

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of

# Spirit River

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



## A Legacy of Service: Celebrating the Retirement of Ron Oe

After eight years behind the wheel of the Municipal District of Spirit River's Transit Bus, Ron Oe is stepping into retirement, leaving behind not just a job well done, but a legacy of compassion, kindness, and service that has touched countless lives throughout the region.

Family, friends, coworkers, and municipal staff gathered recently to celebrate Ron's retirement and reflect on the tremendous impact he has made over the years.

Chief Administrative Officer Shirley Hayden opened the luncheon by acknowledging Ron's unwavering dedication to the residents he served,

"For the past eight years, Ron has been a vital part of our team," said Hayden. "He sets the absolute standard for a clinical driver. Rain or shine, he's always been there. He's almost never sick. The level of reliability he brought to the job is incredibly rare and extremely valuable."

But Hayden noted that what truly set Ron apart wasn't simply showing up—it was the way he cared for the people he served. "You don't just stop at the curb for our residents," she expressed. "You actually take their groceries in for them. We often get compliments about how friendly our driver is. You are going to be very hard to replace, and I am sad to see you go."

Public Works Supervisor Dave Johnson echoed those sentiments, recalling how dependable Ron had been both as a bus driver and a neighbour at the Public Works yard. "You were always here," Johnson said. "You'd even inform me on the weekends that somebody was in the yard. We got lots of compliments about how you'd pack groceries in for somebody or do whatever needed to be done. Thanks for the last eight

years, and hopefully you can enjoy the rest of them."

When it was his turn to speak, Ron shared the story of how he first became involved with the transit service. "We were doing a two-year pilot project with the bus, and Dave said, 'You should look into it. You should do it,'" Ron recalled with a smile.

What began as a job quickly became something much more meaningful. "The people were pretty awesome," he said. "I got to become friends with a lot of people, and I got to know a lot of people in this area."

Over the years, those friendships led to countless memorable moments—some funny, some heartwarming, and some deeply emotional.

Ron fondly remembered helping passengers in whatever way he could, whether it meant fixing a stove, lending a hand, or replacing a container of blueberries that had spilled before an appointment. "You just do stuff like that," he said.

Yet one of the most difficult parts of the job was saying goodbye. "The hardest part was watching different people pass away," Ron reflected. "Over the years, there were nine of them, and you really get to know people."

Despite those difficult moments, he never lost sight of why

*in this issue:*

## COUNCIL MOTIONS

*From the Municipal District*

## BACK TO BASICS

*Practical Living in the Central Peace*

## CHIEF'S BRIEFS

*Updates from the Fire Chief*

## MOUNTIE MINUTE

*News from the RCMP*

he chose to serve. "It's a good job. Sometimes it was a little hectic, but most of the time it was an amazing, worthwhile thing to take on. I believe God put me in that position to help out people."

The impact Ron made extended well beyond the passengers who rode the bus.

Reeve Tony van Rootselaar shared how Ron's name would often come up during conversations with elected officials from neighbouring municipalities. "Talking to other councils about the services the MD Bus provides, it's crazy how many councillors talked about, whether it's their parents or someone they know, who uses that bus," said van Rootselaar. "Every single time they would say, 'We love your driver—don't get rid of him.' They just love you. You had a great impact on the community."



From left to right:

CAO Shirley Hayden, Councillor Evelyn Bzowy, Reeve Tony van Rootselaar, Ron Oe, and Deputy Reeve Dean Wark.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from front page 1)

Clearly moved by the praise, Ron responded with humility. "Thank you. That means a lot," he expressed. "I remember when Kelly Hudson hired me and he said, 'We want to go above and beyond,' and that's what I tried to do."

As for retirement, Ron plans to spend the summer enjoying some well-earned freedom. A lifelong motorcycle enthusiast, he hopes to take a trip to Haines Junction in the Yukon before travelling with his wife, Wendy, to the East Coast to visit friends and explore new places.

