

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of

Spirit River

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

Private John Chipman “Chip” Kerr, VC: From Spirit River Homesteader to National War Hero

In the early 1900s, the Peace River Country was a frontier of opportunity — a land of vast, open spaces, hard work, and big dreams. Among the settlers who came west seeking a new beginning was a young man from Nova Scotia named John Chipman Kerr. Known by friends and neighbours as “Chip,” he would go on to earn the Victoria Cross, the British Empire’s highest award for bravery — a distinction that forever linked the quiet fields of Spirit River to one of the most remarkable acts of courage in Canadian military history.

John Chipman Kerr was born on January 11, 1887, in Fox River, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, one of eight children in a family that made its living from the rugged landscape of the Bay of Fundy coast. Like many young men of his generation, he was drawn to the promise of the Canadian West — a place where a determined homesteader could carve a life from the soil and build a future through sheer effort and endurance.



By 1912 or 1913, Kerr had made his way to the Spirit River district in northwestern Alberta. He filed a homestead claim and began clearing land for cultivation. Life on the northern plains was difficult — winters were harsh, and supplies scarce — but the sense of freedom and self-reliance drew Kerr and many others to the region. His property, like those of his neighbours, stood as part of a growing settlement that would become the backbone of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133.

Those who knew him described Kerr as modest, hardworking, and unassuming — qualities typical of the

settlers who tamed the northern prairie. No one could have guessed that this quiet homesteader would one day become one of Canada’s most celebrated soldiers.

Answering the Call to Serve

When war broke out in August 1914, Canada — then part of the British Empire — quickly mobilized volunteers to join the fight in Europe. Like many from Alberta’s young farming communities, Kerr left his newly broken land to enlist. He travelled south to Edmonton, where he joined the 49th Battalion (Edmonton Regiment), part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). He was soon sent overseas for training in England and later to the battlefields of France.

By 1916, Private Kerr found himself in the thick of the Battle of the Somme, one of the bloodiest campaigns of the First World War. The fighting around Courcelette, a small French village, was fierce and unrelenting — a brutal struggle of mud, barbed wire, and constant shellfire.

On September 16, 1916, during an assault near Courcelette, Kerr’s company came under devastating enemy fire. The attack stalled as German machine guns swept the open ground, inflicting heavy casualties. In the chaos, Private Kerr saw a chance to act. Without orders and without hesitation, he rushed forward alone across the shattered battlefield toward an enemy trench.

Under intense fire, he reached the German position, killed the machine-gun crew, and captured their weapon. Undeterred by a severe wound to his hand, Kerr then turned the captured gun against the enemy and helped round up a group of 62 German prisoners, single-handedly disarming and escorting them back to Canadian lines.

His courage and initiative inspired everyone around him and helped secure a vital position for his battalion. For this act of “most conspicuous bravery,” Private John Chipman

in this issue:

LEST WE FORGET

Remembrance Day

NEW COUNCILS

for the Central Peace

CHIEF'S BRIEFS

Updates from the Fire Chief

MOUNTIE MINUTE

News from the RCMP

Kerr was awarded the Victoria Cross — the first soldier from northern Alberta to receive the Empire’s highest military honour.

The official citation, published in the London Gazette on October 26, 1916, reads:

“For most conspicuous bravery during an attack. Private Kerr rushed forward alone and put a hostile machine gun out of action, killing the crew and capturing the gun. Later he assisted in capturing many prisoners. His splendid example of courage and initiative inspired all ranks.”

The medal was presented to him by King George V at Buckingham Palace later that year. Back home, news of his award made headlines across Canada — the story of a Spirit River homesteader who had risen to heroism on the battlefields of France.

Returning Home

After the war, Kerr returned briefly to his homestead near Spirit River, where his fellow settlers welcomed him as

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from front page 1)

both neighbour and hero. But the land he had left behind had grown wild, and like many veterans, he struggled to resume the life he had once known.

In the years that followed, he worked in a variety of jobs — as a lumberjack, a trapper, and later in the oilfields of Alberta and British Columbia. Though he carried the prestige of the Victoria Cross, he preferred a quiet, humble life, rarely speaking of his wartime deeds.

Kerr eventually settled in Port Moody, British Columbia, where he lived until his death on February 19, 1963, at the age of 76. He was buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver, his grave marked with the Victoria Cross emblem that signified his extraordinary bravery.

