

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of

Spirit River

The Spirit of Our Soil: News, Nature, and Neighbours

in this issue:

COUNCIL MOTIONS

From the Municipal District

CANDIDATES

for the 2025 Municipal Elections

FIELD FEED

Your Ag Report

MOUNTIE MINUTE

News from the RCMP

Message from the Reeve

With many producers wrapping up harvest and fall officially upon us, attention will now shift to municipal elections being held October 20th. As previously mentioned, with the elimination of the ward system you will now be able to select your top 5 candidates. At the time of writing this, 11 individuals had already come forward with the hope of being selected to represent the people of the Municipal District of Spirit River. To those running, I extend a personal thank you for ensuring a competitive and exciting election. From within that group, I am confident a strong and dynamic council will emerge to lead the MD through a new phase of growth into the future. That said, I cannot stress

enough the importance of getting out to vote.

The audited financials were also recently presented and confirmed the financial health of the municipality. It was noted by the auditor that the municipality has no debt and has maintained a fair level of taxation relative to reserves.

As this will be the last message from the Reeve prior to the election, I will take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving with family, friends, and neighbours.

All the best,
Tony van Rootselaar
Reeve

Generous Donation to the Central Peace Hospital

Recently, the Friends of the South Peace donated a new smart television to the Central Peace Health Complex Continuing Care.

The residents and their families would like to thank the members of the Friends of the South Peace for this wonderful gift.



Left to right KOLETON Chubey, Carolyn Kosabeck (Secretary-Resident/Family Council), Dan Nester, Rob McNally, Judy Brown (Chairperson of the Continuing Care Resident/Family Council), Hope McNally, Margaret Kosabeck (President of the Central Peace Hospital Auxiliary) and Shelby Wells.

Celebrating Northern Alberta's Farm Families: Awards Program Honours Excellence, Leadership, & Legacy

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS) – an organization that supports and connects over 292 agricultural societies across the province, fostering community growth, leadership, and innovation in rural Alberta – is proud to announce the return of the Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards, a program dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the outstanding farm families who form the backbone of Northern Alberta's agricultural communities. This initiative honours families who demonstrate excellence in agricultural production, community leadership, and innovation. Many of these families have stewarded their land and contributed to their communities for generations, with some farms boasting histories of 75 to 100 years or more. "Farm families are the heart of our rural communities," said Tim Carson, AAAS CEO. "Through these awards, we want to shine a light on the incredible contributions Northern Alberta families make, not just to agriculture, but to community life, rural leadership, and the future of our province."

For many years, programs like the BMO Farm Family Awards have highlighted farm families

in Southern and Central Alberta. After a short hiatus, it is once again time to shine the spotlight on the incredible families of Northern Alberta, fostering stronger community pride and awareness of the region's vital role in Alberta agriculture.

Development

- Celebrating farming excellence and stewardship.
- Strengthening rural identity and community pride.
- Encouraging youth and new farmers to invest in Northern Alberta's agricultural future.
- Highlighting sustainable practices, innovation, and leadership in farming communities.

Agricultural societies across Northern Alberta in conjunction with local municipalities, will play a central role in coordinating the nomination process, promoting the awards, and engaging local families and communities. Their longstanding presence and trusted leadership make them ideally positioned to identify and honour deserving farm families.

The impact of these awards reaches far beyond recognition. They strengthen the social fabric of rural communities, inspire youth to step into leadership roles, and bring visibility to the families who sustain Alberta's food systems, land stewardship, and rural institutions. By bridging the urban-rural divide, the program also creates opportunities for deeper relationships between rural communities and the provincial government, paving the way for more inclusive policy development. Sponsorship opportunities are available for organizations wishing to align with this important initiative and demonstrate their commitment to supporting Northern Alberta's agricultural legacy. The Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards will serve as a catalyst for celebrating heritage, encouraging innovation, and investing in the future of agriculture across the province.

For more information, please contact Tim Carson, CEO of the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies, at tim@albertaagsocieties.ca.

October 2025 Alberta Healthy Living Program Workshops

Be Supported on your Journey to Better Health
– Virtual classes by Zoom

Managing Diabetes

Workshops for those newly diagnosed with diabetes or pre-diabetes, or a refresher for those living with diabetes.

Overview	Oct 2	Thurs Evening	5:30-8pm
	Oct 15	Wed Afternoon	1:30-4pm
Nutrition	Oct 9	Thurs Evening	5:30-7pm
	Oct 22	Wed Afternoon	1:30-3pm
Ongoing Care	Oct 16	Thurs Evening	5:30-8pm
	Oct 29	Wed Afternoon	1:30-4pm
Foot Care & Seated Exercise	Oct 23	Thurs Morning	10:30-11:30am

Heart & Stroke Education

Learn to manage blood pressure and cholesterol and understand the risks for heart disease and stroke.

Overview & Prevention	Oct 9	Thu Afternoon	1:30-4pm
Nutrition	Oct 16	Thu Afternoon	1:30-4pm

Better Choices, Better Health

Build skills to help overcome the physical and emotional challenges and manage your health

Living with Chronic Pain	Thursday Afternoons	1:00-3:30pm
	November 6, 13, 20, 27, December 4 & 11	

Living with Chronic Disease	Wednesday Evenings	6-8:30 pm
	November 5, 12, 19, 26, December 3 & 10	

Help using Zoom is available!

Weight Management

Build healthier habits. Understand ways that thinking patterns, sleep, physical activity and nutrition impact your goals.

