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The Beaver County Chronicle

A Free Weekly Publication Serving All of Beaver County

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Nominations for Minister's Senior Service Awards now open

Kelsey Witham

The Government of Alberta is now accepting nominations for the 2024-2025 Minister's Seniors Service Awards.

These awards have been celebrating individuals demonstrating kindness and dedication to seniors in the province for 26 years.

During this time almost 200 individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations have been recognized and presented with an award.

Nominations will be accepted in five categories including the individual award, business award, Alice Modin award which has a focus on volunteerism, non-profit award, and special

service awards with a focus on bridging generations and community philanthropy in action.

"I sincerely appreciate every Albertan who dedicates their time and energy to uplift the lives of seniors across the province," said Jason Nixon, Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Service.

"They play an important role in helping Alberta's seniors live happy, healthy and vibrant lives. I encourage everyone to nominate a volunteer or organization that they believe deserves our thanks and recognition for their hard work."

Eligible nominees include volunteers, health-care workers, and community leaders committed to improving seniors' lives.

Contributions must have occurred between April 2023 and March 2024, with a nomination deadline of April 30 of this year.

Winners will be honoured at a ceremony in the fall of 2025, that acknowledges their exceptional dedication.

Nominations can be submitted online, through mail, or by email.

A lifelong resident of Tofield, Yvonne Brown, was nominated for this award in 2023. She was recognized for her extensive involvement with over 32 volunteer organizations, including Busy B Bargains, the Boyle Street project, and the Tofield/Ryley and Area food bank.

BRSD says 'PowerSchool' cyber security breach contained

Battle River School Division is sharing information about a North America-wide cybersecurity incident involving PowerSchool, a widely used system for managing student information.

The BRSD said in a release it has been informed of a North America-wide cybersecurity incident involving PowerSchool, a widely used system for managing student information. This breach has impacted numerous school divisions across Alberta and hundreds across North America.

"PowerSchool has assured us that immediate action was taken to stop unauthorized access, and the breach is now contained," stated the school division.

"PowerSchool confirmed that whatever data the unauthorized user accessed has been deleted and that no copies of that information were

shared online.

"We want to reassure our families and staff that sensitive information such as financial data

(credit card or banking information), student profile pictures, and computer passwords were not accessed or stored within PowerSchool."

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FRAUD & SCAM AWARENESS BREAKFAST

Presented by Julie Matthews

Fraud is the fastest growing crime in Canada, and its difficult to stay on top of the latest schemes that are rampant online and in our communities.

Investigative reporter turned peace officer and consumer protection expert, Julie Matthews has dedicated her career to helping individuals avoid scams and fraud. She currently hosts a weekly segment, *Scam Alert*, on CFCW radio.



Bruce Community Hall
January 20, 2025
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 (Doors open at 8:30 a.m.)
FREE OF CHARGE!

Pre-registration appreciated, please contact VBCFSS at 780.336.4024 to reserve your space.



Tofield Golden Club
January 20, 2025
3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
 Doors open at (3:30 p.m.)
 A light supper will be provided
FREE OF CHARGE!

Pre-registration is appreciated, please contact Tofield/Beaver County West FCSS at 780-662-7067 to reserve your space.



The Great Twine Round-Up

From November 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025, bring all the used plastic baler twine you can round-up to a participating Alberta collection site (Claystone) for a chance to win a cash prize!



www.cleanfarms.ca/great-twine-round-up

VIKING SINGLE SESSION WALK - IN

Alberta Recovery Walk-In Addiction and Mental Health Support

Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Viking/Beaver FCSS office (4924 - 53ave). For more information please call: (780) 336-4024

Mental Health Helpline: 1-877-303-2642

Addiction Helpline: 1-866-332-2322

HealthLink: 811 24/7 Support

Music Jam / Open Mic

SATURDAY

JANUARY 18, 1 PM

HOLDEN COMMUNITY HALL
 4919 - 49 Ave. HOLDEN, AB

Admission - \$ 5 per person
 Musicians/Participants - No Charge
 Come Dance to the Music!



FOR MORE INFO:
 Dave 780-720-5839
 or beaverhillplayers17@gmail.com

Musicians and spectators welcome!

