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The Beaver County

Chronicle

A Free Weekly Publication Serving All of Beaver County

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Ryalta Industries Ltd.



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The historic buildings of churches and homes in the Viking Museum reflect the rural beginnings of the area. They are augmented by the blossoming canola plants in a field on the east side of the museum.

PATRICIA HARCOURT PHOTO

Planting 1,000 trees in west end of county helps with protections

The Global Foundation for Social Harmony and Sustainable Development has completed the most extensive tree planting in its history thanks to a record number of volunteers from across Alberta and Canada.

“We planted over 1,000 trees this Spring, alone,” said President Winston Gereluk, “and we will reach nearly 18,000 by next year.

“Our experience points to the urgency of supporting the wetlands and protecting watersheds in our region, all of which is within the UN-designated Beaver Hills Biosphere east of Edmonton, Canada,” said Gereluk.

“However, our efforts to protect watersheds and

stem climate change will be to little avail unless other landowners in our wetland area join in with their own efforts.”

This year’s planting by GFoundation (GF) spanned two different watersheds, focusing on wetland restoration sites, forested and open spaces, as well as pilot and experimental plots, with several nurseries.

While GF’s tree planting was coordinated for the first time with surrounding landowners, a comprehensive watershed plan is needed for the region to save wetlands or restore them.

“Because we also care for the planted trees during their first years of growth, we are keenly aware

of the large number of challenges that are involved in protecting our watersheds through such plantings,” said Gereluk.

Earlier this year GFoundation created a special committee to focus on watershed-related activities in the southern portion of the Biosphere. A consultation meeting is planned this Fall with key groups to shape the committee’s activities, especially with landowners.

Gereluk thanked the volunteers for this year’s planting and urged them to continue taking part in GF efforts by attending GF’s annual meeting on Sunday next August 25 in Edmonton. For details go to gfoundation.ca.

Experts address ever-evolving risks of social media on youth

Brenda Sawatzky

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It should come as no surprise to anyone that the years following the COVID-19 pandemic have revealed a lot of difficult things about human nature. Not the least of these insights is the negative role social media now plays in the lives of many young people.

Driven to physical isolation during the first two years of the pandemic, youth naturally turned to social media to maintain relationships and stay connected.

But experts say that this screentime obsession hasn’t tapered off much since the restrictions were lifted.

“Emerging evidence published since the Canadian Paediatric Society’s 2019 position statement on digital media use by school-aged children and adolescents correlates social media use and adverse mental health impacts—effects that have magnified since the onset of the pandemic,” says the Canadian Paediatric Society’s (CPS) website. “Evidence gaps exist on the long-term impacts of social media use and overuse due to novel technologies, but there are enough red flags to warrant action. We are in the

midst of a youth mental health crisis that demands meaningful and conscientious mitigation measures.”

Long before the pandemic, parents and experts alike were already recognizing the detrimental effect of social media on children in terms of broad content exposure and online behaviours such as sexting and cyberbullying.

According to the CPS, though, screentime remains a defining factor in the research of healthy media use among kids.

Based on a study of students across Ontario and Alberta, the CPS says that the average high school

Continued on BCC4

Holden Community Hall Association
Presents
The Country Legends Tribute Show
With Your Favorite Songs From



For Tickets & More Info, Please call

Village of Holden Office 780-688-3928
or Lynnette Pyzik 780-603-7456

Cash or etransfer holdencommunity@gmail.com

Appearing Holden Community Hall, 4919 49 Ave, Holden, AB
Date & Time Friday, September 6th, 2024
Ticket Price \$30. Doors Open 6pm, Show at 7pm



Landfill & Ryley Transfer Station:
50117 Rge Rd 173 (HWY 854) Box 322, Ryley, AB T0B 4A0
Weekdays 9:00am - 4:30pm;
Saturdays / STATS 9:00am - 3:00pm; Closed Sundays
NOTE: customers must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to closing;

Administration building
Mon to Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm, Closed from 12:00 - 1:00pm
Toll Free: 1.855.221.2038 Ph: 780.663.2038

Lindbrook Transfer Station:
51008 Rge Rd 201 Ph: 780.662.2704
Tues 10:30am - 5:30pm; Thurs 11:30am - 6:30pm;
Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Tofield Transfer Station:
51032 Rge Rd 191 Ph: 780.662.2731
Wed, Fri & Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Viking Transfer Station:
12503 Twp Rd 480 Ph: 780.718.7956
Tues 10:30am - 5:30pm; Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Kinsella Transfer Station:
46418 Rge Rd 113 Ph: 780.226.6802
Wed 11:00am - 5:00pm; Fri 11:00am - 5:00pm

Please note: All transfer stations except for the Ryley Transfer Station are closed on Statutory holidays.