But even as he looks ahead to new adventures, Ron leaves behind something far more valuable than years of service. He leaves behind an example of what it means to care for others.

When asked about the biggest lesson he had learned throughout his career, Ron offered a simple but profound piece of wisdom: "The better the leader you are, the bigger the servant you are. And if God has plans for you, just step out in faith. He'll guide you."

Then, in a final message to the community he served so faithfully, Ron shared words that perfectly capture the spirit with which he approached both his work and his life:

"Bless you guys. I just pray for you guys, for wisdom and safety and all that. Just know that people care, and if you start to run out of compassion for people, just ask Him for more. He delivers."

## Friendly Reminder

The deadline for newsletter submissions, paid or non-profit, are now due by the **12th** of each month — one week earlier than before.



**NEW DEADLINE**  
**12<sup>TH</sup>**  
OF EACH MONTH

♥

♥ Thank you for helping us keep the newsletter organized and running smoothly!

# RYCROFT FARMERS' MARKET

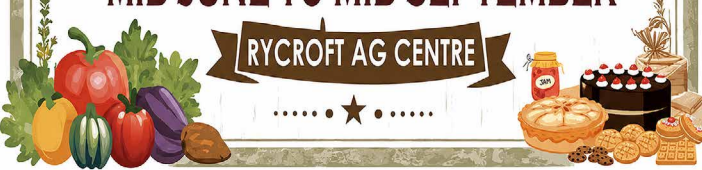
## OPEN THURSDAYS

### 3 - 6

### MID-JUNE TO MID-SEPTEMBER

RYCROFT AG CENTRE

..... ★ .....



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 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
**Mailing Address:** Box 389  
Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0  
(780) 864-3500 | mdspiritriv.ab.ca



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



# GIANT PUMPKIN and SUNFLOWER GROWING CONTEST!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
**THE LIONS CLUB OF RYCROFT & DISTRICT**



**\$250 PRIZE**  
for the Largest Pumpkin by Weight

**\$100 PRIZE**  
for Mystery Weight





Prizes for Tallest Sunflower



Prizes for Largest Sunflower Head



Prizes for Smallest Pumpkin

### REGISTRATION COST

 **PUMPKIN - \$20**  
(including seeds)

 **SUNFLOWERS - \$10**  
(including seeds)

### CONTEST DETAILS

- ✦ Open to all ages!
- ✦ All pumpkins and sunflowers must be grown by the entrant.
- ✦ One entry per category.
- ✦ Have fun and good luck!



**WEIGH-IN DATE**  
to be held at **3:00PM**  
**OCTOBER 4, 2026**  
• DURING THANKSGIVING TURKEY BINGO •

#### SEED PICK-UP LOCATIONS

Seeds (included with registration) can be picked up at any of the following locations:

- Town of Spirit River
- Spirit River Public Library
- Village of Rycroft
- Rycroft Public Library

#### FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT:

**Darrell Hick**  
(780-228-5397)

**Terri Gale**  
(780-3811-9728)

# HAPPY VALLEY

## — . Ag & Recreation Club . —

Our local facility offers quiet outdoor luxury paired with unmatched privacy and stunning views of local scenery. The Club hosts many events including trail rides, gymkhanas, clinics, and kids holiday parties. The facility is available for drop-in use and private rentals. Weddings, family reunions, baby showers, birthday parties, everything works in Happy Valley! The facility features a picnic pavilion, fire pit area, playground, horseshoe pits, day use area and a camping area with horse corrals.



### ★ Important Dates to Remember ★



**Gymkhana**  
July 19 & August 9



**Danette DeBolt Clinic**  
August 1-2



**Alberta Endurance Riders Event**  
September 4-6



**Fall Ride and Steak Supper**  
September 12

Join us for our next event or call for private bookings! For more info, contact us at:

 Happyvalleyagrec@outlook.com

 Happy Valley Ag and Rec

 Connie Poss  
(780) 864-0785



## Seniors' Day in Woking

Central Peace Health and Wellness Coalition (CPHAWC) hosted a Senior's Day event on June 1st. It was a huge success again this year. The Coalition has been hosting this event for a number of years now. Each year it is held in a different location in the G5 area, having been held in Spirit River, Rycroft, and Gordondale in the past, and this year it was held at the Woking Multiplex.