Legacy of a Spirit River Hero

Private John Chipman Kerr's name endures among Canada's most honoured soldiers. His Victoria Cross medal is preserved at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, a lasting reminder of his courage and sacrifice. In Alberta, his legacy is celebrated through plaques, school lessons, and veterans' commemorations that link his story to the pioneering history of the Peace Country.

In Spirit River, where his homestead once stood, Kerr's story remains part of the local heritage — a symbol of the strength and resolve of the settlers who helped build the region and the soldiers who fought to defend it.

As a tribute to Private Kerr, signs along Highway 49 near the entrances of the Town of Spirit River were installed earlier this year — an homage initiated by local veteran and long-time resident of Fairview, James Lawrence Sharkey. "I knew of Kerr from an old picture in our legion's clubroom. I was intrigued because only four Albertans have been awarded the Victoria Cross," Sharkey stated.

Kerr's life exemplifies the spirit of his generation: men and women who faced both the wilderness and the horrors of war with the same unshakable determination. From clearing land under the northern sky to charging enemy lines half a world away, John Chipman "Chip" Kerr embodied the courage that built and defended a nation.



REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

Royal Canadian Legion
Spirit River Branch No. 72

Meeting at the **Brownlee Building** (behind the MD of Spirit River Administration Office) in the morning of **November 11th** and starting the walk to the **Centennial Hall @ 10:30AM**.

Ceremony to commence @ 11:00AM
- Refreshments will be served -

LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENT

Please join us at the **Rycroft Community Library** for a craft, story and snack while we remember our fallen soldiers.

November 12
3:30-4:10pm

Rycroft Community Library
4724 50th Street
Box 248 Rycroft, AB T0H 3A0
Phone: (780) 765-3973

Saddle Hills County

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: **Mailing Address:**

4202 50th Street Box 389

Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0

(780) 864-3500 | mdspiritriver.ab.ca

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



Meet the New FCSS Coordinator

Hello!! My name is Shelley Loroff, and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Central Peace Family and Community Support Services (CPFCSS) Coordinator. You may know me from my employment at Peace Adult Learning Society (PALS), as I was the coordinator there for 5 years.

I was born in Calgary and raised throughout Alberta. I moved to Ontario when I was 17 and spent 25+ years there, before I moved back to Alberta in 2011.

I have four grown children, two girls and two boys. I live on an acreage in the Volin area with my husband. Since moving to this area, I have been involved with many community groups. These include, but not limited to, the Central Peace Community Garden Park and the Central Peace Food Bank. I was also a municipal representative on the FCSS board for 3 years.

I look forward to serving this area of the Peace country again as the CPFCSS Coordinator.

Rycroft Community Library News!

With your **FREE** membership at the Rycroft Community Library your adventure begins:

HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER!

Daily Activities

Tuesdays to Fridays from 2:00–3:00PM
Supporting families during school strike

Let's Kreate

November 5th & 19th from 3:30–5:00
Guided Art Sessions

Community Café Local Talent

November 21st starting @ 5:30PM
Open Mic hosted by Steve & Janet

Youth Club

November 27th from 3:30–5:00PM
Ages 12–17

Dates are subject to change. Please follow the library website or Facebook page for updates on programs.
rycroftlibrary.ab.ca

HAPPENING IN DECEMBER!

Let's Kreate

December 12th from 3:30–5:00
Guided Art Sessions

Community Café Local Talent

December 12th starting @ 5:30
Open Mic hosted by Steve & Janet

Youth Club – Ages 12–17

December 18th from 3:30–5:00PM – TBA
Youth inspired activities

The Rycroft Community Library
WHERE WE ARE SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A LIBRARY

Rycroft Community Library
4724 50th St Box 248 Rycroft, AB T0H 3A0



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@mdspiritriver.ab.ca.

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

The Municipal District Newsletter is published monthly and delivered the first week of the month through Canada Post to all mailboxes in the Municipal District of Spirit River, Town of Spirit River, and Village of Rycroft.

The MD is accepting advertising and will consider discounts for frequent or repeat advertisers. *The MD reserves the right to refuse advertising.*

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.

For more information,
email **Denise** at
dvanroot@outlook.com.