2024 COUNTY CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

(SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

	START DATE	EST. END DATE
Culvert Maintenance	Ongoing	Nov 1
Patching oil roads throughout the season	Ongoing	Sep 29
Terra-Cem Constructed in the following phases: Phase 1 (Cement), Phase 2 (Chip Seal - 1st Lift), Phase 3 (Chip Seal - 2nd lift) Phase 4 (Final sweep of Chips)		
• Twp 490 between Rge Rd 124 & Rge Rd 120 ◦ Phases 1 & 2 Complete	Ongoing	Jun 3
• Rge Rd 120 from Twp 490 north for 1 KM ◦ Phases 1 & 2 Complete	Ongoing	Jun 17
• Holden Streets ◦ Phase 1 Complete	Ongoing	Jul 4
• Rge Rd 161A between Hwy 14 & Hwy 855	Ongoing	Jul 9
• Rge Rd 200 between Hwy 630 & Blackfoot Grazing Reserve entrance	Jul 11	Jul 21
• Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & Twp 504	Jul 30	Aug 8
Rechip 2 miles TBD (Contracted for late summer)	Aug 12	Aug 23
Pavement Overlay		
• RGE RD 205 from TWP RD 510 to south County border	Jul 3	Jul 19
• TWP RD 510 from HWY 833 to RGE RD 201	Jul 3	Jul 19
Shoulder Pulls		
• Shoulder pull Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & Twp 504	Jul 24	Jul 29
Backsloping (location TBD)	Oct 2	Nov 1
Gravelling	Ongoing	Dec 22
Dust Control- 1st Application		Complete
Dust Control- 2nd Application	Aug 8	Aug 15
TBD - To be Determined		

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

49th Street in Holden and 161A from Highway 855 to Highway 14: The soil stabilizing for the road base with soil cement is now complete and will be receiving the first layer of chip seal, there may be delays as work crews' direct traffic in order to work safely. There will be many loose rocks after the chip seal layer is applied and speed limits will be reduced on these roads once opened until the project is complete.

Range Road 200 Construction: Over the next few weeks, Range Road 200 from highway 630 north to the entrance of Blackfoot, will be upgraded from an oiled surface to an all-weather hard surfaced road. This involves stabilizing the road base with soil cement before applying two coats of "chip seal". While this process is much different from the process to pave a road with asphalt, the end result will seem similar to residents and the travelling public resulting in a road that is not dusty when it is dry, nor muddy when it is wet.

During this construction period, parts of the roads may be closed for crew safety. Please use alternative routes; detours will be clearly marked. If you must drive through construction zones, proceed with caution (local traffic only). Beaver County's goal is to provide a healthy, injury free work environment for all employees, contractors, visitors and general public. Already this year we have had people exceeding the posted speed limit through our construction zones, endangering staff, contractors and the public.

There are potential hazards to the public and vehicles during the construction process. This can include heavy machinery, dust or mud, road material such as gravel, asphalt coatings and rock chips.

We apologize for the inconvenience that road maintenance and upgrading causes, but the same roads that receive the most traffic also need the most maintenance. Thank-you for your patience and understanding during construction. If you have any questions, please call the Beaver County Service centre at 780-663-3730.



Keep our workers and yourself
safe - don't RIP through
constructions zones!



TOFIELD WESTERN DAYS

AUG. 8 – 11, 2024

PRESENTED BY: 

TOFIELD SPORTSGROUNDS

THURSDAY, Aug. 8

4:30 pm Food Truck Fair, Kids Activities & Inflatables

7:00 pm: Bull Bash - Cabaret to follow

FRIDAY, Aug. 9

5 pm - 9 pm: Promenade/Street Fair

6 pm: Rodeo Slack

SATURDAY, Aug 10

9 - 11 am : Pancake Breakfast

9:30 - 5 pm: Western Market

3 pm: Rodeo Performance

9 pm : Rodeo Dance with Live Band

SUNDAY, Aug. 11

2 pm: Rodeo Performance



TOFIELD AG SOCIETY
EST. 1972

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

The following Development Applications have been APPROVED (except where otherwise noted) by the Development Authority under the provisions of Land Use Bylaw No. 98-801, subject to the right of appeal to the relevant appeal body - Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) or Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT).

