout to improve the intersection at Waskatenau Roundabout.

A third intersection will be upgraded at Waskatenau Roundabout starting in 2023 to improve traffic flow.

A four-way stop will be installed at the intersection of Hwys 28 and 109A at the southern end of Waskatenau Roundabout.

For more details, visit www.cowleynewspapers.com.

“Thank you to everyone for your hard work.”

A four-way stop will be installed at the intersection of Hwys 28 and 831 at the southern end of Waskatenau Roundabout.

For more details, visit www.cowleynewspapers.com.

10 ACRES WITH SHOP & ALL UTILITIES
Beautiful 10 ac mature yard with 40x30' shop with concrete floor, older hip roof barn, storage area, RV hookup & a couple minutes NE of a couple minutes NE of Half Moon Lake. Large kitchen with pantry, 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1600 sq ft home was built in 2009 & could be used as weekend getaway or future home. The adjoining 150 ac is also for sale if a larger property is wanted. $119,900. Call Heather for more info.

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Waskatenau Roundabout construction among upgrades on area highways
John Boychuk turned 95 on June 16. Because he was a volunteer firefighter in Redwater for 35 years and helped to develop the Redwater Crime Watch program, local firefighters and the Redwater RCMP gave him a drive-by salute that afternoon at his home in Diamond Spring Lodge in Redwater.

Boychuk's daughter, Darlene Tchir, described him as "95 years young and still going strong." She said that when he is asked what keeps him young, he answers, "I have always kept myself very busy."

Tchir provided the following story about her father.

Boychuk lived in this area all his life and saw a lot of changes in over most of a century. A farmer at Eldorena, 20 km. east of Redwater, he started farming with teams of horses in the 1940's and has been part of the major farming changes to big tractors and now even bigger equipment than he would have ever imagined.

He dedicated his life to many facets in the community, serving as a volunteer fireman for 35 years, an active delegate member of UFA (United Farmers Association) for over 50 years, county councillor in 1977, and working part time maintenance at Radway Hospital for about 30 years plus one year at Redwater Hospital.

Boychuk was instrumental in organizing the Redwater Crime Watch Program, which was the first branch north of Red Deer. He served on the Radway Home and School Association for many years and was president of Eldorena Ukrainian Catholic Church for 43 years, and spent hours on end to help get that church repaired and registered as a historical site. He also spearheaded the Jack Pine School Memorial and spent many hours collecting names of all the teachers and students who attended that tiny school which operated from 1903 to 1953, so they could be listed on the monument which stands on Eldorena corner.

His latest project has been to be very involved with the Radway Historical Archives Association to which he donated his old hammermill. They also purchased his 1937 Cockshutt tractor at his farm auction. The Radway and Redwater senior's clubs have been a popular hangout for him, especially during floor curling, which he still played last year.

Along with all of the above and full time farming, Boychuk loved carpentry. In 1943, at the age of 18, he wanted to make some money, so he went to work for Birds Construction. With the oil boom hitting Redwater, they built 35 homes in Redwater for Imperial Oil employers. He then went to work for Curtiss Construction on Maloney's Garage.

Carpentry remained Boychuk's chosen activity between farming hours, so he worked on full time and was a part time carpenter. In addition to building homes in and around Redwater, Radway, Lamont, Smoky Lake and Waskatenau, along with his own.

Despite that very busy lifetime of work, he always managed to play, too. He traveled with his wife Rose to California, Hawaii, Yellowknife, and many places in western and eastern Canada.

His latest big trip was when he was 90 and he flew to Phoenix to surprise his daughter on her 65th birthday. Was she ever shocked to show up at a restaurant and see him sitting there! Boychuk has many fond memories of parties, fishing and hunting trips, and even ugly ones of killing turkeys for his wife's neighbors (He has hated the smell of turkey ever since).

Many years of making home-made wine from berries has been a passion which he has perfected to delicious wines. When Rose began her battle with cancer in 2006, he even learned how to cook and can tomatoes and fruit. When he lost her in 2011, he insisted that he wanted to stay on his own at the farm that he was so proud of.