See website for Individual Class Descriptions

Series 1			
1.1	Oct 16	Thu Morning	9:30am-12pm
1.2	Oct 23	Thu Morning	9:30am-12pm
1.3	Oct 30	Thu Morning	9:30am-12pm
Series 2			
2.1	Oct 7	Tue Evening	5:30-8pm
2.2	Oct 14	Tue Evening	5:30-8pm
2.3	Oct 21	Tue Evening	5:30-8pm
Series 3			
3.1	Oct 1	Wed Afternoon	1:30-4pm
	Oct 28	Tue Evening	5:30-8pm
3.2	Oct 8	Wed Afternoon	1:30-4pm
	Oct 14	Tue Morning	9:30-12pm

Supervised Exercise Program -Virtual Classes-

This program meets 2 times per week, 1.5 hours/session for 6 weeks to exercise in a group setting with people with a variety of health conditions.

October 27 to December 3	
Mondays and Wednesdays	Afternoons 1:00pm - 2:30pm
OR	
Evenings	6:00pm - 7:30pm

November 4 to December 16	
Tuesdays and Thursdays	Mornings 10-11:30am

Managing Stress

In this 2 part series you will learn techniques to reduce, prevent, and cope with stress.

Oct 16 & 23	Thu Afternoons	1:30-2:30pm
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Free Exercise Program

Alberta Healthy Living Program

Education that supports your health and your life

Upcoming Sessions:

Oct 20 Nov 26	Mon/Wed	1:00pm-2:30pm
Oct 20-Nov 26	Mon/Wed	6:00pm-7:30pm

- Tailored to your fitness level
- Twice per week for 6 weeks
- No equipment needed
- Learn to exercise safely
- Use Zoom in your own home

If you are an adult living with one or more chronic health conditions, join this FREE, safe, fun and interactive small-group setting.

Experience the Health Benefits

Free
Virtual Exercise Program

Register at:

www.healthylivingprogram.ca



For more information:
Call 1-877-349-5711



Primary Care
Alberta



Register for a Zoom class:

1-877-349-5711

Or

<https://www.healthylivingprogram.ca>





The MD of Spirit River is now set up to receive e-transfers (EFTs).

E-mail for EFTs is
eftpayments@mdspiritriv.ab.ca.

**** Important items to note ****

1. When sending an e-transfer, please include your contact information and what the payment is for in the memo line;
2. If the payment is for property taxes, please be sure to include the roll number.



As of July 2025

AFSC ON LOCATION

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month
 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

AVAILABLE BY REMOTE COMMUNICATION

Monday to Friday
 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

To reach us, call (780)864-3896 or 1(877)899-2372



Landfill Hours

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 am - 5 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday: Closed

If you have any questions, please contact the landfill at (780) 765-3745.

Open to MD Ratepayers Only

Resource Contact List

AFSC (Credit Services)

780-864-3896 or 1-877-899-2372

CPFR (Fire Dept) Brian Kroes

Office 780-864-2841 or Cell 780-500-7027

Fish & Wildlife

780-864-4101

Transportation Alberta (Highways Services)

587-956-3411 or 1-877-300-1605

R360 Landfill

780-765-3745



SNOWPLOWING

REMINDER to RESIDENTS

We would like to remind MD residents that the MD provides snowplowing services to the following residents at the corresponding rates:

- **Seniors** – \$125.00 +G.S.T.
- **Handicapped Persons** – \$125.00 +G.S.T.
- **Spouses of Seniors and/or Handicapped Persons** – \$125.00 +G.S.T.
- **Dependants of Seniors and/or Handicapped Persons** – \$125.00 +G.S.T.

Additionally, seniors can access financial assistance to cover the cost of snow removal, through the provincial government. You can find the Alberta Seniors Benefit Information Sheet and the Application at:

alberta.ca/seniors-special-needsassistance.aspx

Seniors are welcome to stop by the office or contact us at 780-864-3500 for assistance with the application.

THE FOLLOWING PRIVATE CONTRACTORS PROVIDE SNOWPLOWING SERVICES WITHIN THE MD:

Magpie Trucking

Dwayne @ (780) 864-0872

Ryson Ventures Ltd.

Gary Fox @ (780) 864-5436

Lefley Honey Co. Ltd.

Jack @ (780) 831-0607 or
 Kelly @ (780) 864-0281

Wild Horizon Ventures Ltd.

Keegan @ (780) 831-8136

Burnt River Services Ltd.

(780) 330-9900

RCZ Ventures

Rick @ (780) 864-7888

Scott's Excavating Ltd.

Darryl @ (780) 864-5957 or
 Myrne @ (780) 864-0071

Bee Kay Welding

Bill @ (780) 814-4022

Whiterok Ranch

Darcy @ (780) 500-8824
whitrok@gmail.com

Triple Y Trucking Ltd.

Brent Yanishewski @
 (780) 814-4486

NaR Environmental

Riley @ (780) 864-8248 or
 Nick @ (403) 896-5679

If you are a private contractor that would like to be added to this public list, please contact the MD of Spirit River office at mdsr133@mdspiritriv.ab.ca.

Council initially changed the Private Laneway Snowplowing Policy in 2020 as per the following motion:

181.09.02.20 Moved by Reeve Van Rootselaar that Council, along with the rate increase to match industry rates, that summer maintenance be removed from the policy. We understood that Council's direction was that the M.D not be in competition with services that are delivered by private sector so as to concentrate on public Municipal District infrastructure. Amendments have been made to Policy PWS 3 removing the summer maintenance portion; removing snowplowing for non-seniors and increasing rate for snowplowing for seniors to \$125 per flag.

Councillor Bzowy requested to record the vote.

Reeve Van Rootselaar – Yes

Councillor Garrow – Yes

Councillor vanRootselaar – Yes

Councillor Bzowy – No

CARRIED 3-1

The intent was so that the MD would not compete with private industry contractors. The MD has always believed in supporting local and will continue to support this initiative. Another benefit provided by this change was allowing for Public Works to prioritize clearing snow on public roads and doing so in a timelier fashion.

2025 Photo Contest

Time is RUNNING OUT!!

