RAISE TAXES OR CUT SERVICES?

Thorhild County facing tough budget decisions

During the next few weeks Thorhild County council will look for ways to balance the $2.5 million deficit in its draft 2020 budget. Cutting out costs or finding additional funds (such as increased taxes).

“This will probably be the most difficult budget council has seen,” said interim CAO Carol Revega at the beginning of the Nov. 22 draft budget presentation, noting reduced provincial grant funding and the economic climate of the province have reduced the county’s revenue.

“Council has some difficult decisions to make.”

Corporate Services director Janelle Cornelius explained the 2020 budget was impacted by an anticipated substantial assessment decrease, a previously set cost of living allowance (COLA) increase in the union agreement and a few potential new projects.

“Council must decide how to manage this deficit,” Cornelius said. She advised there are several ways that could be done: increased tax rates, decreased service levels, elimination or deferral of capital purchases and use of reserves or accumulated surplus.

Due to the current economic state in the oil and gas sector in Alberta, the county anticipates writing off $1.4 million in 2019 municipal taxes. That loss in tax revenue was calculated into the 2020 draft budget.

“Our overall budget is not sustainable without seeing either an increase in assessments or an increase in mill rates,” said Cornelius.

The draft operating budget has revenues of $25.5 million and expenditures of $25.9 million for an operating deficit of $550,000 (had a $1.7 million surplus in 2019). Adding the draft capital budget of $2.1 million makes a total deficit of $2.5 million.

Council’s budget increased tax percent, from $451,700 in 2019 to $446,400 in 2020. That includes doubling contracted services from $10,000 to $20,000 to cover strategic planning, increasing legal fees from $1,000 to $2,000, mileage and subsistence from $30,000 to $35,000 and salaries and benefits from $340,800 to $349,800.

Administration’s draft 2020 budget of $1.93 million is slightly more than its 2019 budget of $1.9 million. It includes the staff COLA and a 15 percent increase in insurance costs.

The county medical clinic budget increased from $772,400 in 2019 to $779,900 in 2020; however, the 2020 costs will be partially offset by new grant funding of $125,000 from the Primary Care Network.

The Planning and Development department’s net deficit of $585,600 (was $499,000 in 2019) includes increased contracted services costs from $66,000 in 2019 to $226,200 in 2020. This is for GIS layers, Globe Imagery, county ownership maps and an off-site levy model and bylaw.

Emergency Services are expected to have few changes with the net 2019 budget of $443,900 increasing to $458,700 in 2020.

Public Works common services is budgeted for a slight increase from $8.3 million in 2019 to $8.4 million in 2020. The largest changes are in contracted services (increased from $52,000 in 2019 to $132,000 in 2020) and repairs and maintenance ($27,000 in 2019 and $45,800 in 2020).

Roads and hamlets is budgeted for a substantial increase, from $2.4 million to 2019 to almost $3 million in 2020. Significant increases are expected in gravel reclamation plan and surface materials lease renewal. Bridge and culvert repair is budgeted to increase from $158,000 in 2019 to $454,506 in 2020 to cover the cost of engineering for bridge maintenance and inspections.

The nearly $6.6 million capital budget includes $2.1 million in county funds, $2.9 million in potential grants, $1.3 million in transfers to reserves (mostly allocated to large purchases in the next few years) and $314,000 in trade-ins. That covers 85 projects and purchases and includes 29 transfers to reserves for purchases and projects in future years.
Community Events Calendar
December 2019

Redwater Fellowship of Churches Food Bank Christmas Hampers
If you live in the Redwater area and are in need of a Christmas food hamper, please contact the Food Bank at 780-942-2061.

Deadline to register is December 10th (No exceptions)

AN INTRODUCTION TO BOARD GOVERNANCE: UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
A WORKSHOP FOR NON-PROFIT AND VOLUNTEER BOARDS
Saturday, January 25, 2020
8:00am - 4:30pm
Pembina Place
$15 includes lunch and snacks
Register by January 16, 2020 at the Community Services Office, 780-942-4101

Topics to be Covered: Understanding legal responsibilities; roles and responsibilities of board members; organizational planning and financial responsibilities; liability and risk management; building a strong team.