CPHAWC would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored, or helped in any way to make the day special. It was wonderful to see so many people come together for a day filled with great food, laughter, and entertainment, as well as visiting with friends and neighbours. A day truly filled with community spirit.

We are grateful for the support that helped make this day possible and for everyone who helped create such a memorable day for our seniors. Thank you for helping to make Seniors Day 2026 one to remember.



### Some of the gracious sponsors for this year were:

- Secure Waste Infrastructure Corp for supplying the KFC chicken, fries and gravy
- R360 for supplying the coffee, tea, water, and juice
- CPHAWC for supplying the salads, buns, and desserts
- Div's Pharmacy for the cash donation
- Bernie and Sherill Day for the cash donation
- Marie Day for the cash donation
- Town of Spirit River, Village of Rycroft, Heads Up, Home Hardware, Lighthouse Promotions, RBC, Gregg's Distributor's, Spirit River Library, and Saddle Hills County for the door prizes
- MD #133 Spirit River for donating their bus to transport the seniors from Spirit River and Rycroft.

- Central Peace FCSS for purchasing some of the items for the take away bags, helping to organizing the day, and helping to prepare the salads
- Woking Willing Workers for the use of their hall kitchen free of charge.
- Some of the Woking Pickle ball crew that helped to set up and take down the tables and chairs.
- Ron Oe and Marissa Coulter for driving the buses
- Marcia Day and her crew from Rotary Manor in Dawson Creek, BC for always supporting our day no matter where we hold the event, as well as the drivers of both buses that brought their residents
- Karen Potrebenko who helped us for two days with numerous tasks
- To the CPHAWC members that helped to organize, prepare, and make it happen! Denise, Carla, Tracy, Shelley, Roxann, and Adeline - another huge success ladies!
- Brenda Robinson, our entertainment and MC of the day. Thank you for making us all laugh and for making us all think about how we will forever fold our towels!
- Gary Ewing and Donny Imes for singing their hearts out for us. We love to hear you every year
- Shyla Bzowy and Michelle Issac from ATB for the Scam presentation
- Courtney Schoorlemmer - SHC Nurse Practitioner for your presentation
- Anna Richard for taking pictures of the day, as well as taking photos of the seniors that we print or email to all the seniors free of charge



To our vendors who come every year and donate their time to pamper our seniors at their own expense, usually requiring them to take a day off from their paying jobs to help out – we thank you from the bottom of our hearts; we couldn't do this without you!

Michelle Roy – Hairdresser  
Dixie Peacock & Kaitlyn Hehr – Hand Massages

Laura Sajtovich – Make up  
Natalie Martin - Nails

We look forward to seeing you in 2027, the first week in June as that is Senior's Week! Date and location for next year's event TBA.



**QUINTON BLAIR**  
is back!  
→ FOR OUR →  
**SATURDAY**  
CABARET ENTERTAINMENT

# Race the 3

★★★★★  
**JULY 24, 25, 26 2026**

**CHUCKWAGONS ★ BULL RIDING**  
KIDS CORNER ★ FOOD TRUCKS ★ BEER GARDENS ★ 50/50 ★ FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT  
**ALL WEEKEND LONG!**



# Valedictorian's Speech

Good afternoon,

Before I begin, I'd like to say thank you to the teachers who encouraged us to continue towards success. Thank you to our families that picked us up when we fell down. Thank you to our friends who were there to hear us out when times got rough (and to make the good times just a little bit better).

Through both the best and worst of times, you guys were there for us. And us, well, we survived. Regardless of what life threw at us, despite the hand life dealt each of us, all of us forged on so we could be standing here, tall, proud, and as graduates.