Showcase your photography skills & our beautiful scenery here in the Municipal District of Spirit River!

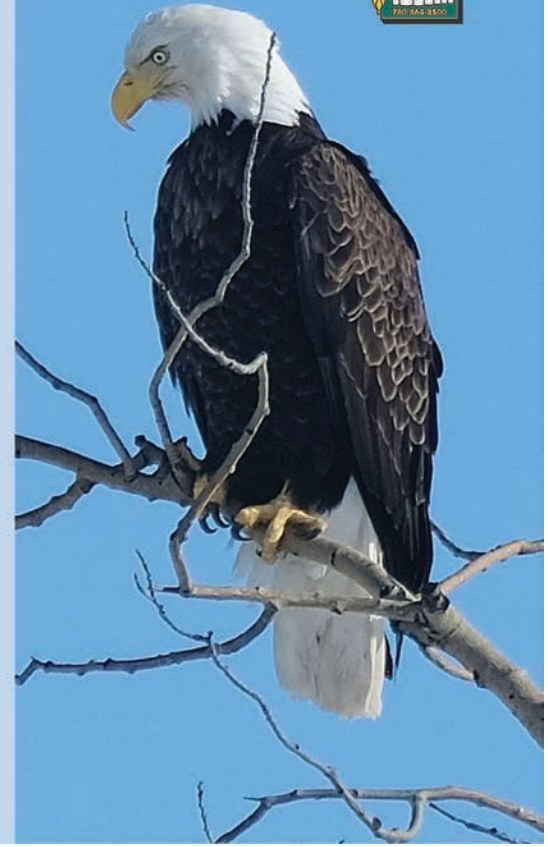
First Prize \$200.00; Runner Up \$100.00

Photos **MUST** be submitted by
October 16th, 2025

Winners will be selected by
October 31st, 2025

Contest rules can be found at
mdspiritriver.ab.ca/news/photo-contest-deadline

Thank you for your entries and good luck!!!



Municipal District of *Spirit River* No. 133

Monday–Friday:
8:30 am–12:00 pm, 1:00 pm–4:30 pm
Closed weekends & statutory holidays

Street Address: 4202 50th Street
Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0
(780) 864-3500 | mdspiritriver.ab.ca

Mailing Address: Box 389

*Missing an issue? Need more info?
Grab your phone and take a look!*



Call for ASB Members-at-Large

In the fall, the MD of Spirit River Council will be holding their annual organization meeting during which time they will be appointing members-at-large to the Agricultural Service Board (ASB).

The purpose of the ASB is as follows:

- to act as an advisory body and to assist the Council and the Minister, in matters of mutual concern;
- to advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs;
- to assist in the control of animal disease;
- to promote, enhance, and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer; and
- to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.

According to the ASB Act, the Board must include persons who are familiar with agricultural concerns and issues, and who are residents of the Municipality.

Anyone wishing to apply for the ASB, must fill out the ASB Board Committee Application Form located on the MD website @ www.mdspritrriver.ab.ca, under Departments – About The Agricultural Service Board.

Application deadline is October 24, 2025.

History of the Spirit River Settlement Museum

Origins and Formation

The museum was established through the efforts of the Spirit River Settlement Historical Society, which was formed in the fall of 1985 following a field trip to the old Catholic Mission site and a search for the original Spirit River Settlement town site. The society's mission was threefold: to restore important historical sites, build a museum that could include a pioneer village concept, and create a history book for the area. These goals laid the foundation for the museum's development.

The museum's creation was spurred by the loss of significant historical buildings in the region, notably the Hudson Bay Post (demolished in 1986) and the Revillon Frere building (destroyed by fire). These losses motivated the community to preserve what remained of their heritage, leading to the establishment of the museum as a repository for the area's history.

The museum reflects the history of the Spirit River Settlement, which began in the late 19th century with a Hudson Bay Company cattle ranch in 1888 and a trading post in 1891. The region, initially inhabited by the Beaver and Cree First Nations, derives its name from the Cree term *Chepi Sepe* (Ghost River), tied to local legends about spirits in the river and surrounding landscape. The arrival of the railway in 1916 and the establishment of Spirit River as a village that year marked a turning point, with the museum preserving artifacts and stories from this transformative period.

Development and Early Acquisitions

In 1987, the Spirit River Settlement Historical Society began developing the museum site at 4403 – 48 Street, Spirit River. The first major acquisition was the Charlie Orford Cabin, moved to the site in the fall of 1987 with the aid of a \$4,000 New Horizons grant for its restoration. This cabin, built in 1934, became a cornerstone of the museum's collection, complete with original furnishings, offering a glimpse into early 20th-century life in the Peace Country.

The museum adopted a pioneer village model, collecting and relocating historical buildings from the region to recreate the atmosphere of the early Spirit River Settlement. By the early 1990s, the museum had expanded to include 11 historical buildings, each representing different aspects of the area's history. These include:

- **Reed House (1918):** A residential structure showcasing early settler life.
- **Whinchel Cabin (1914):** One of the oldest structures, reflecting pioneer living conditions.
- **Flour Mill and Building (1917):** A representation of early industrial activity.
- **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (1930):** A cultural and religious landmark.

- **St. Andrew's Anglican Church (1929–1931):** Originally the Willowvale Church, moved to the site in 1959.
- **Bronco Creek School (1920):** From northeast of Spirit River, illustrating rural education.
- **Spirit Valley Hall (1932):** From northwest of Spirit River, a community gathering space.
- **Blacksmith Shop (1919):** From the Devale area, highlighting early trade skills.
- **Charlie Orford Cabin (1934):** Preserved with original furnishings.
- **Additional structures:** Including a horse-powered water well drilling unit and other farm machinery

The museum's collection also includes artifacts such as arrows and spears dating back over 11,000 years, old vehicles, medical tools, and other items that reflect the region's Indigenous roots, pioneer settlement, and agricultural heritage.