Need information or assistance?
One call can connect you to community groups, resources & information:
Town of Redwater - Family & Community Support Services
780-942-4101
Sturgeon Community Resource Network
780-923-2374

WANT FOR EXTRA PUBLIC SKATING AND SHINY HOCKEY OVER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!
Sponsorship and naming opportunities are available at Pembina Place Arena. Contact Kris Andersen at 780-942-3555 for more info.
Emergency & Enforcement Services will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items & toys for the Thorhild County Christmas Hampers.

Light Up!
sponsored by Shell
Sunday,
December 8th
3-5pm at
Thorhild Community Hall
FREE SKATE with SPIDERMAN & PRINCESS
FREE HOT DOGS & HOT CHOCOLATE
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS WITH SANTA MADE POSSIBLE BY NORTH CORRIDOR CO-OP (FREE DIGITAL COPY BY E-MAIL)
BON FIRE & FIREWORKS to Follow
Sponsored by Horizon Agriplex

Thorstead Kindergarten class worked hard to build a very tall straw structure in their class on Nov. 22nd. Mason Hennessey steadies himself to get as high as he can!

A Gibbons man was arrested and a Redwater man is being sought in regard to a break-in and theft at the Long Lake Ski Area.

On Nov. 11 at approximately 12:30 p.m., Boyle RCMP were dispatched to a break and enter at the Long Lake Ski Hill in Thorhild County, just outside of Boyle. The suspects gained access to the buildings on the property and stole various items. RCMP reviewed video surveillance on site and identified two suspects, with one being subsequently arrested by the RCMP shortly after.

A 34-year-old man from Gibbons was charged with the following criminal code offences: Break and Enter (X2) and breach of recognizance.

Police continued their investigation and identified the second suspect involved. As a result an arrest warrant has been issued for a 32-year-old man from Redwater.

Anyone with information regarding the incident, can contact the Boyle RCMP Detachment at (780) 689-4081 or their local police. To remain anonymous contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the “P3 Tips” app.
Thorhild & District Agricultural Society
Annual General Meeting
Monday, Dec. 9/19
7:00 P.M. at the Thorhild Agriplex
Everyone Welcome!

Redwater volunteer Rachel Cole received the Redwater & District Chamber of Commerce 2019 Youth Empowerment Award.

“I like to interact with the community and be involved,” said Cole. “It’s a lot of fun.” She particularly enjoys volunteering with children’s activities such as art and cookie decorating during community events like Kris Kringle and Family Day.

Those are just two of the free events put on by the town’s Community Services Board, on which Cole is the Youth representative. This is her second year on the board.

“My older brother, Noah, was on it before me, and he encouraged me to take the position,” Cole said. “I’d recommend it. It’s a lot of fun, and the group of volunteers at all the events are very friendly.”

In addition to her work with the Community Services Board, Cole volunteers at the Redwater Museum and Redwater School, where she is a grade 12 student.

She is the yearbook editor, takes pictures for the yearbook, tutors math, keeps score at sports events such as volleyball tournaments and participates in projects such as the mural students painted with members of the Redwater Art Society. It is downtown on 49 Street.

Cole spends a lot of time studying. When she has free time, she likes to paint pictures.