Winter Tips for Waste Collection

Winter conditions - particularly snow and ice - can delay our ability to do waste collections in both rural and urban areas.

Here are some helpful tips to make it easier for our waste collection crews:

- Avoid pushing snow into alleyways to ensure our equipment can pass through.
- Keep areas around bins clear of snow.
- Remove hazards in alleyways and driveways including low-hanging tree branches.
- Keep driveways cleared of snow.
- Have your bin in an easily-accessible area.
- Be patient, especially after large snowfalls.
- If you are noticing delays in waste pickup, visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/claystonewasteltd for updates

Thank you for helping us help you!



BEAVER COUNTY
 Community Adult Learning Program

TRADES READINESS ELL TEST PREP CAEC PREP

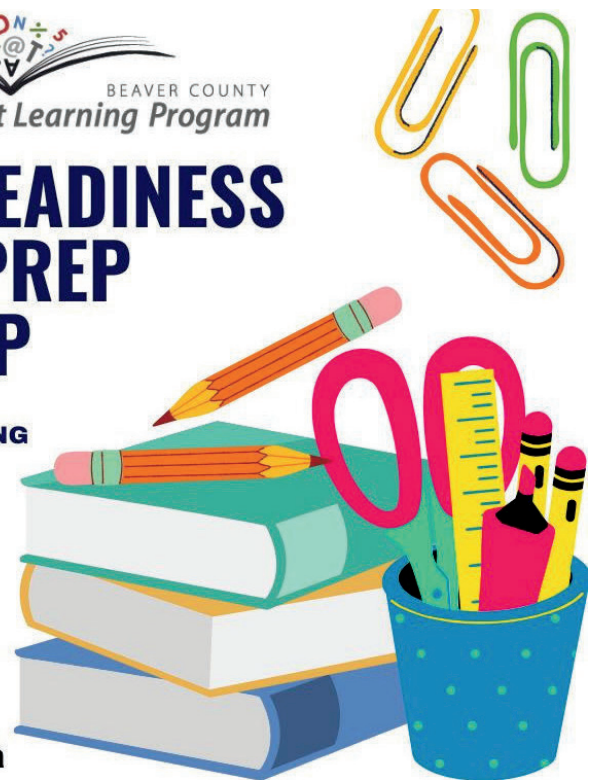
FREE ADULT TUTORING

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- Foundational Literacy
- Digital Skills
- English Language Training
- CAEC Prep
- Trades Readiness

CONTACT US TODAY

780-663-3732

CALP@beaver.ab.ca



DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

None at this time.



OPEN RFQS

Beaver County is currently accepting submissions for the following:

- **RFQ2025-02INFR: 2022-2025 Tandem Snowplow Sand Truck**
 - Closes: January 20, 2025 @ 10 a.m. Local time
- **RFQ2025-03INFR: 2022-2025 New Wheel Loader**
 - Closes: January 22, 2025 @ 10 a.m. Local time

Please find complete information for all requests on our website > Business > RFPs, Tenders, Leases & Sales



IMPORTANT DATES

- January 15**
 - 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting
 - 1 - 4:30 p.m. - Regular Council Meeting
- February 5**
 - 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting
- February 19**
 - 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Regular Council Meeting

WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Book Club

Location: Ross Creek Community Hall, 531041 Rge Rd 191
Rural book club that meets the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings run from 7PM - 8PM, all ages welcome!

Tofield AA - Thursdays, 8 - 9 PM

Basement of Bardo Lutheran Church, 4737 57 Ave, Tofield.

Viking AA - Wednesdays, 8 PM, Zoom option also available.

Golden Valley Lutheran Church, 5327 56 Ave, Viking.

<https://area78aa.org/meetings/147-3>

Submit your event/s, meetings and/or gatherings to the events calendar on the website! Just head to the website, under the Explore menu click on County Region Events Calendar. We have partnered with Go East to share local events on our website!

2024 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

2024 was a busy and productive year for Beaver County! Many projects started, advanced, or wrapped up, and we're excited to share the progress with you. Check out our year-in-review to see what Council and Administration have been working on in 2024!

Scan the QR code to view the online version or if you prefer a physical copy, they will be available soon - stay tuned!