History Book Project

In 1987, the Spirit River Settlement Historical Society initiated a history book project, resulting in the publication of *Chepi Sepe: Spirit River – The Land, The People* in 1989. This comprehensive book, edited by Jean Gurnett and compiled by a dedicated committee, documented the region's history, including the settlement's growth, agriculture, businesses, schools, churches, and over 630 family histories. The book's records, along with archival materials, were donated to the South Peace Regional Archives in 2009, further solidifying the museum's role as a historical repository.

Role in the Community

The museum serves as a cultural and educational hub for the Central Peace Region. It is managed by enthusiastic locals passionate about preserving history, earning praise as a "small town treasure" and one of the best rural museums in Alberta. The museum offers guided tours and is open year-round with varying hours:

- **May to September Hours: Monday to Friday, 12 PM to 4 PM; Saturday and Sunday, 1 PM to 3 PM.**
- **October to April Hours: By appointment – contact Jim @ 1-250-219-1754 or Denise @ 780-864-0545.**

** Volunteers are NEEDED **

The museum is in need of help with maintenance and clean up for the month of October.

Also, volunteers will be needed for the summer to welcome visitors from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. If you are able to assist, please contact Jim or Denise. Thank you!



Casual Municipal Clerk 1 FCSS Coordinator

Details for each can be found on our website at mdspiritriv.ab.ca, then go under Residents and click on Employment Opportunities.

We are looking for dynamic, forward-thinking individuals fueled with progressive ideas to join us in achieving our goals for the future.



Candidates for the 2025 Municipal Elections

Here's the Full List of Candidates and a Few Bios Too!

With the municipal elections quickly approaching, it appears it's going to be a healthy competition all over the Central Peace. Let's check it out!

Every ward in **Birch Hills County** has a candidate running with 10 in total:

Albert Poetker (Ward 1), Karen Gulick (Ward 2), Kitchen Nelson (Ward 2), Stephen Syncox (Ward 3), David Tschetter (Ward 4), Gerald Manzulenko (Ward 4), John Sinkwich (Ward 4), Mel Duvall (Ward 5), Tim Chandonnet (Ward 6), and Karen Portelance (Ward 7).

There are 11 candidates vying for seats on the **MD of Spirit River #133's** Council:

Evelyn Bzowy, Elaine Garrow, Michael Lanigan, Marcy Martin-Macdaid, Shelley Rozecki, Bernard Schoorlemmer, Nick van Rootselaar, Tony van Rootselaar, Larry Wallin, Dean Wark, and Darcy White.

Saddle Hills County also has candidates running in all 7 wards with 14 total:

Dwight Gulka (Ward 1), Karolyn Kelly (Ward 1), Daniel Roy (Ward 1), Lance Hingley (Ward 2), Blaine Rogers (Ward 3), Sarah Weiss (Ward 3), Edward Armagost (Ward 4), Mandy Brandson (Ward 4), Cindy Clarke (Ward 4), Ralph M. Bolch (Ward 5), Shirley Klatt (Ward 5), Gerald Richard (Ward 6), Bani Morin (Ward 7), and Jenn vanRootselaar (Ward 7).

The **Town of Spirit River** has 13 hopeful candidates:

Ryan Funk, William Georgeson, Garth Glassel, Sumit Gour, William (Bill) Jackson, Kenneth MacFarlane, Wayne Meyer, Jim Nicholson, Brent Potter, Brenda Stanich, James Thomas, Jo Anne van Rootselaar, and Tammy Yaremko.

And last but not least, the **Village of Rycroft** has 12 candidates:

Frank Andrews, Tamara Babcock, Kenneth Bissonnette, Elane Blandin, Joanne Chelick, Roxann Dreger, Allison Globber, Jacqueline Knells, Brian Markovich, Halsey Northcott, Neil Prefontaine, and James Verquin.

Dean H. Wark

Candidate for the MD of Spirit River

Originally from a mixed farm in East Central Alberta, I have resided in the Peace Country since 1994. My wife and I, married for 32 years, live on a hobby farm in MD #133 where we care for our animals and enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, travelling, and motorcycling.

My career started in the Oil and Gas sector in 1987, and over nearly four decades, I've gained broad experience across Western Canada and the Territories. Currently, I am a Managing Partner and Senior Vice President at Solution Services Inc.

Community involvement is important to me: I have coached minor hockey and baseball, volunteered with several organizations, and helped organize the annual Spring Breakup Dine and Dance fundraiser since 2012, which has raised over \$1.5 million for Local initiatives.

Since joining the Central Peace Natural Gas Co-Op in 2014, I served as a board director, then Chairperson since 2018 onward. In 2023, I became President of the Rycroft Ag Society, working alongside committed colleagues to support local communities.

I am passionate about fostering sustainable development and honoring Rural Alberta's legacy for future generations. It is vital to acknowledge our region's history and actively pursue opportunities that build a positive future for our municipality.



Tony van Rootselaar

Candidate for the MD of Spirit River

This year marks the 30th year since I started farming in the MD of Spirit River. There have been ups and downs, however it is a journey I would take a second time. It has been a rewarding life to be sure.

On a personal level, I have been involved with Kitakaze martial arts for over 25 years, helping train hundreds of local kids and adults. It has been a privilege to help them find that inner athlete that is in us all. I have also traveled extensively to six continents, creating friendships, memories, and connections that will last a lifetime.

I have served 12 years on council, chairing Central Peace Fire Rescue and the Central Peace Medical Services Corp since inception. After three terms, I also continue to sit on the Board of Directors with both the Alberta and Prairie Oat Growers Associations, providing the opportunity to interact with heads of international corporations, ambassadors, and numerous provincial and federal officials. I hope to continue using this experience for the betterment of our entire region.