Next year Cole plans to begin taking her Bachelor of Science degree at Concordia University of Edmonton. After completing her undergraduate studies, she intends to become an audiologist (hearing specialist).
WEDNESDAY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The next rural women’s conference will be held on:

**Time:** 8am-6pm
**Minimum:** 6 participants
**Location:** Thorhild County Council Chambers
**Fee:** $285

License to operate any vehicles with these types of brakes. You must complete this program and pass the registries equipped with air brakes. You may be made verbally, in writing or both. Please note that verbal presentations shall be limited to a maximum of five minutes. Those persons who have registered with the Development Clerk shall speak first. No further public comments will be received. Council members will not be able to speak on the subject of the public bylaw(s) unless after a decision has been reached. Additional information may be obtained by contacting:

Wayne Shanko, M.P., RPP, MCP
Manager of Planning and Development
Phone Number: 780-398-2825 e-mail: wayne.shanks@thorhildcounty.com

Dated: November 5, 2019

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Bylaw No. 24-2019 Land Use Bylaw Amendment

Purpose: To allow Urban Chickens within Residential Districts of Thorhild County Hamlets

Take notice that pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, as amended, Thorhild County Council has scheduled a Public Hearing in regard to the proposed Bylaw 24-2019, being a Bylaw to amend Thorhild County Land Use Bylaw No. 1194-2015, as amended, as follows:

That Section 1.7 of Bylaw 1194-2015, being the Land Use Bylaw of Thorhild County, is hereby amended by adding and/or amending the following definitions in alphabetical order in the section:

“Accessory Building” means a building separate and subordinate to the main building and use which is incidental to the main building and is located on the same parcel of land. An accessory building includes a garage, carport, shed, storage buildings, hobby greenhouse, sun deck, patio, hen coop, permanently installed private swimming pool or hot tub, and similar buildings. Where an accessory development is attached to the main building on a lot by a roof or an open or enclosed structure, except carports where vehicular access to the rear yard is not obstructed, said accessory development is part of the main building and not an accessory building and shall, unless otherwise specified in this Bylaw, adhere to the yard and other requirements for main buildings.

“Hen Coop” means an accessory building used for Urban Chicken keeping.

“Livestock” means livestock as defined in the Agricultural Operation Practices Act and does not include Urban Chickens that are kept pursuant to Thorhild County Urban Chicken Bylaw.

“Urban Chicken” means a Hen that is at least 16 weeks of age and kept for non-commercial purposes.

That Section 7.20 of Bylaw 1194-2015, being the Land Use Bylaw of Thorhild County, is hereby amended by adding the following section 3 and renumbering the remaining sections in numerical order:

(3) Notwithstanding Section 7.20(1) and (2) Urban Chickens may be permitted within Residential Districts located within Thorhild County Hamlets, not including RMH1 and in accordance with Thorhild County’s Urban Chicken Bylaw.

Date: Tuesday December 10, 2019

Location: Thorhild County Council Chambers (801-1 Street, Thorhild)

The proposed Bylaw may be viewed at the County Office and is available on the Thorhild County Website www.thorhildcounty.com/Residents/UrbanChickens. You may request a copy via email from kev.pierce@thorhildcounty.com or by phone at 780-398-2802.

The Public Hearing on Bylaw 24-2019 will commence at 1:30 pm. Persons interested in speaking at a public hearing of the register with the Development Clerk in person (phone: 780-398-2802 or email kev.pierce@thorhildcounty.com) prior to the public hearing. Presentations by the public may be made verbally, in writing or both. Please note that verbal presentations shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Those persons who have registered with the Development Clerk shall speak first, followed by other persons at the meeting who have not registered to speak but who wish to address Council.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting:

Wayne Shanko, Manager of Planning and Development
Phone Number: 780-398-2825 e-mail: wayne.shanks@thorhildcounty.com

NOTICE TO ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS

THORHILD & LONG LAKE TRANSFER STATIONS HOLIDAY OPERATIONAL DAYS

DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020

Christmas Week

Long Lake

Thursday, December 26th – CLOSED

Long Lake

Friday, December 27th – CLOSED

Sunday, December 29th – CLOSED

Monday, December 30th – OPEN

Saturday, December 28th – CLOSED

Thursday, December 26th – CLOSED

Sunday, December 29th – OPEN

Monday, December 30th – OPEN

Saturday, December 28th – CLOSED

Monday, December 30th – OPEN

Saturday, January 2nd

Sunday, January 1st

Wednesday, December 25th – CLOSED

Thursday, December 26th – CLOSED

Friday, December 27th – CLOSED

Saturday, December 28th – CLOSED

Thursday, December 25th – CLOSED

Friday, December 27th – CLOSED

Saturday, December 28th – CLOSED

Thursday, December 25th – CLOSED

Friday, December 27th – CLOSED

Saturday, December 28th – CLOSED

Thur...
Ice fishing a challenge as insurance tells County to lock Half Moon Lake gate