FULL PAGE AD COLOUR,
10.625 x 8.125" | Glossy
\$500 per edition

HALF PAGE AD COLOUR,
5.39 x 8.125" OR 4.065 10.625" | Glossy
\$250 per edition

QUARTER PAGE AD COLOUR,
5.39 x 4.065" OR 4.065 5.39" Glossy
\$125 per edition

BUSINESS CARD COLOUR,
3.5 x 2" Glossy
\$60 per edition

**All advertising must be high resolution.*

2025 Municipal Elections Official Results

for all five Central Peace municipalities

After months of anticipation, the municipal elections are now over and the results have been released.

Released Friday, October 24, 2025



The following are the OFFICIAL election results for the MD of Spirit River.

With a voter turnout of 54.5% (610 eligible voters, 333 voters total), this election proved to be one of the most competitive elections in history.

Candidate Name	Number of Votes	Results
Bzowy, Evelyn	144	ELECTED (New)
Garrow, Elaine	81	(Incumbent)
Lanigan, Michael	103	(New)
Martin-Macdaid, Marcy	98	(New)
Rozecki, Shelley	186	ELECTED (New)
Schoorlemmer, Bernard	275	ELECTED (New)
vanRootselaar, Nick	94	(Incumbent)
van Rootselaar, Tony	164	ELECTED (Incumbent)
Wallin, Larry	60	(New)
Wark, Dean	225	ELECTED (New)
White, Darcy	113	(New)



Ward	Candidate Name	Number of Votes	Results
1	Poetker, Albert	N/A	ACCLAIMED (Incumbent)
2	Gulick, Karen	13	(New)
2	Kitchen, Nelson	19	ELECTED (New)
3	Syncox, Stephen	N/A	ACCLAIMED (New)
4	Manzulenکو, Gerald	27	(Incumbent)
4	Sinkwich, John	98	ELECTED (New)
4	Tschetter, David	7	(New)
5	Duvall, Mel	N/A	ACCLAIMED (Incumbent)
6	Chandonnet, Timothy	N/A	ACCLAIMED (Incumbent)
7	Portelance, Karen	N/A	ACCLAIMED (Incumbent)



Candidate Name	Number of Votes	Results
Andrews, Frank	62	(New)
Babcock, Tamara	79	ELECTED (New)
Bissonnette, Kenneth	36	(New)
Blandin, Elane	68	ELECTED (New)
Chelick, Joanne	51	(Incumbent)
Dreger, Roxann	72	ELECTED (Incumbent)
Glober, Allison	20	(New)
Knells, Jacqueline	62	(New)
Markovich, Brian	85	ELECTED (Incumbent)
Northcott, Halsey	43	(New)
Prefontaine, Neil	46	(New)
Verquin, James	84	ELECTED (Incumbent)



Ward	Candidate Name	Number of Votes	Results
1	Gulka, Dwight	45	(New)
1	Kelly, Karolyn	22	(New)
1	Roy, Daniel	81	ELECTED (Incumbent)
2	Hingley, Lance	N/A	ACCLAIMED (New)
3	Rogers, Blaine	50	ELECTED (New)
3	Weiss, Sarah	42	(New)
4	Armagost, Ed	67	ELECTED (Incumbent)
4	Brandson, Mandy	20	(New)
4	Clarke, Cindy	13	(New)
5	Bolch, M. Ralph	17	(New)
5	Klatt, Shirley	80	ELECTED (Incumbent)
6	Richard, Gerald	N/A	ACCLAIMED (Incumbent)
7	Morin, Bani	52	(New)
7	vanRootselaar, Jenn	59	ELECTED (New)



Candidate Name	Number of Votes	Results
Funk, Ryan	274	ELECTED (New)
Georgeson, William	62	(New)
Glassel, Garth	67	(New)
Gour, Sumit	217	ELECTED (New)
Jackson, William (Bill)	274	ELECTED (New)
Macfarlane, Ken	99	(New)
Meyer, Wayne	74	(Incumbent)
Nicholson, Jim	260	ELECTED (Incumbent)
Potter, Brent	179	ELECTED (New)
Stanich, Brenda	163	ELECTED (Incumbent)
Thomas, James	80	(New)
van Rootselaar, Jo Anne	146	(New)
Yaremko, Tammy	224	ELECTED (Incumbent)

MOUNTIE MINUTE

BRRRRR...!

