



Bus - truck collision on Opal Road claims student

The Review

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

Vol. 27 No. 16A Redwater, Alberta March 7, 2018

A Thorhild Central School teenage student died March 7 when her school bus was struck by a semi truck on Opal Road two miles south of Hwy 18. The crash happened in heavy fog shortly after 8:00 a.m. just south of Twp 594.

"We grieve this immeasurable loss with the student's family, loved ones and the entire Thorhild Central School community," Aspen View Public Schools (AVPS) superintendent Mark Francis said. "We pledge our ongoing support to all those affected by today's tragedy."

Counselling services have been made available to all TCS students and staff. TCS is a Kindergarten to grade 12 school serving just under 300 students.

In an on-scene interview Redwater RCMP Cpl. Mark Joy reported the 13 other students on the bus, the bus driver and the driver of the semi were not injured. The students were transferred to another bus and taken to school where some were picked up by their parents.

"It's a very small close-knit community and a small close-knit school," said Joy. "Everybody knows everybody. It was very traumatic. It has a profound impact on the community."

Joy said traffic analysts were investigating the crash and information about how it happened would not be released at this time. Opal Road was closed between Hwy 18 and Twp 582 all morning and into the afternoon.

A Thorhild County press release provided a stated at about 8:19 a.m. Thorhild County Emergency Services was dispatched to the collision, with First Emergency Responders arriving on scene arrived at approximately 8:33 a.m. and noted school bus was southbound.

Redwater RCMP along with a RCMP Collision Analyst continue to investigate. Traffic continues to be re-routed around the collision and all contributing factors are being considered. Heavy fog was reported in the area this morning at the time of the collision.

Redwater victim services have attended the school and are offering assistance with all involved.

"Our thoughts are with the family members of the deceased, students and staff, and the community of Thorhild during this difficult time," says Corporal Ronald Bumbry, RCMP Media Relations Officer.



The Review
 Box 850, 4720 - 50 Ave.,
 Redwater, AB T0A 2W0

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- Publications Mail Registration No. 8521
- Canada Post Agreement No. 40051458

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A sister publication to *The Free Press*, Morinville, Alberta; and the digital edition *The Heartland eXtra*.

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