APPEAL DEADLINE August 7, 2024

Appeal Body **LPRT**
Application No. 020020-24-D0041
Applicant Dandelion Renewables
Location Plan 792 1012; Lot C in NW 13-50-21-W4
Development Solar Collectors, Ground Mount (over 10m2 floor area)

APPEAL DEADLINE AUGUST 7, 2024

Appeal Body **SDAB**
Application No. 020020-24-D0043
Applicant Kurtis & Erica Mason
Location Plan 792 1674; Lot 1 located in NE 35-52-19-W4
Development Discretionary – Sea can (Buildings and Uses Accessory to Permitted Uses) with Setback Variance

APPEAL DEADLINE JULY 22, 2024

Appeal Body **SDAB**
Application No. 020020-24-D0033
Applicant Stacey & Neil Zacharias
Location Plan 812 1894; Lot 1A located in NE 35-52-19-W4
Development Discretionary Use – Home Occupation Type II (home-based massage business)

Any person wishing to appeal an application may do so by serving written notice on the prescribed form (stating reasons for the appeal) to the relevant appeal body. For information on how to appeal can be found on our website under **Services > Planning & Development > Appealing Planning Decisions**

Further information regarding the above decisions may be obtained from the County Office, Ryley, Alberta.



IMPORTANT DATES

July 17

- 9:30 AM - 12 PM: Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting
- 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Regular Council Meeting

Aug 5

- Office Closed

OPEN RFQ

Beaver County is currently accepting submissions for the following:

- RFQ2024-15INFR Transportation Shop – Industrial Heating and Ventilation System
 - Closes 10 AM (local Time), July 23, 2024.

Please find complete information for all requests on our website > **Business > Requests for Proposals & Quotes**



JOIN OUR TEAM!

We are currently looking for :

Community Peace Officer - Level 1

For more information, and details on how to apply, visit our website > Government > Careers



Labourer

Beaver County is looking for Labourer in the Public Works and Infrastructure Department for the 2024 road maintenance and construction season.

Duties may include but are not limited to: shop hand, brushing, road oil patching, packer operator, bridge maintenance, drainage improvement, culvert replacement, and beaver dam removal.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT:

- As per beaver county's policies and the collective agreement with the i.u.o.e. local 955
- Works under assigned supervisor as a labourer and may be required to perform other duties.
- Available to work non-regular hours if required, as per section six (6) "hours of work" of the Collective agreement with i.u.o.e. local 955
- Position could be between 4 and 6 months

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Valid Class 5 Drivers License with an acceptable driving record
- Willing to train and learn to operate light and heavy duty equipment and work with crews
- Mechanically Inclined considered an asset
- Opportunity to gain valuable work experience
- Must be willing to work in fluctuating climates (hot, cold, wet) and environmental conditions.
- Ability to lift 50 lbs. or more
- Safety conscious attitude

POSITION DETAILS:

- Position Type: Full Time – Temporary
- Salary: \$21.18 - \$25.77
- A driver's abstract check will be required for successful applicants.
- Closing date: Until suitable candidate is found.

TO APPLY FOR THIS POSITION:

Submit a cover letter and resume, referencing the name of the position, to the following email: careers@beaver.ab.ca

Applications can also be submitted in-person or by mail to:
PO Box 140, 5120 50 Street
Ryley, AB T0B 4A0

Beaver County thanks all applicants for their interest however only those selected for interviews will be contacted.



Mailing list

Get news, meeting highlights, the road construction schedule, the Chronicle, and more - direct to your inbox!

Website

Information on County programs and services can be found on our website, along with the latest news.

Social media

Find us on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



Youths on Social Media

Continued from BCC1

student spends more than 7.5 hours per day on various screens. For a good many of them, much of that time is spent on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat.

However, it’s not just older teens who are overly engaged in screentime.