When I look behind me, I don't see a simple gaggle of high schoolers, I see the next generation of young adults who are ready to make the world a better place. From singing the Backstreet Boys in LA 9 to walking this stage, we've all come incredibly far as both classmates and friends.

No matter our differences, school is what brought us together.

School has allowed me to make some wonderful friends, and for that I say, thank you. Now that we have surmounted the trials of school, we can look toward the radiance of our futures as we prepare to tackle life's next set of challenges. To be honest, it is not our past, nor our failures or flaws that define us as people. Our shortcomings are not who we are. It's our virtues, relationships, and attitudes that make us who we are and will



define us in our upcoming years.

There's a saying that I'm quite fond of, and it goes something like this.

'No matter how terrible, awful, or downright atrocious the past was, its darkness will never be able to smother the brightness of the future as the future is what we make of it.'

Our futures are ours to decide and are uniquely our own, multi-layered much like an onion (or an ogre). So, as our journey into becoming functional members of society begins, I'd like to say one final thing.

According to all known laws of probability, there is no way a student should be able to succeed. Its brain is too small to get its fat little body to do an assignment. The student, of course, succeeds anyway because students don't care what teachers think is impossible - courtesy of the Bee Movie.

Thank you for your time,

Tristan Dickinson, Valedictorian  
Spirit River Regional Academy Class of 2026

## MD #133 TRANSIT BUS

*Your Ride to Grande Prairie!*

Looking for an easy, affordable way to get to Grande Prairie for shopping or appointments? The MD Transit Bus has you covered!



**Runs:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays  
(excluding STAT holidays)



**Departs:** 8:30am  
**Returns:** 4:30pm

### Pick-Up Locations:

- MD Office (Spirit River)
- Pleasant View Lodge
- Rycroft Post Office
- Sexsmith Sunset Homes (by request)

**Fare:** \$25 per trip

*Note: Medical appointments receive priority booking when space is limited.*



**Call (780) 864-3500**  
to book your seat  
(minimum 24 hours in advance)



Convenient. Reliable. Local.

## Resource Contact List

**CPFR (Fire Dept)**

**Brian Kroes**  
Office 780-864-2841  
Cell 780-500-7027

**Fish & Wildlife**

780-864-4101

**Highways Services**

(Alberta Trans)  
587-956-3411 or  
1-877-300-1605



## Meet our Public Works Crew

During the week of May 17, 2026, Public Works employees were recognized in the Municipal District of Spirit River #133 and throughout Canada for the important role public works departments play in building and maintaining the foundation of strong communities. From the roads we travel and the bridges we cross, to water systems, drainage infrastructure, equipment maintenance, and emergency response support, much of this work happens quietly behind the scenes — but its impact is felt every day.

On May 20th, the MD Council and staff held an appreciation lunch for their Public Works crew to say thank you, and wanted them to know that their service does not go unnoticed.



From left to right: Rob Dostaler, Simon Arnting, Ron Lindsay, Dave Johnson, Russell Darr, Dion Hayden, Kevin Andrews, Cindy Thornton, Natalya Smith-Klassen

**R36**  
Environmental  
Solutions Canada

### Landfill Hours

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 5pm

Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday: Closed

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

Open to MD Ratepayers Only

**AFSC**  
Unique Financial Services  
INSURANCE • LENDING • INCOME STABILIZATION

**Spirit River Branch Location**  
4202-50 Street

(Brownlee Building behind the MD Administration Office)

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
**AFSC ON LOCATION**

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month

8:15am - 4:30pm

Contact Zoe Iwaszuk @ (780) 864-3896

**AVAILABLE BY REMOTE COMMUNICATION**

Monday to Friday - 8:15am - 4:30pm @ 1 (877) 899-2372



## COUNCIL MOTIONS MDSR No. 133 Council on May 27<sup>th</sup> & June 10<sup>th</sup> 2026



The next Council meetings will be held on **July 18<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am**, in Council Chambers located in the MD Office in Spirit River. Council meetings are open to the public and streamed live.