November usually brings cold miserable weather and unfortunately less daylight. Here's a few tips to keep yourself and your property safe:

- Consider replacing your yard lights with brighter LED ones. They light up the area better and use significantly less electricity.
- While you're doing your final yard cleanup of the year, make sure you move all yard tools like rakes, shovels, cords, and other tripping hazards before the snow cements them into the ground for the next few months.
- Check the perimeter of the house and outbuildings for damaged locks and window seals, and potential access points for thieves.
- Throughout the winter make sure you keep your sidewalks, stairs, and driveway free of snow and ice. Not only does it keep it safe for you to walk on, but keeps the place looking lived-in and deters thieves. The same goes for vacant farm properties.
- If you notice your neighbour is elderly or disabled, make sure you check on them. This time of the year things can get lonely, and they may not have family close by to check on them. Also, if you have a spare 15 minutes (and who doesn't?) don't let them shovel their sidewalks themselves; instead, offer to do it for them. Be a good neighbour. I remember a particularly nasty complainant during Covid that had the audacity to complain about their elderly neighbours trying to leave their house and "risking everyone's safety". The elderly couple were only trying to get groceries. This doucebag was complaining that the neighbours were stuck in a snowdrift in the driveway. Instead of offering to help get them unstuck or pick up groceries for them, they decided to call Police on them instead. Make no mistake, this person was not calling to have police assist them, they were trying to report the old folks' "wrongdoing". Be a good community member and help others when you can.
- Nearly everyone has a snowmobile out here, and they certainly aren't cheap. If you keep it parked in the back of your truck, leave it in a well-lit area, and keep the "key" if it has one safely hidden somewhere else. Better yet, install a tracker in your machine that's well hidden. If it gets up and walks away on you, this makes it easier to track down.
- I hope by now you've changed your tires, as you don't want to join the "summer tires club" in the ditch.
- Check to make sure your security cameras are in working order, and the lenses are clean as can be. Dust and spider webs make the image blurry or distorted.
- Four-Wheel-Drive and All-Wheel-Drive offer excellent traction in the snow, ice or mud, but remember, these don't help you stop any better. Drive to the conditions and don't over-estimate your vehicle's capabilities.
- If your parking situation requires you to run your block heater extension cord over a sidewalk, consider the tripping hazard it creates, and instead suspend it by poles, above the sidewalk or create a "ramp" with a rug or marking the crossing point with pylons.

November is also an important month because of Remembrance Day. It seems every year, there are less and less people attending Remembrance Day Ceremonies which is incredibly disappointing.

Lest We Forget.

Unfortunately, many people are forgetting about the past sacrifices of those who have died in war. For many, they may think "oh good, a Stat Holiday", kick up their feet and watch the latest episode of whatever trash is popular on TV. Couldn't be bothered to show any kind of recognition for the sacrifices of others.

Many of the war dead were young, barely teens, each one had hopes, dreams, and goals in life. Keep in mind that these folks had just struggled their way through the Great Depression and still had very little. One minute you're baling hay, and the next thing you know, you're overseas in Italy. They put their lives on hold to go off to a foreign country with hopes that they were doing something good by defending their home. In many cases, boys would say they were older than they were just so that they could enlist. In WWII, my grandpa, Don McCullough, did just that because he was too young, and his dad did the same, as he was too old to enlist. Even though my grandpa eventually had seven children of his own, and loved children, he couldn't stand the sound of kids crying because of having to listen to children in Italy starving to death. He was fortunate, having made it home alive, along with all his brothers. Sadly, many of his buddies were left behind. The reality of war is so horrific that many soldiers never talk about it. To many, this may feel so far removed, ancient history but it wasn't that long ago – a little while after he was home, my grandpa went on to become an Ironworker, helping build the Dunvegan Bridge that we all still drive on today.



Maybe you can't make it to the Remembrance Day Ceremonies? Well, I hope to see you at least wearing a poppy. Also, as a sign of respect, don't light up your Christmas lights until **AFTER** Remembrance Day – it's so uncouth.

Until next time,
Corporal Don McCullough
Spirit River RCMP



JOIN OUR TEAM

Central Peace Fire and Rescue

IS SEEKING DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN OUR FIREFIGHTING TEAM

IF YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY AND MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT - WE WANT YOU!!!