Michael (Mickey) Lanigan

Candidate for the MD of Spirit River

Hello, my name is Mickey Lanigan, and I would like the opportunity to represent you as a councillor on M.D. 133 council.

I have spent most of my adult life here in the Central Peace alongside my wife, Pat, who was born and raised in Volin and Rycroft. We raised three daughters here and it is where I taught school for twenty-five years.

Whereas I do not have any direct experience with municipal governance or policy, I have sat on several boards over the years. I was president of the Alberta Teachers' Association (A.T.A.) Local for twelve years back when we were the Spirit River School Division. I am a past chairman of the Rycroft Agricultural Society and am presently on their Board of Directors. Currently, I am the Vice-Chair of the Central Peace Gas Co-Op as well as Vice-Chair of the Chairman's Committee for the Federated Gas Co-Op of Alberta.

I hope that everyone gets out and casts their vote for the candidates of their choice. Participation in your local government is what will make it strong and effective.



Shelley Rozecki

Candidate for the MD of Spirit River

In 2024, I was approached by a couple of respected residents of MD 133 to run for council.

Five months ago, on a Sunday morning, a resident and former council member was at my door nomination package in hand complete with signatures.

It was meant to be, I am running for MD 133 Council.

I was born in the Holy Cross Hospital, lived in Spirit River until our family moved to SW 28 77 6 W6; the land was owned by my great grandparents, grandparents, and now my father Lloyd Buck.

I have been volunteering for years mostly for schools and youth sports. I was part of creating the Woking School Foundation. This was a necessary organization to help support shortfalls in funding at the school. I served six years as treasurer.

My husband and I love to travel to warm destinations and golf as much as we can at our local course.

My 34-year career with AFSC was rewarding. I was able to build relationships that I will treasure forever, and the information shared is invaluable. Assisting agriculture producers in their risk management decisions was my most important role.

If you entrusted me with your Ag business, I ask that you trust me now as a counselor.



Bernie Schoorlemmer

Candidate for the MD of Spirit River

I have been actively full time farming in the MD of Spirit River since the late 1980's when me and my brother took over the operation of the family dairy farm. Along with my wife Sue, and sons Brenton and Aaron, we now operate a large-scale grain farming operation with most of their owned and rented land in the MD of Spirit River.

After graduating from the local high school Bernie attended University of Alberta and pursued a Bachelor Science in Agriculture and came back to the farm full time immediately afterword. While the farm evolved from a primarily dairy operation to a large-scale commercial field crop production farm he always made time to contribute to local community projects and sports and has held active roles in many organizations including, Peace Region Forage Seed Association, Central Peace Seed Cleaning Association, Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, and the CN Agricultural Advisory Council



Jo Anne van Rootselaar

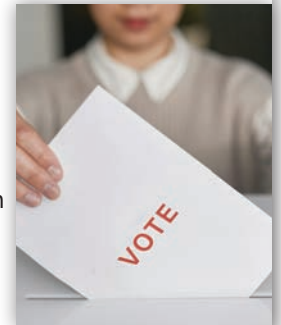
Candidate for the Town of Spirit River

I was born and raised just west of Spirit River on a small mixed farm, and completed my high school education at Spirit River Secondary. I later moved to Calgary to complete my Nursing degree with the Calgary Conjoint Nursing Program and have since worked;

- 1) Long term care;
- 2) Spent twenty years in the Southern Alberta Renal Program (SARP) as an acute trained hemodialysis nurse and as a vascular access nurse to patients throughout Southern Alberta. As a vascular access nurse, I specialized in working with the most complex patients, helped create a program to train nurses and was also a member who presented nationally at Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists (CANNT).
- 3) In 2021, I returned home and am currently working in the Central Peace Health Complex. One of the benefits of working in a small hospital include the tight knit relationships that are built and a willingness to work together to help support patients to the best of our abilities.

I believe strongly in the importance of dependability, accountability, empathy, truthfulness, a strong work ethic, and respect. I feel these personal characteristics will benefit my ability to serve effectively on Town council.

Thanks for your consideration.



Darcy White

Candidate for the MD of Spirit River

I was born and raised in the MD of Spirit River Bronco Creek area where my family farmed the land for generations and continues to own property today. After several years away, my wife and I (now of 29 years) chose to return home to raise our two children. Today, both of our young adults share the same deep roots, community values, and love for the Peace Country, building their own lives here.

For over 30 years, I have successfully owned and operated an oil and gas consulting company. After several decades, I continue to hold a valid Petroleum Land Agent license and am widely recognized as a skilled negotiator with a strong network and extensive knowledge of land use in both agriculture and oil and gas sectors.

I believe in preserving the rural values that make the MD unique, while also planning for a sustainable future. I am committed to ensuring the community can support its aging population while creating opportunities for young families to thrive.

I understand the responsibility that comes with serving on council. I see it as an opportunity to give back, to listen, and to speak up for the people who call this place home. My goal is to help shape a future where the MD of Spirit River #133 remains strong, vibrant, and rooted in the values of its people.



Ken Macfarlane

Candidate for the Town of Spirit River

My family moved to Happy Valley in the mid 1970s and I went to school in Spirit River. I moved to the Town of Spirit River in 1995, and have resided there since.

During my life, I have obtained five journeyman tickets along with other credentials to complement those. I sat on the board of Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) for 2 terms. During this time, I became a Subject Matter Expert (SME) for the gas trade, and helped author the exams for Alberta and the Red Seal exam for Canada. Also, during this time, we changed the regulations for the gas trade.

With this experience, I have a full understanding of procedures, and the time needed to get things done.

I've been on several fire departments for over 40 years including the Town of Spirit River, Central Peace Fire Commission, and County of Grande Prairie, which all originally started in Saddle Hills County in the late 80s. During this time, I have fulfilled the roles of Firefighter, Training Officer, Instructor, Fire Investigator, Deputy Fire Chief, and Medical Co-Responder.