In 2015, Boychuk decided he shouldn't live on the farm anymore, so he bought a duplex in Redwater and loved the easy life. In the winter of 2016, he found out that he has a heart condition which should have slowed him down, but it didn't. Finally, being tired of cooking for himself, in the fall of 2019 he moved into Diamond Spring Lodge with a plan to live in the new addition to the facility.

When the new rooms were ready at the later part of March of this year, he was first to move in to the room he got to choose, which was almost twice as big as the old one. In the fall of 2020, he and his family are very happy that he is not living on his own. At the lodge he feels very safe with great food, friendly and helpful staff and friends to play crib with every day.

Boychuk's daughter Darlene and her husband Dennis Tchir, his granddaughter Crystal Doponte, her husband Dan and their sons Lincoln and Mason; and his grandson Jason Tchir and his wife Danielle say thank you to him for being so strong, loving and affectionate. Happy Birthday and Happy Father's Day!
The Redwater Quilters Guild finished another productive and enjoyable year. The Guild was looking forward to attending and being well represented at the Quilt 2020 Show in June, a national Quilting event sponsored by the Canadian Quilters Association. It was to be held in Edmonton this year, but it was cancelled due to COVID-19. A special wallhanging was created to be hung with other works from Quilt Guilds across Canada. These quilts will now be shared virtually later this year.

Despite the cancellation, we still took part in two charity initiatives of the CQA. We made quilted postcards that were to be sold at the show to raise funds for the Glenrose Hospital Paediatric Brain Injury Unit in Edmonton. Our cards, as well as those made by quilters from across Canada, will be sold online at a later date. As well, we contributed 31 blocks to the Quilts of Valour Canada Society. This organization presents quilts to injured military.

We were also able to arrange two last donations following health guidelines. A quilt was dropped off at Diamond Springs for the residents to raffle. We usually do this at our annual visit to show our quilts. Of course this event had to be cancelled this year. We also arranged safe delivery of baby quilts and shirts to the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Much appreciation to the Radway Lions Club for their generous financial support this year. This donation helps us pay for some necessary supplies essential for our work.

It is unclear at this time how the Redwater Quilters Guild will operate next September and what the health guidelines will look like at that time. What is very clear is that the Redwater Quilters Guild will find a way to continue to make valuable contributions to the community.

—by Maureen Barrett Cross, President RQG

Can you take too much of a good thing? For example, vitamin D is very popular right now and doses of 400 to 4000 IU daily are taken by many Canadians. But you can take too much. There was a case in Canada where a man took 8000 to 12000 IU daily over 30 months which resulted in kidney damage. Moderation is the key in everything... even when taking vitamins.

A heart attack happens when the arteries to the heart become blocked so that a section of the heart muscle can’t get enough oxygen. The blockage is caused by a fatty deposit (plaque) breaks off from an artery lining causing the blockage. When your heart can’t “breathe”, you get the symptoms: crushing pain in chest, neck areas, nausea, sweating, fainting and light-headedness and shortness of breath. If this is happening to you, call 911 right away.

Pregnant woman who sleep on their sides have a lower risk of a still birth than those who sleep on their backs. And it doesn’t seem to matter whether you are a left side or right side sleeper. It’s better for the baby.

At Thorhild Drug Store we fit pressurized stockings and carry incontinence products, walkers, bath aids, etc. 780-398-3883

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MAD SCIENTIST - JULY 20 - 24
Experiment with some silly science. This Theme Day in a Bag has everything you need to do some fun, at-home science experiments. We make slime and some safe explosions. Watch out! Things might get messy.

Pick-up start July 16
Live “Teams” Events – Tuesday, July 20 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

MMAF JUNIOR - JULY 27 - 31
What’s cooking? This Theme Day in a Bag includes all the ingredients and instructions you need to make your very own delicious chocolate chip cookies as well as some other food themed activities.

Pick-up start July 26
Live “Teams” Events – Tuesday, July 28 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

DINO DAYS - AUGUST 10 - 14
Dig in to some serious fun with this dinosaur themed bag! This bag will include some dinosaurs and bones to hide and find as well as some other dinosaur themed crafts, activities, and facts.

Pickups start August 6
Live “Teams” Events – Tuesday, August 11 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

AMAZING ANIMALS - AUGUST 17 - 21
It’s a zoo out there! Get busy creating some your own animal crafts and learn some neat things along the way.