TRAINING KICKOFF

📅 DATE: NOVEMBER 6, 2025
🕒 TIME: 7:00 PM
📍 LOCATION: RIVCROFT FIREHALL

A YEARLY HONORARIUM IS PAID AT THE END OF EACH YEAR

CONTACT TO APPLY
CPFR CHIEF BRIAN KROES
BKROES@CPFR.CA

Contact Us
780-500-7027

Pleasant View Apartments

Welcome to Spirit River's Newest Senior Living Residence!

We're excited to say we are ready to start filling our beautiful new senior apartment complex and will be reaching out to those who have provided applications. This new building features 26 thoughtfully designed units providing 21 one-bedroom units and 5 two-bedroom units, with sizes ranging from 486 to 864 square feet. We currently have 19 applications on the waitlist and are anticipating move ins to begin in November 2025. If you're interested in more information, please contact our office at info@grandespirit.org or phone (780)532-3276 ext. 110.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Christmas programs

We are looking for Donors, sponsors for Secret Santa (seniors and children), and Shoppers

Snow angels

shoveling snow for seniors who are unable to.

Meals on wheels drivers

Help deliver our hot meals on Wednesdays or Fridays.

This usually takes about an hour to an hour and a half.

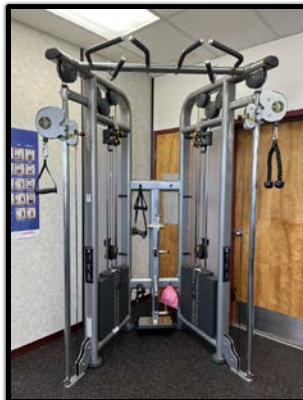
Call FCSS at 780 864 3500 Extension 2



Fitness Centre

Summer is over - it's time to hit the gym

NEW EQUIPMENT



Rycroft

MERRY PIONEERS

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

The Centre is open Monday to Thursday from 1:00pm - 4:00pm, unless otherwise stated. Come join us for coffee, fellowship, and games. Chair Yoga for Seniors starts at 2:00pm, no charge.

Mahjong starts at 1:00pm.

- November 3rd ➤ Chair Yoga;
- November 5th ➤ Majong & Chair Yoga;
- November 10th ➤ Chair Yoga;
- November 12th ➤ Majong & Chair Yoga;
- November 17th ➤ Chair Yoga;
- November 19th ➤ Majong & Chair Yoga;
- November 20th ➤ Old Time Music & Dance; from 1:30pm-4:00pm - \$5
- November 24th ➤ Chair Yoga;
- November 25th ➤ Foot Care by Echo from 1:00pm - 4:00pm, \$30 bring your own towel and tools;
- November 25th ➤ Nails by Natalie Martin with Aurora Blush Bar from 1:00pm - 4:00pm, \$4;
- November 25th ➤ Potluck Supper @ 5:00pm with Open Mike & Jam session to follow
- November 26th ➤ Majong & Chair Yoga;

The Rycroft Merry Pioneers Senior Centre is located within the Rycroft Community Hall, at 5208 - 47th Avenue.

CHIEF'S BRIEFS



Here we are October has come and disappeared already, wow time sure does fly by. The department has responded to 170 calls so far this year. Last year we had reached 178 incident calls, which was our record for responses since 2016, this year is sure to surpass that number.

Since the speed reduction to 60 km/h on highway 2 through Rycroft, motor vehicle collisions have dropped by 80 percent. This has had a significant effect on saving lives.

Impressive as ever is the dedication of the department members, dropping everything to respond to an incident to someone they may not even know.

This is community service, and giving back is what the volunteer is all about, not only the fire service, but every group that is out there. Kudos to all of you, and a big thank you from me personally for the work you all are doing.

We are recruiting - first class is November 6th at the Rycroft Fire Hall. Feel free to come and see what it's all about. You just might find that this is your calling. Look for posters around the Town and Village, as well as our Facebook page, **Central Peace Fire & Rescue - CPFR** to keep up with all our current events.