People who go ice fishing on Half Moon Lake can not access the lake through Thorhild County’s park on the north shore. The park gates will be locked again this winter, so fisher folk need to use the day campground to get to the lake. Thorhild County councillors appeared unhappy about it, but unanimously passed a motion to keep the gates closed during the winter season and not allow access to the lake through the county campground. The decision was based on information from the county’s insurance vendor, which stated that if the gate was open the public would assume the county was monitoring the ice and had determined it was safe to go out on the ice. That would make the county liable for people using the lake.

“IT’S getting ridiculous, it really is,” said reeve Kevin Grumetza. Council briefly discussed the Radway Fish Pond, where the county clears the parking lot during winter but does not block off the pond. Community Services manager Carolyn Sedlowsky explained that because the county does not clear the access from the parking lot to the pond it is not liable if individuals make their own way to the water.

Heartland working to capitalize on opportunities for investment

Alberta Industrial Heartland Association (AIHA) working to capitalize on opportunities for investment.

“There’s an immense opportunity right now,” said AIHA government relations manager Brian Nicholson during Redwater’s Nov. 14 annual fall Business Mixer. “The petro-chemical investment cycle is right here, right now.” He said that with over $40 billion in existing investment Alberta’s Industrial Heartland is Canada’s largest hydrogen processing center. And it has the potential to attract another $30 billion in investment by 2030.

Moving toward that mark are Canada’s first two polypropylene plants. The Canada Kuwait plant will be a $4.5 billion investment south of Redwater. Construction has not started, but the company is in the process of developing a vendor list of subcontractors within a 100 km radius.

Interipelting’s $4.1 billion plant is under construction in the Heartland near Fort Saskatchewan. More than half of that investment is, going into the local economy. It’s construction created $13,000 direct and indirect jobs. Nicholson said it is “currently on time and on budget.”

Nicholson listed several reasons why petro-chemical development is good for Alberta, starting with one petro-chemical job generates five other jobs. It also gives Alberta higher value from resources, provides skilled, high paying jobs, and reduces the boom and bust cycle of operations.

The AIHA promotes responsible and sustainable development in the 582 square kms of land between Redwater, Gibbons, Fort Saskatchewan and Lamont.

“We market the Heartland internationally,” said Nicholson. His organization works on investment attraction, planning for development (infrastructure, land use), community engagement and government relations.

He said the Heartland has world class companies operating world scale facilities, and more could be coming.

“There is international interest in the area,” he said. “And $10 billion projects are massing.”

Among the attractions is the location is close to resources, cost advantaged feedstock, pipeline and rail networks and a skilled work force. Disadvantages include the high cost of construction and attractive development packages offered elsewhere.

Nicholson said the second round of the province’s petrochemical diversity program that was announced in October is a significant attraction for investment. Other conditions needed to go with it include access to markets, transportation and logistics networks and utilities.

The AIHA was formed in 1998 by Sturgeon County, Fort Saskatchewan, Lamont County and Strathcona County. Edmonton joined the partnership in 2010 and the next year Redwater, Gibbons and Bruderheim became associate members.

With the entry gate to Thorhild County’s Half Moon Lake park locked until the park and campground open in spring, people going ice fishing need to go through accesses (inset) such as the day use campground in the Westlock County subdivision west of the park or trails through the bush.
Redwater looking for meaningful recognition and reconciliation

The Town of Redwater is researching a salutation to recognize Treaty 6 and First Nations and Metis people at special town events. During its Nov. 19 meeting council decided to have a simple, meaningful and respectful salutation to present on special occasions and to include some Treaty 6 and Metis flags with the Redwater, Alberta and Canada flags that are hung from the downtown light poles during summer. As well, an acknowledgement of special times such as Metis Week will be posted on the town website in the same way the town recognized Ukrainian Day in Alberta.