“Three-quarters of Canadian parents are concerned about how much time children spend using media, reporting that 36 percent of their 10- to 13-year-olds spent 3 hours or more per day using digital devices for reasons unrelated to school work,” says CPS.

Emma Duerden, the Canada Research Chair in neuroscience and learning disorders at Western University, says that some of the statistics paint an even more dire picture.

According to Duerden’s research, screentime today is down only slightly from what some parents were reporting as the norm during the early months of the pandemic. At that time, reports indicated that 13 hours a day on screens for six- to 12-year-olds was common.

Using brain imaging to study the impacts of social media on children’s brains, Duerden has found that obsessive use is increasing the levels of childhood depression, anxiety, and aggression.

“Absolutely, I think this is a public health issue,” Duerden told the CBC.

In response, the U.S. surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy, put out a call in May recommending that social media platforms include health warnings on their sites and apps similar to those found on cigarette packs.

Murthy has been said to criticize tech companies for unleashing powerful technology without providing adequate safety measures or accountability.

Shortly after, Canada’s Minister of Health, Mark Holland, also went public on this subject—although he didn’t agree with Murthy’s conclusion. Warning labels wouldn’t be helpful, he said. Instead parents should be having these conversations with their kids.

What Albertans Think

One parent, Jennie Rempel, agrees with Holland. She has three children between the ages of 11 and 16.

“Warning labels will do nothing,” Rempel says. “It’s up to parents to set limits.”

It’s no easy task for any parent to manage, she admits, but it begins with open conversations with your kids.

“As parents we have to be on top of it,” she says. “Blocking them, monitoring, checking their phones and laptops.”

As well, Rempel believes that parents should be researching safer alternatives, such as Messenger Kids, which doesn’t require a Facebook profile and can be monitored by parents.

Putting a shutoff timer on the Wi-Fi router, she adds, is a good way to manage screen use for the entire family.

Another parents, Ricki Harms, agrees that there’s little benefit to a warning label on a social media site.

“I’m very thankful I grew up without social media,” says Harms. “It’s terrible for kids. Added peer pressure, more opportunities for bullying... and ridicu-

lous beauty standards for girls to try and achieve. But a warning label wouldn’t really fix any of that. If you are on it, it will affect you.”

Elizabeth Legault says that warning labels on social media may actually have the opposite effect of what they intend.

“Warning labels just make kids want something more,” says Legault. “[Teaching] abstinence instead of sex education is a really good example of this. Lack of education causes kids to not understand what they need to do to prevent certain things and also to hide those things from their folks.”

From Jazmin Dobson’s viewpoint, kids have no business being on social media at all. But since they are, warning labels may pose some benefit.

“The warning labels on my cigarette packs don’t stop me from smoking,” Dobson says. “But at least I am fully informed about the choice that I’m making. Warning labels are a way to inform the general public of the dangers of something. Even adults should be aware and informed of the dangers of social media.”

Insights from a Child Psychologist

Dr. Jo Ann Unger is a Winnipeg-based child and family psychologist. She and a colleague have set out to write a book on the subject of the effects of social media and screentime on children.

Almost more importantly, she says, the book will provide useful tools to help parents manage the healthy use of screens and apps.

Unger says that research on the subject is certainly imperative in helping set standards that can protect kids. Parents need to understand, though, that the research is based on averages. Recognizing that, they should know that it is possible for them to develop healthy family practices which in turn create healthier kids.

It’s all about context. How well are children being supported, how full is their life with other distractions, and what challenges are they facing that might make them more vulnerable?

“When we’re looking at these different types of research studies, what we’re often seeing is the averages,” Unger says. “In that regard, having a warning that’s up to date is useful [on average]. There is reason to believe that we are not doing a good job of making the internet or social media platforms set up in such a way that it supports adolescent mental health.”

While she doesn’t deny that social media screentime can have adverse affects on adults, too, without question youth and children are exponentially more vulnerable. This is due to their immaturity in terms of brain development, identity development, and social and emotional development.

“All [adolescents] have these elements of really being sensitive to rejection, really being sensitive to the approval of others, and figuring out where they belong in terms of their friend groups,” says Unger. “They’re differentiating from their parents, appropriately so, and they’re looking to their peers more than they ever have before for information, for validation, and for support.”

As well, she adds, the fear of missing out is much stronger in adolescents than in adults.