*The following motions were made at our Council Meetings on May 27<sup>th</sup> & June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.*

### Weed & Pest Inspector Appointments

Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council approve the appointment of Jaxon Stokes, Shyanne Page, Cindy Thornton and Natalya Klassen as weed and pest inspectors under the Weed Control Act and the Agricultural Pests Act effective May 1, 2026 until termination of employment with the Municipal District.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Field Map Training

Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council direct Administration to enrol Municipal District staff members in the MMSA ArcGIS Field Map training on June 2nd, 2026 online via Teams.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Schoorlemmer Appointed to Watershed Alliance

Moved by Councillor Rozecki to appoint Councillor Schoorlemmer to the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Enhanced Cybersecurity

Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer that Council approve Infotech proposal for enhanced cybersecurity in the amount of \$1,134.00 annually, to come from Training Fees GLs allocated by department.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Empowering Minds Attendance

Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council be authorized to attend the Empowering Minds Elected Officials session on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 evening Public session being hosted at the Rycroft Agricultural Society..

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Build Communities Strong Fund Application

Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer that Council authorize Administration to submit an application to the Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) Local Impact Stream (administered regionally via PrairiesCan) for the maximum allowable grant of \$1,000,000; and further, direct Administration to formally request a commitment for the remaining \$1,714,988 from the Government of Alberta to be approved prior to the federal application submission in order to satisfy federal eligibility requirements proving the project is fully funded.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### External Audit Authorization

Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposals for external audit services and direct Administration to return with an evaluation summary and recommendation for Council's consideration prior to awarding the contract.

**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**.



## Happy Valley Spring Trail Ride a Success!

On Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, the Happy Valley Ag & Recreation Club hosted their Annual Spring Bust Out & Poker Rally.

Riders met at the HV Ag & Rec grounds to register before heading out for a day of trail riding. HV Ag & Rec member Connie (Poss) Pocket stated, "We had a lovely weekend with lots of sunshine and good folks! We had 57 riders which is a record for our ride!" Many more family and friends joined later for a fantastic evening of campfire, horseshoes, and jocularly!

They had a full sell out on the poker rally, and their big winner was Owen Poss with a straight!

"We are ever grateful to all you fine folks that come out and make this event a success," Connie expressed.

See y'all next year!!



Transit bus is on the **MOVE**

**MD Summer Bus Tours in July**



**Friday, July 3rd – Hines Creek Museum**

Followed by lunch and shopping stop in Fairview.

**Friday, July 10th – Cotillion Campground & Moonshine Lake**

Head west to enjoy the gorgeous views at Cotillion Campground and walk the loop around Moonshine Lake. Be sure to pack a lunch for a picnic.

**Friday, July 17th – Beaverlodge & Valhalla**

This trip takes you to Beaverlodge to visit the South Peace Centennial Museum and Interpretive Centre, Beaverlodge Art & Culture Centre, and Euphemia McNaught Homestead Heritage Site. Valhalla Mercantile gift shop has plenty see and purchase! Home cooked Friday Lunches @ South Peace Centennial Museum 12–2 pm Cash Only.

**Friday, July 24th – Girouxville Museum, Catholic Pilgrimage, & Stations of the Cross**

Girouxville Museum boasts over 6,000 artifacts and was the largest museum in Alberta when it was founded in 1968. A Catholic Pilgrimage site is also located next door to the museum. Drop some pins at Smoky Lanes Bowling Alley, grab a bite to eat at Esquire Hotel & Lounge, and visit the beautiful outdoor Stations of the Cross at the Notre Dame de Lourdes.

Call the office at (780) 864-3500 to save a spot on the bus!

**Bus Fare: Age 16+ \$25.00; Under 16 \$5.00**

Fare is due upon registration. Riders are responsible for all expenses over and above the bus fare.

Bus leaves the MD garage at 8:30AM to pick-up passengers at designated locations and will be returning between 3:30PM and 4:00PM.