Pickups start August 13
Live Teams Events – Tuesday, August 18 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

A VERY MERRY UN-BIRTHDAY! - AUGUST 24 - 28
A very merry on birthday to you! This bag has everything you need to throw a rinky-un-birthday party.

Pickups start August 20
Live Teams Events – Tuesday, August 25 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

THE READING ROOM
Join us every Wednesday in July for a live reading of a story!
Date: Mondays, July 8, 15, 22, 29 and August 12, 19, 26
Time: 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Where: Town
Notice to Thorhild County Ratepayers
MAILING OF COMBINED ASSESSMENT AND TAX NOTICES 2020

Notice is hereby given that the Combined Assessment and Tax notices have been mailed to all property owners in Thorhild County on June 16, 2020. In accordance with Section 311 of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter M-2.1, R.S.A. 2000, all persons are deemed to have received their combined assessment and tax notices as a result of this notice.

Taxes are due and payable on or before October 1, 2020.

Contact Us!

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

Public Works & Agriculture Services
21414 6th Ave
Box 600 A
780-398-3977

Emergency After Hours
780-398-3939

ASSESSMENT COMPLAINTS

The assessment roll is open for inspection at the Thorhild County Administration Office, 801 – 1 Street, THORHILD, Alberta, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Any person who desires to object to the entry of any person's name or that of any other person upon the said roll or to the assessment value placed upon any property must, by August 24, 2020, lodge their complaint in writing on the prescribed Assessment Complaint form together with a $25.00 fee per tax roll to Thorhild County. Please contact the assessor before filing a complaint, as most concerns are resolved before complaints get to the Assessment Review Board. To speak to the County Assessor, Dan Kanuka call 780-839-3310.

Dated this 16th day of June, A.D. 2020.

Paul Hanlan
Chief Administrative Officer

THORHILD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC WORKS BUILDINGS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Services are continuing and staff are available to assist you through phone or email.

Thank you for your cooperation.

2020 NON-RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX

The Government of Alberta is doing everything it can to support businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 23, 2020, the government announced property tax changes to assist businesses and keep the economy running.

The government is working with municipalities to deferral property taxes to help your business remain solvent.

Your municipality has chosen to provide a combined municipal and education property tax deferral that is effectively equivalent to a six month education property tax deferral.

If you are able to pay your property taxes now, we encourage you to do so. Property owners are strongly encouraged to immediately pass on the benefits of any tax deferrals to their business tenants.

Property owners are strongly encouraged to immediately pass on the benefits of any tax deferrals to their business tenants. While deferred taxes are still due in 2020, we are also encouraging municipalities to implement flexible payment plans for non-residential property owners unable to pay fully in 2020.

For further information about your municipality’s specific approach, please contact your municipal administration using the contact information provided on the tax notice.

MASKS FOR ALBERTANS INITIATIVE.

The Government of Alberta has ordered 40 million non-medical masks for distribution. This will not be enough to ensure that the 4.4 million Albertans have a mask to wear everyday, but it will help to provide a bridge until individuals can buy or make their own cloth mask as we continue to re-open.

THORHILD COUNTY RESIDENTS CAN PICK UP 1 PACKAGE OF NON-MEDICAL MASKS

Per Person

Thorhild County Residents can pick up 1 package of non-medical masks per person at the following locations beginning on June 16th:

- Radway Post Office
- Thorhild Co-op Grocery Store
- Abee Post Office
- Thorhild Newspaper Office
- Long Lake Transfer Station

Hours of Operation for Transfer Station

- Thursdays - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Sundays - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

THE REVIEW, Redwater, Alberta, 780-842-2023, email: redwater@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Wednesday, June 17, 2020, Page A5
Thorhild taxes rising with inflation plus policing cost

Thorhild County residents will pay an average of $127 more in municipal taxes this year. In response, its reining council passed the 2020 mill rates bylaw with a 2.3 percent increase (last year’s inflation) to the 2019 mill rates for a total of $1.20 for every $100 of taxable property, or $10,000 of assessed value. The tax levy increased a total of $92 per $100,000 in assessed value plus $97 per $100,000 in assessed value for policing.