Beaver County is pleased to offer **Mediation Services** in partnership with the Strathcona County Community Mediation Society (SCCMS). This free service assists residents in resolving disputes related to fencing, noise, parking, pets, trees, and more.

How It Works:

- Contact SCCMS Directly: Reach out to SCCMS for guidance and support.
- Confidential Referral: Authorize the County to provide a confidential referral to SCCMS on your behalf.

An SCCMS mediator will offer tips for addressing the conflict or, with your permission, liaise between parties to facilitate a resolution.

SCCMS Contact info:

- Phone: 780-464-8445 or 587-598-8445
- Email: communitymediation@sccm.ca



Find more information on our website under the Services menu.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-PROFITS

Looking to boost your non-profit's success? Check out the Alberta Non-Profit Learning Centre for FREE webinars, videos, and courses to support funding, governance and more.

- Live Winter 2025 Webinars
- Online Courses
- Documents and Guides
- Learn from anywhere
- Free to attend



WANTED: SKILLED BUILDER WITH A NOSE FOR ADVENTURE!

We are on the hunt for a skilled builder to construct new, durable outhouses for our campgrounds. These essential facilities need to be sturdy, practical, and ready for the elements—because campers deserve reliable rest stops!

What We're Looking For:

- Solid construction skills to handle the great outdoors.
- Attention to detail—because nobody wants a wobbly throne.
- A good sense of humour—because hey, it's an outhouse project!

Help us make campground visits a little more comfortable for everyone!

Interested? Contact our Infrastructure Team for project details at infrastructure@beaver.ab.ca or 780-663-3730.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

We're looking for dynamic, motivated superheroes to join our team! What's your superpower?!

- **Administrative Assistant - Infrastructure Services**
- **Seasonal Crew Members - Agricultural Services**

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



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.



Alberta MP tells Ottawa taxes hurting farmers

Cal Braid

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Conservative MP Martin Shields delivered a homegrown message in the House of Commons in late December, expressing concerns about carbon tax and the policies that affect agriculture in Alberta.

He pointed to the capital gains tax, which he said was “supposedly for some kind of elite businesses, but it really does affect businesses such as family farms. It goes along with the GST tax break, which the Liberals found is not getting them any bump because it is not one that works either.”

On the topic of family farms, he said, “The average 5,000-acre farm in Canada is paying about \$150,000 every single year in carbon taxes. For an irrigation company, that multiplies at least to another \$100,000. I know that my colleague will suggest other forms of energy, but natural gas and propane, and natural gas in particular, create power, and this is what is used in our part of the world.”

Greenhouses that grow tomatoes, green peppers, lettuce and strawberries are facing huge costs, he said. At a combined \$22 million a year in carbon taxes and expected to rise to \$82 to \$100 million by 2030, the expense is prohibitive.

“We have 44 per cent of fresh fruit and vegetable growers already telling us that they are selling at a loss, and their statements show it. We have 77 per cent who cannot cover their production costs, and we have 77 per cent of produce growers in Canada close to going under,” he said.

According to his sources, Alberta farmers paid \$17 million in carbon tax last year just on natural gas and propane to dry their grain and to heat and cool their barns. He said Bill C-234, which would have exempted the carbon tax charged on natural gas and propane used by farmers to dry their grain and heat their barns, was “gutted” by senators.

Shields quoted the president of the University of Alberta, Bill Flanagan, who said, “We understand energy, and we understand innovation. After more than a century of energy breakthroughs, we have learned the key to success: when you bring together the right people, you push the boundaries of innovation.”

Flanagan said it was important to bring academia, industry, and government together to “advance the solutions that will reduce carbon dioxide emissions and diversify the economy.”

Shields wasn’t through making his point. He said, “At the ag committee recently, CN Rail representatives were there and they were asked about the carbon tax. For Saskatchewan, CN said that the carbon tax bill was \$36 million just for transporting produce out of Saskatchewan, and then we can multiply that by Alberta and Manitoba.”

And then the kicker. “They were asked whether CN pays the carbon tax, and they said, of course not; we just download it to the farmers. This is the problem, which is that the carbon tax will be downloaded.”

“These are not rebate operations. There is no rebate for these large farm operations. They are the ones who do a great job of...food security produced in Canada, but they are being taxed severely. This is the challenge with the carbon tax, and it needs to be stopped,” he admonished.



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