Coun. Dave McRae noted that a number of municipalities have raised Treaty 6 and Metis flags recently as a reconciliation action and some organizations begin meetings and events with acknowledgements they are on Treaty 6 land. He asked council to consider approving a “meaningful and respectful” greeting to be used by the town at meetings and presentations.

“I’m for it,” said coun. Connie Butler. Her only concern was whether such an action would be followed by requests from other groups for similar recognition.

Coun. Joanne Williams supported having a salutation to present at special events, but not to over-use it so it does not lose its value. She pointed out the town acknowledged Ukrainian Day on its website but not Metis Week or Aboriginal Day, and said it is just a matter of education.

“I’ve been giving it quite a bit of thought,” said mayor Mel Smith. He felt a salutation would be appropriate at special events and presentations but not every meeting. He did not favor following the trend and setting up a fourth flag pole by the town administration office. Instead, he suggested Metis and Treaty 6 flags could be included with the flags on downtown light poles.

A number of municipalities open meetings with prayers,” Smith said. “Are we going to do that?” I would hope not."

Butcher liked the idea of downtown flags, saying they would bring awareness and promote Metis Crossing, a Metis Nation of Alberta development on the North Saskatchewan River south of Smoky Lake.

Coun. Les Dorosh said he liked the salutation used by Oдре Park School at the start of special events.

“I feel to keep it simple and respectful is important,” said coun. Dwanya Sprecher. “There’s two sides to it.” He felt recognition should be done with tact so the town would not be jamming it down someone’s throat. Administration will draft a salutation for council to consider.

The OPRS greeting Dorosh referred to reads: “We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Metis, Dene and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.”

Redwater HYPE (Helping Young People Excel) hosted a family gingerbread house building activity Nov. 22. The Redwater Art Society opened its studio for the gingerbread decorating event.

HYPE: manager Carina Chemoweth said the fun event was part of the mental health capacity building her organization was created to generate. For the Christmas season HYPE is giving out special Advent calendars. For young children the calendars give a fun family activity for each of the 24 days. Older youths get Advent calendars with 24 ways to take care of themselves during the Christmas season.

HYPE is a student-initiated school-based wellness initiative aimed at increasing mental health awareness in Redwater School and Odré Park School with support from, and extending to, parents, teachers, and the community. A partnership between Stonewall School Division and Alberta Health Services, with support from Redwater FCSS and the Redwater Alliance Church, resulted in the funding from an Alberta Health Services Mental Health Capacity Building grant for HYPE.

Redwater HYPE hosts Christmas activities

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Get rid of old buildings to prevent firefighting bills

Burning old farm buildings under controlled conditions, and with a burning permit, could prevent unexpected fires and fire fighting bills.

“We encourage people to push down old buildings and take care of them in winter with a controlled burn,” said Thorhild County fire chief Dave Fiddler during the Nov. 20 council meeting. “That way we don’t get these fires.”

He spoke during a council discussion regarding a request by property owner Doug Kotyk to have a $6,900 fire fighting invoice reduced. The structure fire occurred July 30 at an unoccupied farm site. Because the structure was not under power or gas, the fire was immediately deemed suspicious.

Coun. Joyce Pierce questioned if council wants to consider putting old buildings into the Unsightly Premises Bylaw. “Is having our CPOs (community peace officers) suggest to people to burn them somehow?” she asked.

Coun. Wayne Crosswell commented that people keep old houses for nostalgic reasons.

“We’ve emphasized over and over again, people have to have adequate insurance,” said reeve Kevin Grammets.

Pierce noted that council declined a similar request to waive a fire fighting invoice for a vehicle burned in a yard when the owners were not there. She said council can not micro-manage and politicize the process by dealing with this on a case-by-case basis.