The county will collect a total of nearly $1.1 million in residential taxes, which is slightly lower than nearly $1.14 million collected during this year’s municipal tax levy. The total residential and non-residential mill rates are an overall two percent ($18.2 million and $690,000 respectively) within the county and the provincial policing costs, an expense the county did not previously have.

In addition to municipal taxes, the county collects two requisitions. The Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASF) requisition increased nearly seven percent from just under $2.4 million to over $2.5 million. The Seniors Lodge Requisition amount remained virtually the same (increased from $423,000 to $425,071), but because the county’s assessment decreased, the mill rate to collect that requisition increased. Before setting the taxation rates during its June 9 meeting council discussed capital purchases planned for the next several years and corresponding lower revenues for the county. The taxation rates council will collect will total $609,700 more than required by the 2020 budget.

Council, Wayne Crowell asked for a summary ofTextarea49393135of county reserves and council. Joyce Pierce asked what the county’s borrowing capacity was.

Corporate Services director Janelle Corneill told council that the county has an unrestricted reserve (surplus) of $1.2 million, restricted reserves earmarked for purchases or projects of $20.7 million and the Legacy Fund of $2.4 million.

The town manager Larry Davidson advised the council of the storm sewer project waiting for funding since the pandemic. It would probably also need to consider additional reserves that could be used to support such a project. The council wants that known by residents who are planning to build in the area.

Sturgeon Public Schools (SPS) gave permission for the construction of a storm sewer across the golf course. Bylaw 2679 and the division wants that known by residents who are planning to build in the area.

The resort has been in the planning for flooding within a portion of the town.

On June 11 SPS board chair Terry Jewell stepped forward to express that in 2016 Sturgeon Public Schools provided the Town of Thorhild with permission to cross the resort’s school grounds to install a storm sewer line. That approval included a 10 year of way agreement and a temporary working space agreement for the utility.

When asked why the letter was sent, Jewell said it was in response to a “fairly nasty” post on facebook that the board felt went a bit too far. He said every time there is a heavy rainfall in Redwater, water backs up at 49 Avenue and 53 Street, and some people blame the school board for that flooding. He hoped to dispel the myth that the school board is the reason the storm sewer has not been built.

“We have a great relationship with the town,” said Jewell. “They have lots of room to do their projects.”

Redwater mayor Mel Smith confirmed that the school board has not held up the project. “We have waited many times that it ‘just isn’t true’,” he said. “The school board has given us approval a few years ago, we are waiting for provincial support in funding.”

Town manager Larry Davidson advised the 2015 estimated cost of the storm sewer project was nearly $1.4 million (including engineering and construction). He said the town applied in the past for grant funding to build it.

“I cannot say for certain without further research if provincial funding has been requested at any point. I do not have the resources to look at every situation.”

Larry Davidson added that the county is working on the sewer project and will continue to do so. He said the county would continue to request provincial support in the future.

The sewer project is set to be built in the future and will help alleviate flooding in the area. The approved budget for the project is $9.97 per $100,000 in assessed value for policing.

The county is working with the provincial government to help fund the project.

Mary Kosolofsky
July 16, 1928 – June 5, 2020

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Mary Kosolofsky (Chichura) on June 5. She is survived by her husband John of 69 years; her children Marie Peters (Pete), Gail and Curtis (Carol); her grandchildren Darcy (Toni), Nicole (Matt), Shane, Megan (J.P.), and great-grandchildren Trevor, Ashly, Tanya, Caden; Ari and Bryce; and her sister Lil Dawson.

Mary was kind, generous, compassionate, and committed to her family and community. She was a great cook and loved to cook for everyone looking for a meal at her home. She loved playing cards and games and was always a fierce competitor. She touched the hearts of everyone who knew her.

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions a private funeral service will be held at Darling Community Cemetery on June 19.
There were no active COVID-19 cases here.

No active COVID-19 cases here

There were no new COVID-19 cases in this area and some previously reported cases seem to have been lost when the Government of Alberta changed the reporting on its website.

Previously statistics on reported cases of COVID-19 were posted for an area defined by rural municipalities and including all urban communities within it. Now the statistics for rural municipalities and the smaller urban communities within it are posted while communities of about 10,000 population are posted separately.

As of June 12 there were seven reported cases (all now recovered) of COVID-19 in Sturgeon County west and its smaller urban communities.