I thank you for taking the time to view this and encourage you all to vote whether for myself or my fellow candidates.



Nicholas (Nick) van Rootselaar

Candidate for the MD of Spirit River

I was raised in the Spirit River area and raised my family here, as well. I live on a farm south of town not more than ten minutes away from my childhood home. I received my education in Spirit River and completed my apprenticeship here.

I've had an extensive career as a tradesman, farmer, and contractor but above all my family is the greatest source of my pride. My children were also educated in Spirit River, have all gone into post-secondary trades and careers, and have remained in the region. Some of my grandchildren are even attending the same school as I did.

This is why I have a keen interest and concern for our local communities. It is my hope that I can continue to contribute to our region's future, for not only my grandchildren but for everyone. With good representation our community can grow, prosper, and provide opportunities and a lifestyle that only strong rural communities can provide.

There are a number of very good candidates to choose from to represent our community. I would encourage you to become familiar with all the candidates and choose the individuals you feel best able to guide the future of our great community. If I am one of your choices, I would like to thank you in advance for your support.



Ryan Funk

Candidate for the Town of Spirit River

Hello! I moved here with my wife, Deanna, in 2022. We grew up in the Beaverlodge/Hythe area, and have chosen Spirit River to raise our family.

Although we are new to the area, I am running for Spirit River Town Council to be more involved in my community and represent the younger families that are vital for our growth. My key areas of interest are securing reliable childcare, advocating for additional features for families (e.g. splash park, bike park, walking trails, dog park), and maintaining capital infrastructure. I value transparency, honesty, and ongoing improvement.

Currently, I am a stay-at-home dad for a busy soon-to-be two-year-old. You can catch us at the park, walking our dogs, getting groceries, stopping at the local coffee shop, and going golfing as much as possible.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration in this year's election. If you see me out and about, feel free to say hi. I am naturally reserved but more than happy to meet new people.



Garth Glassel

Candidate for the Town of Spirit River

I was born in Calgary and attended S.A.I.T. in 1978, where I began my career in aircraft mechanical engineering. A few years later, I launched my own small business in Calgary, working as a mechanical consultant in the motorcycle industry.

In 1991, I moved to the Lower Mainland of British Columbia to help a company grow, and in 1999, I started a welding and fabrication business. By the time I sold it in 2008, the company had grown to over 45 employees.

After returning to Alberta in 2012, I chose Spirit River because of the genuine friendliness and strong sense of community I found here. I previously had the honour of serving on the Town of Spirit River council and would welcome the opportunity to do so again. I'm particularly committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of residents by focusing on core infrastructure like roads, sewer, water, and community security.

With decades of experience in business, leadership, and common-sense problem-solving, I'm excited about the chance to give back and serve Spirit River with dedication and transparency.

Now retired, I enjoy fishing, riding, and taking part in the many local activities our area has to offer.



2025 General Municipal Elections

Advance Voting will be held on **October 18th** from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Election Day is on **October 20th** from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Both days will be held in the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 Brownlee Building, located at 4202 50th street, in the Town of Spirit River, Alberta

**HEAD, HEART,
HANDS AND HEALTH**

East-West Woking 4-H Club

Our Annual General Meeting was held October 1, 2025. If you were unable to attend our meeting we are still taking on new members.



PROJECTS

- ☒ Foods Project
- ☒ Beef Project
- ☒ Canine Project
- ☒ Entrepreneurship Project

Check us out on Facebook
East West Woking 4-H Club

Please contact Susie at
eastwestwoking@4hab.com



OFFICIALS NEEDED



SPIRIT RIVER MINOR HOCKEY

IS IN **DIRE** NEED OF ADULT OFFICIALS. IF YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR THE GAME OF HOCKEY WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSIDER BECOMING AN OFFICIAL

email spiritrivermha@gmail.com for more info or stay tuned to our fb page. Ref clinics available in surrounding communities as well!

SPIRIT RIVER REF CLINIC OCT 19, 2025

- * Stay active
- * gain valuable experience
- * get paid for officiating games in your community
- * the ability to advance to higher levels of hockey
- * stay connected to the game of hockey

- * contributing to your community

NO EXPERIENCE? NO WORRIES!

Hockey Alberta offers comprehensive training sessions to equip you with the skills and knowledge you need

*** must be 12 years old by December 31 2025**



MOUNTIE MINUTE

Fall is here!

Before you know it, the roads will be covered in snow and ice. Now is the time to start preparing your vehicle for winter:

- Book a service to have a full inspection, or at least an oil change. Extra warm-up idling in the winter months degrades your motor oil.
- Does your block heater work? Have that checked and fixed if necessary.
- Consider getting a battery blanket installed. These plug in when you plug in your block heater and help to keep your battery warm. It'll be sure to start in our inevitable -40°C mornings.
- Have your battery checked. A weak battery in the warmer months will probably get you by but will fall flat on its face when the temperature drops.
- How are those tires looking? Check them checked for decent tread. Winter tires are made with softer rubber and provide a better grip when they're cold compared to summer or "all-season" tires. **Don't forget to check your spare tire and jack too!**
- If there's any other maintenance or repairs you've been putting off, keep in mind that when the weather's cold, most of those problems get worse. Your fan/serpentine belt is more likely to fail in the winter if it's already worn.
- With the cold weather and snow, comes salty muck sprayed all over your windshield and headlights. Now is a good time to get a fresh set of wiper blades if you need. **Don't forget to put in winter washer fluid if you used the summer bug juice in the warmer months.** (take my word for it, it'll freeze!)