The new firehall has broken ground and we are very excited about the new build coming. Construction should be starting in the spring of 2026, and next July we celebrate our 10th anniversary as a Commission. We are all very excited to share that milestone with you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Brian Kroes
Fire Chief, CPFR

SPIRIT RIVER RANGERS 2025-26 SEASON SCHEDULE

Date	Game	LOCATION
Friday, Oct. 24	Spirit River at Falher	Falher Complex
Saturday, Nov. 1	High Prairie at Spirit River	Maclean Rec Center
Thursday, Nov. 6	Spirit River at Dawson Creek	Memorial Arena
Saturday, Nov. 8	Spirit River at Valleyview	Polar Palace
Saturday, Nov. 15	Grande Prairie at Spirit River	Maclean Rec Center
Saturday, Nov. 22	Spirit River at Fox Creek	Pembina Arena
Friday, Nov. 28	Spirit River at Manning	Jack McAvoy Arena
Saturday, Nov. 29	Fort St. John at Spirit River	Maclean Rec Center
Saturday, Dec. 13	Manning at Spirit River	Maclean Rec Center
Thursday, Dec. 18	Spirit River at Fort St. John	North Peace Arena
Saturday, Dec. 20	Dawson Creek at Spirit River	Maclean Rec Center
Saturday, Jan. 3	Fox Creek at Spirit River	Maclean Rec Center
Thursday, Jan. 15	Father at Spirit River	Maclean Rec Center
Saturday, Jan. 17	Spirit River at Grande Prairie	Design Works Centre
Thursday, Jan. 29	Valleyview at Spirit River	Maclean Rec Center
Friday, Jan. 30	Spirit River at High Prairie	Sports Palace

HOME
AWAY All Games At 8:30



Are Your Property Taxes Overdue?

Here's What You Need to Know

Important Dates:

Assessment and tax notices are mailed out at the end of May and are due on September 16th annually. All assessments and tax notices are deemed to have been received seven (7) days after mailing within Alberta and fourteen (14) days outside of the province.

A 2% penalty will be applied on any outstanding taxes on October 15th, November 15th, and December 15th of the tax year. A 10% penalty will be applied on January 15th of the following year.

What happens if you don't pay your property taxes?

If you miss the deadline to pay your property taxes, your municipality will likely charge a penalty on the unpaid amount. The penalty amount depends on local bylaws.

The MD of Spirit River's tax penalty bylaw can be found on their website at mdspiritriver.ab.ca. Go to Departments, then Taxes & Assessments, then scroll to bottom of page to Unpaid Taxes and click on the PDF titled **Bylaw 2-2000: Penalties on Unpaid Property Taxes**.

Should the tax obligations and accrued penalties remain unmet for a certain period, the municipality can take steps to collect the money. This process could eventually lead to your **property being sold at a public auction** to recover what's owed.

How the municipality collects unpaid taxes depends on what the taxes are for:

- **Land and homes** follow one process (including public auction).
- **Manufactured homes or non-land taxes** (like well drilling equipment) follow slightly different rules.
- In rare cases, such as with **pipelines or utility infrastructure**, the municipality may apply a **special lien** to protect its claim ahead of other creditors.

What's the difference between "unpaid taxes" and "taxes in arrears"?

- **Unpaid taxes:** Any amount not paid by your municipality's payment deadline (e.g. Sept 16).
- **Taxes in arrears:** If your taxes and penalties still aren't paid by December 31st of the same year, they officially become "**in arrears**", which means they now fall under stricter recovery laws – including the possibility of a public auction.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the MD of Spirit River office at (780) 864-3500 to speak to the Director of Corporate Services.

Rycroft Agricultural Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

December 8th, 2025

6:30 - 9:00 PM

Membership of \$5.00 required to Vote

Members and Public Welcome

Shelterbelt Program Deadline

The Municipal District of Spirit River's Shelterbelt Program is designed to promote the establishment of shelterbelts by providing residents with bulk-ordered tree seedlings at a cost-recovery rate. The program aims to reduce wind and water erosion, conserve energy for homes, and provide habitat and food for birds.

To participate, residents must submit an order form by December 20th each year to receive seedlings for the following growing season. Orders are fulfilled in bundles of 10 or 15 seedlings, and pickup occurs at the Public Works facility in Spirit River, typically in May.

The program is available only to residents of the MD of Spirit River, and while the specific tree species are subject to availability, seed viability, and growing conditions, any unfulfilled orders due to these factors will result in a reimbursement. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) acts as an advisory body on agricultural matters, including this program.

Seedling options are White Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, Blue Spruce, Siberian Larch, Lilac, Manitoba Maple, Hybrid Poplar, and Golden Willow. If you are an MD resident and would like to participate in the Shelterbelt Program, go to the website at mdspiritriver.ab.ca/departments/agricultural-services/shelterbelt-form to place your order.