There were no reported cases in Sturgeon County east.

The Town of Morinville had three reported cases, all of which are now recovered. Previously, the town had no reported cases in this area and some previous cases were not counted.

The Government of Alberta changed the reporting on June 1, 2020.

The new reporting area includes all urban communities and rural municipalities in the combined total for Sturgeon County, Morinville, Thorhild and Smoky Lake county regions continuing to have zero reported cases.

Expanded Smokey Lake Region is re-opening

The Royal Canadian Legion Smokey Lake Branch 227 is re-opening to the public, using its newly completed Legion hall expansion to accommodate social distancing requirements and tables as required by COVID-19 regulations. With the seating area doubled the Legion now has room for physical distancing.

"We have signs on the floor marking six feet," said Legion president George Brooks. "We’ll put Plexiglas around the bar. We’re gradually going to open," they hope to re-open the Legion June 17 or shortly afterwards.

The Legion has been closed since mid March. Members continued to work on the hall expansion for about 10 years and was strongly supported by the community.

"A lot was donated from local people," he said. "Smoky Lake should be really proud of what we’ve done," said Legion president George Brooks.

For COVID-19 the Legion was usually open three days a week. Patrons can enjoy a beverage, visit and play darts, shuffleboard and pool.

Little Emmy Nydegger enjoyed the sunshine as big sister Alysson and Mom, Lisa, play while they waited for the CH-146 Griffon helicopters from 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron (THS) to fly over the Redwater Health Centre in a June 3 salute to frontline workers.
The Town and County of Smoky Lake Councils met at a Joint Council session May 29, to discuss and adopt the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy, a tourism industry growth and enhancement plan for the Smoky Lake Region. This Strategy, which has evolved significantly over the past several months, includes an investor partnership to form a Joint Venture Tourism Corporation which would own and lend on tourism assets and manage tourism strategies including marketing for the Region.

The Joint Councils approved four aspects of the plan, including acceptance of the County’s strategy consultant, Vision X’s presentation, approving First Refund of the great EDST Strategy bylaws (County 1372-20 and Town 006-2020), the public participation plan, and the pre-financing budget encompassing public participation, project engineering, and legal costs.

The public participation process roll-out will begin June 1, with information being sent to residents, with their utility bills, launch of social media and a website and tools to provide materials including a copy of the Strategy. They will also open phone and email lines for residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to engage, including bookable appointments.

Smoky Lake County Reeve Craig Luknik indicated this plan is for the entire Region, even though the Town and County are partnering in the planning. "When I say the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy, I am talking about the Smoky Lake Region which includes Town of Smoky Lake, Village of Vilna and the Village of Waskatenau. This entire area has so much to offer and to see. I am very excited about this plan and I am looking forward to sharing it with our residents to get their input and ideas. This is a community effort," remarked Luknik.

Smoky Lake County CAO Cory Ollikka agreed and added, "To use the diverse heritage in our community as an economic driver is a strategy that has been waiting to happen for generations. With some of the oldest European heritage in Alberta, and a strong, vibrant indigenous presence as well, the Smoky Lake Region has all the ingredients for being on the leading edge of an exploding international tourism, especially heritage-based tourism. This initiative is a super way to play to our existing strengths!!" Ollikka also expressed his gratitude to the team for their diligence and hard work to bring the Strategy to this point. Even with COVID constraints and duties, the members of the team pulled long days and managed many challenges to produce such a comprehensive package for the Public’s consumption and feedback.

The Community Conversation started Feb. 24 with a well-attended session at the Seniors Centre. Due to COVID-19 measures, this next phase will be conducted through virtual and small group sessions. Online forums, conference calls, tele-town halls and one-on-one meetings will connect with as many participants as are willing and able. Smoky Lake County’s Planning and Development staff Jordan Krom and Kyle Scholte and Smoky Lake Region’s Community Economic Development Officer Michelle Wright will host all the conversations across all the platforms. Those events will culminate in a virtual Joint Public Hearing on the bylaws to be held on June 26. Town of Smoky Lake Mayor Hank Holowaychuk said during discussion: “We don’t want to miss this window of opportunity for international travelers to visit Smoky Lake Region in 2021. We are a safe stable area full of wide-open spaces and ready to welcome visitors and we encourage you to bring us the feedback we have to say about this plan.”