Even if you took all those steps, you may still find yourself stranded on the side of the road – breakdowns, hitting the ditch, flat tires, collisions, etc. Hopefully that doesn't happen, but it's good to be prepared:

- Wear warm clothes when you leave the house, and have extra socks, gloves, toques, etc.
- If you don't want to wear winter boots because they're ugly, at least bring them with you. Same goes for toques, "it'll mess up my hair!" who cares? When you're sitting in the ditch, waiting for the tow truck, the moose watching you from the side of the road isn't judging your messy hair-do.
- Keep a blanket or two.
- You should have an emergency bag or bin that has the essentials: **snacks, folding shovel, first-aid kit, flashlight, jumper cables** (I told you to check your battery!), **a flashlight, some candles, duct tape, road flares, a tow strap, maybe even some pylons.**
- Keep your phone charged and have a charger with you.

Thanksgiving: Many people travel during the holiday, leaving their homes unoccupied over the long weekend. Thieves know this, and are waiting for the opportunity to get their filthy paws on your property. Keep an eye on your neighbours property if they're out of town, and ask yours to do the same if you're going away. If you see something or someone suspicious call RCMP immediately. Now is also a good time to install some cameras (who wants to climb up a ladder in the winter).

Halloween:

The Spirit River RCMP and Central Peace Fire are hosting a pumpkin carving contest for kids 17 and under on October 26th, at the Ross Room in Spirit River. Look for the posters and start thinking about unique carving ideas

Halloween can be a fun and exciting time for children and adults alike, although there are also some dangers to watch out for:

Drivers: Please watch out for kids and drive EXTRA slow around town. Keep in mind that the kids are super excited and running around all over the place, often without looking first. They're also often wearing dark-coloured Halloween costumes, and not using cross-walks.

Handing out candy? Try to keep the path to your front door clear and free of any obstacles. If you have pumpkins lit up outside, consider using a fake battery-powered candle instead of a real candle with a flame (some costumes are poofy, and this eliminates the risk of fire if a costume or something flammable comes into contact with them.) Keep the area well-lit, especially if you have stairs. Best to keep your pets inside, even if you aren't handing out candy.

Parents: Depending on the age of your children, I'd recommend you or another adult accompanying them. Have a set time to check-in if they're going out alone. Take a picture of your kids before they go out. If they wander off and get lost, it will help police find them. Show them where the safe places are, such as the RCMP Detachment, the Fire Hall, and the hospital so if they get lost they know where to go to get help.

Have your kids visit all the houses on one side of the street first, and then the other side, rather than zig-zagging down the street. Make sure the kids stay away from animals they don't know. Dogs can get overwhelmed by all the extra people in the area and might bite or jump up and knock them over. Make sure the kids know not to go inside any houses, or get into any vehicles. Try not to snack on the candy until you get home and get a good look at it. It's rare that candy is tampered with, but it might be dirty, or be touching something that you're allergic to. If you encounter home-made treats like popcorn balls or candy apples, etc., make sure they're from someone you know and trust. Remind your kids not to litter, and to pick up the pieces of their costumes that end up falling off. Consider having 2 costumes: one for school, and an extra-large one that will fit over their snowsuits for trick-or-treating.

If you see something off or suspicious, call it in.

Costumes: Make sure it fits properly, so there's no tripping on long skirt hems or baggy clown pants. Masks are cool, but sometimes they significantly reduce your vision, so they may have to be modified, or use face paint instead. Pick a brighter coloured costume if you're going to be trick-or-treating at night, or if that doesn't work, get some cool glow-sticks (dollar store), or a flashlight so you're more visible.

Partying? Halloween is on a Friday this year, so there'll likely be some adult Halloween parties. I wish I didn't have to remind grown adults not to drive drunk, but unfortunately there are a lot of **real losers** that still aren't taking it seriously. Since you clearly don't care about anyone else on the road, and only yourself, maybe this will appeal to you: How will you get to work once you lose your license? How will you get groceries? If you run out of money since you can't get to work, will you lose your home? Will you have to bum a ride everywhere? Now your insurance that was already high, will be even higher once you get your license back. Plan ahead by finding a sober driver instead, have a good time, and avoid all that trouble.

As always, stay safe!
Corporal Don McCullough
Spirit River RCMP

Field Feed: Your AG Report

Fall Tree Watering

By Toso Bozic – ISA Certified Arborist

As trees are preparing for winter, deep watering may help their well-being during the cold winter months as well as at beginning of next spring. Most Alberta is dry with very little moisture during September and October causing many trees to experience water deficiency during these months. The main reason for watering in fall prior to winter is that water acts **as an insulator to the soil and most importantly to the roots of trees**. Cold air around the root system will greatly damage/kill roots causing branch dieback or eventually kill the tree.

Having frozen water in the soil makes soils warmer than surrounding cold air. Roots without water around them will be more susceptible to cold dry air damages. Cold air in the soil will “draw” water from roots and create icicles in the live root cells. Icicles in root cells damage or kill fine roots causing significant stress to trees. Newly planted trees are more prone to winter kill injuries than mature trees. Be aware that during the winter months, the coniferous trees may lose water through their needles faster than their roots can absorb it which will turn needles into brown colour in spring. This process is called winter browning in coniferous

To avoid dead branches or entire trees being killed providing sufficient water supply in the fall is crucial for tree survival during harsh winter months.

Steps for Fall Watering

Water and Soil Testing for Sodium

Prior to any watering you must be aware of the sodium levels in water and soil. If you have a high sodium level in water, you are setting up your trees to be killed in the long run. Any water and soil-testing laboratory can measure sodium levels in water and soil. Most labs will measure Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, and many others as well as Total Dissolved Solid (TDS) or Electrical Conductivity (EC).

First step is measuring the salinity/sodium levels in the soil. Salinity in soil is measured as Electrical Conductivity of extract (ECe) in deciSiemens per meter (dS/m). Most trees will grow in soils with an ECe of up to 4, but beyond that level their growth is restricted. In soil with an ECe between 8-16 dS/m, only saline tolerant species may grow, and their growth may be only satisfactory.