“For adolescents it’s like, ‘If I’m not online, I’m going to miss something

that’s very important socially and that will have a negative impact on my relationships or my sense of belonging,’” Unger says.

Another problem with extended screentime, she adds, is that it provides constant distraction from real life. While it’s an effective boredom prevention tool, she reminds parents that boredom breeds creativity, making it an essential part of life in terms of personal growth.

But what is it that makes social media an obsession in the first place?

According to Unger, it provides an instantaneous fix and it’s with you all the time. The reinforcement patterns which are built right into social media platforms—the use of symbols indicating “likes” and “loves”—are mechanisms for approval, something we all crave.

“That, I think, is what we need to be addressing,” Unger says. “How these social media algorithms and reinforcement patterns are set up to actually keep people engaged. That’s where the changes and regulations need to come in. Right now, they’re set up to benefit the app and their advertisers. They’re there to make money, but the cost is coming at our children’s mental health.”

The use of algorithms, Unger says, also adds to the addictive quality of social media. Designed to keep users engaged and scrolling longer, they can have a polarizing effect.

“It’s tailored to you,” Unger says. “What you’ve clicked on before, it will give you more of that. And that’s actually influencing the polarization of our world right now. Because it pulls you more and

more in one direction, away from the average, toward one end of a pole.”

Responsibility

But where does the responsibility lie? Big tech, the regulators, or parents? In Unger’s mind, the onus falls on all three.

“Even we as adults struggle with self-regulation,” she says.

“There’s research to show that high use [of screens] in parents equals high use in kids,” Unger says. “And high use with parents affects the parent-child relationship as well.”

Another question many parents struggle with an answer to is when their child is ready to own their own cellphone device. In Unger’s opinion, this shouldn’t happen before they turn 12.

“For some parents, if the child is independently transporting themselves, like walking to school, they might want to have a cellphone for safety and that sort of thing,” says Unger. “But I would challenge parents to think about why their child would need their own device. So if there is a need that it meets, that’s what I would use as my parameter as opposed to, ‘Well, their friends have one.’”

It’s a tricky dance, though, when parents don’t want to be the reason their child becomes socially ostracized. One strategy to address that, she says, would be to collaborate with the parents of your child’s friend group in order come to a mutual agreeable age in which the majority feels their kids will get cellphones.

The prohibitive cost of giving every member of the family their own cellphone also needs to be considered for many families.

Full-Time Permanent Job Opportunity: Kitchen Service Manager Town of Viking Carena Kitchen

We are seeking a dedicated Food Service Manager to join our team. The ideal candidate will have a passion for the food industry and providing exceptional customer service. This position offers an exciting opportunity for individuals looking to grow their career in the food service industry. If you possess these skills and are passionate about delivering exceptional service, we encourage you to apply for this role.

Skills:

1. Proven experience in managing food service operations, including staff management, inventory control and menu planning.
2. Strong understanding of food safety regulations and a record of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and sanitation.
3. A Safe Food Handling Certificate is required. (Certificate is an online course)
4. Demonstrated ability to increase sales and control costs to improve the profitability of the food service establishment.
5. Excellent customer service skills with an ability to resolve conflicts and ensure customer satisfaction.
6. Capability to train and motivate staff to provide exceptional food quality and presentation consistently.
7. Demonstrate leadership qualities in a fast-paced hospitality environment.
8. Experience with Touch Bistro is an asset.

Duties:

1. Oversee food preparation and other kitchen operations.
2. Order food and beverages, equipment, and supplies.
3. Ensure that employees comply with health and food safety standards.
4. Ensure timely food service and quality control.
5. Address customer complaints or concerns.
6. Inspect supplies, equipment, and work areas.
7. Prepare daily/weekly/monthly reports.
8. Conduct interviews for potential new hires.
9. Evaluate performance and provide feedback.
10. Help to resolve employee issues and disputes.

Pay based on experience level, LAPP Pension and Health Benefits after three months.

The Town of Viking thanks all applicants for your interest, however only those selected for interviews will be contacted. Job will be posted until a suitable candidate is found!

Please complete the [Application for Employment form](#) on the website, www.viking.ca

Applications can be submitted to:

Doug Lefsrud, CAO
Town of Viking
Box 369 Viking, Alberta T0B 4N0 Email: info.account@viking.ca