Council unanimously voted to decline to reduce Kotyk’s bill. The county Emergency Services bylaw currently states the property owner or person responsible for a fire (or their insurance) is to pay the first $10,000 of a fire fighting invoice and the county will cover the remaining cost. This bylaw is under review.

Chamber promoting local shopping

The Redwater & District Chamber of Commerce anticipates circulating more than $50,000 to the local economy through this year’s Postcard To Christmas event. That amount was kept in the area last December through Postcard To Christmas local shopping.

“We are getting ready to launch our Shop Local Postcard to Christ- mas campaign for the month of December,” said Chamber presi- dent Nicole Krill. “The response from businesses has been fabulous. We can’t thank them enough for their generosity and participation.”

She said 34 businesses are signed up for this year’s event (four more than last year) while 38 businesses from the Redwater, Sturgeon Coun- ty and Thorhild County contributed prizes for shoppers: gift cards, cer- tificates, baskets and bags valued from $20 to $250.

The 2019 grand prize will be $500 cash, with weekly prizes of a minimum $50 gift card or gift cer- tificate usable at participating local businesses. To enter shoppers col- lect stamps on their postcards for every $10 they spend at participat- ing local businesses. Each postcard accumulates a maximum of $100 in stamps (a receipt of over $100 qual- ifies for one postcard).

Each participating business will mail postcards when purchases are made. Completed postcards must be dropped off at the drop box located at Redwater Red Apple Store no later than 6 p.m. each Sat- urday. Weekly draws will be held each Sunday at noon starting Dec. 8.

“All the completed postcards entered over the month will qualify for the Grand Prize draw to be held Dec. 31 at noon.”

“The Chamber understands that we may not have everything in our communities, but it’s important to shop local as much as possible and help our businesses survive,” Krill said. “These businesses hire local people and help support our local organizations. It is vital to keep our communities strong in these hard times.”

Krill reviewed the program for Thorhild County council Nov. 20 and asked council to support or partner in some of the Chamber’s initiatives such as various programs that would benefit the Chamber and promote businesses, educate busi- ness owners, promote the county and encourage residents to shop local.

“With the hard economic times that businesses have had over the last five years, businesses are look- ing for ways to diversify, improve and be more educated about how to run their businesses more effective- ly,” said Krill. She added that infor- mation sessions could be set up with organizations like the BIA, Thorhild County, Business Development Bank of Canada and Business Link.

Another event which could be sponsored is the second annual Local Business Awards Night planned for October 2020. The first one was held this year, and includ- ed two award nominations for two businesses in Thorhild County.

“We had tremendous success with that,” Krill said.

It was one of several successes the Chamber accomplished since it re-organized in 2016. It hosted can- didate forums prior to elections for municipal, provincial and federal representatives. It also was instru- mental in reviving the Ride For Hunger fundraiser for the Redwater Fellowship of Churches Food Bank which serves the Redwater area and Thorhild County.

“That was a huge boost for them,” said Krill. “They expect to give out well over 500 hampers for 2019.”

The Chamber first incorporated in 1962. It was inactive from 2003 to 2016 but currently has 36 busi- nesses and community members from Redwater, Sturgeon County and Thorhild County. Council accepted Krill’s presen- tation as information and took no further action.

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Women Rising supports entrepreneurs

Women Rising, a program that supports women entrepreneurs, received the 2019 Municipal Affairs Business Incubator Award.

“When a community supports its small businesses, we all win,” said Roxanne Carr of Rox Strategic Management during Redwater’s Nov. 14 annual fall Business Mixer. “Small businesses are the heart of communities.”

Carr, Bruderheim councillor Judy Schueler and CAO Patty Podoborozny gave a presentation on Women Rising.

Carr said the Women Rising workshops bring in speakers with keys to success for rural business women. They include information on financing, communication, branding and e-commerce. As well, the program creates networking opportunities through which business women can learn to listen to understand and to build relationships.