Second step is to measure the sodium level in water. As you add water with high sodium levels, you will overall increase salinity in soil year after year. Most plants (flowers, vegetables, and crops) do not perform well when there's more than 100 ppm of sodium in water. According to Alberta Health most of the Chloride concentration for drinking water is less than 250 mg/L or 250 ppm. Trees affected by salt will have stunned appearance and reduced growth, and many will succumb due to higher doses of salt in soil or on trees themselves.

Timing

When to water in the fall is hard to determine as the weather in Alberta is unpredictable but you must know your local weather situation and act accordingly. For hardwood species, you must wait until leaves fall off and just prior to first soil freezing. Coniferous timing is the same as for hardwood species. Most trees will “shut down” in the early weeks of October just prior to soil freeze. If you wait and the ground freezes, frozen soil will act as barriers and water will not seep down in the soil to the root zones. Always water early in the day, so the plants have time to absorb it before the temperature drops at night.

Where to water

Most people make a very common mistake and water trees right next to the trunk. Trees should be watered at what arborists call the “drip line” – an imaginary line extending from the outermost branch tips straight down to the ground. Most of the roots are spread beyond the drip line and usually are equal to tree heights.

How much to water

Rule of thumb – for every inch in the tree breast height diameter equals 10 gallons of water. Watering should be slow and deep (6-12 inches). There are several ways to water trees: using a deep-root fork or needle (up to 8 inches into the soil), using a soaker hose, or sprinklers. Avoid water spraying on needles or foliage. If you use sprinklers avoid water hitting a tree trunk.

Mulching

Besides watering, you may also add mulch to your trees before freezing. Mulch also protects tree roots from winter freezing and reduces the possibility of root damage and tree mortality. Mulching provides several other functions such as preventing weeds, protecting roots from extreme heat and keeping moisture longer around trees. Create a donut-shaped wood chip cover around your tree to keep water inside. Putting wood chips next to the trunk attracts rodents, insects, and potential diseases.

COUNCIL MOTIONS MDSR No. 133 Council on September 3rd, 2025



The next Council meeting will be held on **October 1st at 9:00am & 15th at 5:00pm**, in Council Chambers located in the MD Office in Spirit River. Council meetings are open to the public and we welcome all to attend!

The following motions were made at our Council Meeting on September 3rd, 2025.

Peace Country Beef and Forage - Funding Request

Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that Agenda Item 13.A. Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA) sponsorship be tabled to a future Council meeting. Further, Council directs the Interim CAO to research the information presented in the Request for Decision further that, Agricultural Fieldman Simon Amting provide an updated report at a future meeting containing the following information: a) The Municipal District's budgeted allowance for the PCBFA sponsorship for the 2024-2025 year. b) Information regarding the contributions of other regional members of the association for the 2024-2025 year. c) An investigation and summary of the rationale behind any regional neighbors' decision to opt out of the PCBFA sponsorship

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Correspondence - From the Town of Spirit River Mayor Tammy Yaremenko

RE: The Alberta Community Partnership Grant/ Request to rescind motion: 085.04.02.25

Moved by Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar that administration send a letter to the Town of Spirit River to formally request a copy of the 2024/25 Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant application to allow for review of the document and discussion at a future meeting. Further that, Council requests that a formal letter stating the Town's request for MD reconsideration be addressed to the entire Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 council, including the Municipal Districts interim CAO.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Anyone wishing to review more of our Council Meeting minutes can visit the MD of Spirit River No. 133 website under **Council and Council Meeting Minutes**.

Christmas Preparations Underway at FCSS

Every year FCSS coordinates several different Christmas programs that are designed to enhance the Christmas season for children, seniors, and families in the Central Peace. These programs are the **Christmas Sharing Program**, **Santas for Seniors**, **Kids Wishlists**, and **Christmas Meals for Seniors**. The intent of these programs is to bring Christmas cheer to homes where people may struggle, or find Christmastime to be challenging.

Our main program is the Christmas Sharing Program, which is an updated version of the previous 'Food Hamper' program. An application form must be completed and submitted to FCSS no later than December 4, and the gift vouchers will be valid at local participating businesses through December. Although the Christmas Sharing application is not due until early December, the FCSS office needs to receive the secret shopper wishlists' applications (Santa for Seniors and Kids Wishlists) by early November as these programs require significant volunteer involvement. FCSS coordinates these gift programs, where submitted applications are paired with sponsors who shop for and wrap gifts, dropping them at the FCSS office. Pickup of gifts is set for early December.

Our Christmas Meals for Seniors are traditional Christmas meals prepared in Community Kitchen events in early December and will be delivered to local Seniors upon completion. The Christmas Meals are intended for seniors who may be financially struggling, or who may be alone at Christmas. Seniors can indicate their interest in receiving the meals, or members of the community are welcome to suggest individuals they feel would enjoy receiving these meals. These programs require advanced planning and preparation, and significant volunteer participation. To ensure our sponsors and volunteers have sufficient lead time, and to ensure that delivery is in place in time for Christmas, we have early deadlines for the different

applications and ask that anyone interested in any of these programs reach out!

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can donate or get involved, or if you are interested in finding out more about how to apply for one or more of the programs, please call the FCSS office. Applicants will be able to pick up the application forms at the FCSS office, local libraries, or the municipal offices. You can also request a copy to be emailed to you.

Central Peace Family and Community Support Services
780-864-3500
Box 389 Spirit River AB T0H 3G0

We respectfully acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 8 land, the traditional home of many First Nations and Métis.



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If you are a not for profit serving the ratepayers of the MD of Spirit River, the Town of Spirit River or the Village of Rycroft, you are welcome to submit your news or updates for free.

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