In a letter, the Minister of Canadian Heritage states that “The Victoria District represents everything that is great about Canada... That is why I am encouraged by the development of this Economic Development Strategy.” Similarly, Alberta Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism, and Status of Women Leela Aheer said, “Congratulations for embarking on this Economic Development Strategy for the Victoria District. I applaud the work embodied within this strategy and look forward to witnessing the results.” Updates on the events can be found directly online and on the Town and County websites and social media feeds. The Councils are encouraging all residents to engage and offer email feedback and the County’s toll-free number 1-888-804-2006 and the Town’s at 780-382-1313.

Additional reading and more information can be found online at: www.cowleynewspapers.com
Redwater residents take concerns to council

A letter containing a number of issues is in the agenda pack for the next Redwater council meeting.

The content of the letter, from “Lisa Brigden on behalf of the Concerned Residents of Redwater” follows.

“Re: Formal Letter of Complaint We are writing this letter, as residents in good standing, which represent numerous concerned citizens of this Town. This letter of complaint is for the purpose of attracting your attention to the multiple issues that are arising from the drainage issues within our town.

As well known, the Town of Redwater has major drainage issues. Numerous homes have had multiple floods and sewer back ups that have been passed over by the town and we would like to see some mitigation measures taken to help the residents with continued loss. Below is a list of our concerns:

1. The drainage on Highway 38, as we are aware, is the responsibility of Alberta Transportation. The continued flooding has been a long-standing issue within the town for many years with no resolution. What mitigation measures are being discussed with Alberta Transportation to alleviate these issues?

2. Surface water runoff drains on the north side of town around the area from the gutter to the pavers allows for proper drainage. The flow of water is at a complete standstill which is evident by the intersections constantly flooding, the worst of which is in the pool corner. This surface water sits at the curbside and eventually soaks into the boulevard through the cracks in the cement, which then drains towards the homes following the boulevard tree roots.

3. The boulevard trees are a beautiful feature to the town however, the roots are causing major damage. This is evident by the number of homes that require the Eco-line system along with continued auguring of the sewer lines. When there is a storm, the sewers in some homes seem to back up concurrently.

4. The alleyway tree roots are large and are destroying the sidewalks and yards of the homeowners. Although there is a sidewalk replacement program each year, it is poorly managed. Some blocks have patchwork jobs to repair the concrete while leaving leaves from tree roots. The root then runs into the low areas of the unpaved sidewalks and pools. It is especially evident after spring melts and storms. The walks on the boulevard are also sinking in and water pools on the boulevard which then drains into the low areas on the sidewalk and pools into the homeowner yards causing additional moisture below ground. The drainage on 61 Street and 53A Avenue is a continual issue as the water is pooling and not draining into the ditch line on the East/West Easement at a rate fast enough to flow out of town. The homes in the area are experiencing flooding in the basements and garages of the homes in this area. The ditch and culverts taking the water out of town are overgrown with vegetation, blocked by debris and partially collapsed. Does the town have a maintenance program for this?

5. The drainage at the pool corner is a major concern for residents. Not only is this a drainage concern, this is a safety concern. We understand that there have been delays with the school board not allowing the works to happen and cost of repairs exceeds the previously allocated amount. Is the school board covering the increased costs due to their delays? Are they willing to risk a child’s life? Has the town served any notice of expropriation to the school?

6. The alleyways in town are not properly graded and do not allow for drainage into the surface water runoff system. The alleyways are constantly flooded and heaved due to excessive moisture. The homeowners that back onto the alleys experience back and heaved due to excessive moisture. The homeowners that back onto the alleys experience back and heaved due to excessive moisture. The homes following the boulevard tree roots.

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8. The drainage along Highway 38, as we are aware, is the responsibility of Alberta Transportation. The continued flooding has been a long-standing issue within the town for many years with no resolution. What mitigation measures are being discussed with Alberta Transportation to alleviate these issues?

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12. The town do not have any plan to mitigate these issues and they are willing to let this continue. We ask that you provide a formal response indicating what actions and mitigations are being taken or considered to help alleviate these issues.