Statistics Carr shared included that in 2018 just over 15 percent of Alberta women were business owners, and the 141,300 self employed women in Alberta created over 279,000 jobs.

Alberta created over 279,000 jobs.

Women Rising supports entrepreneurs.

Smith, Bruderheim councillor Judy Schueler and Roxanne Carr of Rox Strategic Management pose for photos at the Women Rising, a program that supports women entrepreneurs, received the 2019 Municipal Affairs Business Incubator Award.

Redwater Economic Development officer Ann Hall, Redwater mayor Mel Smith, Bruderheim councillor Judy Schueler and Roxanne Carr of Rox Strategic Management pose for photos at Redwater’s Nov. 14 annual fall Business Mixer.
**Council disgusted by cancellation of funding for children’s programs**

Thorhild County’s Parent Link and Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs may end March 31, 2020. The type and scope of replacement programs are not known.

During the Nov. 20 council meeting Community Services manager and Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) co-ordinator Carolyn Sedlowsky reported a letter received Nov. 6 from Alberta Children’s Services advised the county’s ECD program funding and the Pembina Gateway Parent Link Network’s program funding would not be renewed.

The next day the province called for Family Resource Network Expressions of Interest submissions for collaborative programs based on the province’s recently released Well-being and Resilience Framework, which the county will apply for Expressions of Interest, said Sedlowsky. “We would be a spoke on someone else’s hub.” She explained the county can not become a hub for these services because it does not provide diversion, vaccinations or First Nations programs. Those services, which require accreditation certificates, are currently provided provincially to county residents.

“So individuals that use these services will have to travel to use them,” asked nce Kevin Grumetza.

“We have no idea,” replied Sedlowsky. “We don’t have a lot of answers yet.”

“We should draft a letter to the Minister of Children’s Services (Rebecca Schulz) to express our absolute disgust,” said Grumetza. “We need to express our concerns.”

Sedlowsky said she feels these changes have been in the works for a few years and the province knows there will be an interruption of services. The county is required to write a plan to end the program if it does not acquire a new source of funds or fund it with county money.

Parent Link and ECD programs qualify to be run with FCSS funds, but if the county transfers in FCSS money to them, programs currently funded by FCSS (Family School Liaison, summer programs) would be impacted.

Interim CAO Renee said council can consider this issue during upcoming budget deliberations. Some options to consider are phasing the programs end to March 31, 2020, phasing out and closing programs at the June break in programming; the county funding the programs so they continue to operate until the expressions of interest are decided upon, or have the programs continue and be entirely funded by the county.

Grumetza said there is trickle down effect when the provincial government makes cuts to its budget. “The public has to understand there’s got to be cuts somewhere,” he said. “Out the null rates will go up a lot.”

This year the Parent Link program was funded with $60,200 from the provincial government and $41,700 in county funds. The ECD program received $10,350 from the province and $15,050 from Ottawa. och programs are School child care initiatives at the Love Your Dance A Thon event to raise funds to help offset the costs of attending festivals this year. Together, the dancers raised $2,500 towards their goal in exchange for offers of gift cards and hotel passes. The ECD program is the only program to have received a donation of $10,350 from the province.

As usual a big Christmas tree will be set up on the Senior Centre property as has been done since 2005. At that time it was called ‘The Memory Christmas Tree’. The seniors ran this project for 13 years. Bethesda Food Bank, Chamber of Commerce, Vilna Library, and the clubs that received a donation were: Vilna Ukrainian Dance Club, Vilna & District Fire Department, Sunshine Kiids Play School, C.O.P.S., The Food Bank, Chamber of Commerce, Vilna Library, STARS Ambulance, and Haying in the 30’s.

For this year Parent Link and ECD programs have served 1,440 individuals through 17 programs. They included a range of activities from one-on-one support and our seat checks to Kids Cook and Messy Monday.

**Christmas tree continues to bring season to Vilna**

On Nov. 7 the members of the Vilna Senior Cen­tre held a meeting to discuss the future of the Chris­mas Tree and also to make plans for their annual Christmas party.

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Studio Space for Hire - Perfect for group class activities such as Dance, Yoga, Karate and Fitness - Large open space with mounted wall mirrors - Daytime - Evening and Weekends Rentals - Available Hourly - Half Day - Full Day - Weekly - Monthly - Book your group class activity today.

FOR RENT

EMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITY Administrator Village of Vilna

Located just one and one-half miles northeast of Edmonton in Alberta’s Lakelands, the Village of Vilna is a community of about 270 residents nestled within a rich agricultural heritage and beautiful scenery.

The successful candidate will provide overall management as required under Alberta’s Municipal Government Act.

The position will champion the challenging and diverse tasks in the municipal office and provide guidance and leadership for effective and efficient municipal operations, development, project management, and bylaw enforcement as well as assisting with direction to the Public Works Department.

Excellent visionary, communication, leadership, monitoring problem-solving, super irony skills, combined with municipal experience are desired as is the ability to work collaboratively with Council, staff, regional municipalities, and intergovernmental bodies.

Preference will be given to applicants with municipal experience as well as a strong financial background. Equivalency will be considered.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

DEADLINE: December 11, 2019 at 4:00 PM

Please submit resumes to:

Village of Vilna
Box 20, Vilna, Alberta T0A 3L0
Phone: 780-236-3602 Fax: 780-236-3022 Email: vilnavillagemgr@icloud.com

We thank all applicants in advance; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.


WANTED CLASSICS Auto - Any Condition: Porsche 356, 911-912, 930, Mercedes, 190-230, 250/3, 300, BMW, Jaguar, XK6, XJ12, XJ6/8, XJS, Split Window Corvette, OR any European British Cars. Rusty, rotten or in Show Car; Filler free paid $350! Call Chris 613-894-1141 or certified2@live.ca

REAL ESTATE

1600 ACRES OF GOOD QUALITY Farmland for Sale in In. SE Saskatchewan $2,787,000. 1560 Cultivated Acres, 1250 Pasture, Quarter with mineral rights for sale as well. Auctioned November 30th. Call Doug 306-716-2671.

RENTALS

MORINVILLE - Chateau Apartments - 1 studio, 1 bedroom apartment and 1 - 1 bedroom + den available for rent. Rent incentive – Security deposit only $500. Very quiet, 50+ small pets welcome, no smoking building, centrally located, near shopping, school, transit. Rent includes heat, cable, internet, 1 above ground parking stall. Phone 780-572-3343.

MOBILE HOME (40’ x 7’ building) 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, on North Morinville road. $1200/month includes utilities. N.E.P. Responsible working tenant preferred. Call 780-918-5589.

REDWATER - 2 bath townhouse in a complex, immediately, $955 + $157 gas & water per month. Recently repossessed and will be fit. Full basement with lots of storage. Small pet friendly, shared fenced yard. D & D references required. For more info call 780-942-3101.

MORINVILLE - Note Farm Property – 35 acres, 1-2 bedroom suite suitable for living, all utilities, cable and internet included. Small pets considered. Smoking is not allowed. Separate garbage area. References required. Call 780-964-5457 or 780-910-4597.

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JOURNALISTS, GRAPHIC ARTISTS, Marketing and more. Alberta’s weekly newspapers are looking for creative, driven, experienced journalists, copywriters and designers to join our top-notch newsroom.

You will work collaboratively with our experienced editors and design team to produce compelling, lively news and feature articles, as well as importantly, to help achieve our editorial and business goals on a day-to-day basis.

Here’s what we’re looking for:

• Excellent writing and news judgment
• Ability to write stories quickly and accurately
• An eye for detail 
• A passion for community news
• Ability to think creatively, outside the box

Some experience in print journalism is required. Undergraduate journalism or communication degree is a plus but not required.

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Maple Leaf Boneless Pork Loins Halves 1\textdollar;99 lb OR 4\textdollar;39 kg

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