The letter is included in the Town of Redwater June 16 agenda package as a correspondence item and council had not discussed it before press time.


“We ask that you provide a formal response indicating what actions and mitigations are being taken or considered to help alleviate these issues.”
Town's Strategic Plan, does this align with what the Town residents want?

The Town of Redwater’s 2020 Budget Information is now available for your perusal. I am wondering how many of the residents are looking at the Budget Information. In the last Town Meeting, I asked the residents and property owners of Redwater for their questions about the Town’s 2020 Budget Information. My property taxes have continually increased so that now I pay double the tax amount compared to when I first moved to Redwater. How can a small business attempt to be successful when they are faced with continually increasing tax rates?

I, for one would like to mandate our Council and Administration to incorporate: (i) Service and Accountability and (ii) Fiscal Responsibility, as major components in the Town’s Strategic Plan.

The Town Council and Administration have shown that they are not concerned in holding or entering our taxes for Redwater’s property owners. Our property taxes have continually increased so that now I double the tax amount compared to when I first moved to Redwater. How can a small business attempt to be successful when they are faced with continually increasing tax rates?

Could we have a vibrant, beautiful community without continually raising taxes?

As Redwater’s property owners, do you agree with our Council and Administration’s Strategic Plan? Or would you like to empower and mandate our Council and Administration for fiscal responsibility and to find ways to lower residential and business taxes?

Sincerely yours,
Richard Smith
Mayor

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HAY FOR SALE

Discovering Redwater’s strategic plan and vision themes

I am wondering how many of the residents and property owners of Redwater align with this Strategic Plan and its vision themes?
In accordance with section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, Sturgeon County Council is requesting public input on proposed Bylaw No. 1461/19. This Bylaw proposes to amend the zoning of the following properties:

1. Pt. SE 31-54-27 W4M; Lot 54, Block RLY, Plan 6054AD and Lot D, Plan 2436NN, from DC1 – Direct Control District to R6 – Modular Dwelling District.

2. A 0.2ha portion and a 0.14ha portion of SE 31-55-25 W4M from DC1 – Direct Control District and AG – Agricultural District respectively to RVS – Recreational Vehicle Storage District.

3. A 0.01ha portion of SE 14-55-26 W4M from AG District – Agricultural District to RV5 – Recreational Vehicle Storage District.

4. A 1.33ha portion of Lot 2, Block 1, Plan 2002457 from AG District – Agricultural District to DC1 – Direct Control District.

5. Lot 11, St. Albert Settlement from DC1 – Direct Control District to DC14 – Direct Control District 14 – Lot 11, St. Albert Settlement.

6. Lot 1, Plan 9022330 and Lot 1, Plan 0423694 from DC1 – Direct Control District to DC19 – Direct Control District 19 – Lot 1, Plan 9022530.

A 0.8ha portion of Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 1222385 from AG District – Agricultural District to DC1 – Direct Control District.

This Bylaw also proposes to add the following two land use districts to Land Use Bylaw 135/17.

1. DC 14 – Direct Control District 14 – Lot 11, St. Albert Settlement.

2. DC 19 – Direct Control District 19 – Lot 1, Plan 9022550.

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to protect the health and safety of the public, the Hearing is being held via teleconference on:

- June 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter)

The hearing will also be livestreamed at sturgeoncounty.ca

All interested parties are encouraged to express their views by providing a written submission to Legislative Services by email at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions will be accepted up to the date of the Public Hearing. In order to speak at the Public Hearing, you must register to speak 24 hours prior to the opening of the Public Hearing at 10:00 a.m. on June 30, 2020. Please contact Legislative Services by email at 780-939-8279 or 780-939-8277 to register.

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- Selective post-emergent herbicide for broad-spectrum grassy weed control in canola, flax and pulses
- MCPA Post-emergent broadleaf herbicide in spring wheat, barley, rye, oats, mixed grains and flax
- All in one non-ionic surfactant for deposition aid, drift reduction and pH adjustment

CO-OP AGRO IT’S HERE

Premium 3-Way XP

Premium 3-Way XP is a post-emergent herbicide for the control of hard to kill broadleaf weeds such as dandelion and clover in lawns and turf. Premium 3-way XP can be applied in early spring and mid summer for control of most weeds.