**Priority given to seniors and those who are mobility challenged.**

Scan for full 2026 summer bus tour schedule



## Have an idea? Share your story!

For all submissions and advertising inquiries, please contact Denise at dvanroot@outlook.com by the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Thank you!**



## More Rural Albertans Working Beyond Retirement

A new Statistics Canada report is highlighting a growing reality across rural Northern Alberta: retirement no longer always means stepping away from work completely.

According to the April 2026 report Retirement and Post-Retirement Employment Among Older Canadians, the number of Canadians retiring each year has steadily increased over the past decade, rising from approximately 184,000 retirements in 2012 to nearly 277,000 in 2025.

But in many rural communities, experienced workers are continuing to stay involved long after retirement – whether by choice, financial necessity, or simply because they still want to contribute to their communities.

The report found that one in 10 retired Canadians aged 55 and older were working again after retirement in 2023, up from seven per cent in 2019.

That trend is something many people across the Central Peace and Northern Alberta may recognize. From seasonal farm help and trucking to bookkeeping, equipment operation, municipal work, small business support, and consulting roles, retired residents continue to fill important gaps in the local workforce.

For many rural Albertans, retirement has always looked a little different than it does in larger urban centres. Long-time farmers, tradespeople, business owners, and operators often continue working in some capacity well into their later years – not only for financial reasons, but because their skills, experience, and community connections remain valuable.

Financial pressures are also playing a major role in retirement decisions. The Statistics Canada report found that finances were the leading factor influencing when Canadians chose to retire in 2025. Rising living costs, housing expenses, and higher interest rates have caused some Canadians to delay retirement or return to work afterward.

In rural areas, those pressures can be felt even more strongly. Higher fuel costs, travel expenses for medical appointments and services, equipment costs, and fluctuating agricultural markets can all affect retirement planning for northern families.

The report also noted that many post-retirement jobs are flexible. Nearly three-quarters of retirees who returned

to work were employed part-time, while one-third were self-employed. That flexibility often fits well with rural lifestyles, allowing older residents to continue contributing while balancing personal time, family responsibilities, or seasonal work.

Researchers found that people with higher levels of education and those carrying more debt were more likely to continue working after retirement. However, beyond the statistics, many rural employers say older workers bring something equally important: reliability, practical knowledge, and years of hands-on experience that are difficult to replace.

As Northern Alberta communities continue facing labour shortages in agriculture, transportation, health care, trades, and municipal services, older workers remain an important part of the region's workforce and community life.

The full Statistics Canada report, Retirement and Post-Retirement Employment Among Older Canadians, is available at [www.corealberta.ca](http://www.corealberta.ca).



### FCSS Newsletter

#### CAMP WANAGO

**Starts June 29, 2026 at the Maclean Arena!!!**

Camp will be from June 29-Aug 21 from 8:30am-3pm.

Cost is \$80/week or \$20 per day.

There is **still time to register**, forms are available at the FCSS office (4201 50th St., Spirit River) or call (587) 771-3567.

**This year's themes are:** Jurassic Week (June 29-July 3)  
Science Explorer Week (July 6-10)  
Disney Week (July 13-17)  
Aquatic Week (July 20-24)  
Alberta Week (July 27-31)  
Superhero Week (Aug 4-7)  
Galactic Week (Aug 10-14)  
Insect/Bugs Life Week (Aug 17-21)

Let's have an Awesome Summer!!

**Watch for new programs in the fall!**

**MEALS ON WHEELS** is a program where hot meals are delivered to your door; delivered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and is intended for persons that are unable to obtain or prepare their own meals. Call or email us for more information.

**HOME SUPPORT** is for seniors over the age of 55 years, any person with a disability, new mothers (short-term basis only), any person recovering from a surgery or operation (short-term basis only), or any person dealing with death of an immediate family member (short-term basis only); call or email FCSS to find out more!

**Next FCSS board meeting is Aug 11, 2026, at 6:30 at the Peace Wapiti Sub Office.**

Everyone welcome!!

*FCSS staff have to be out of the office on occasion. If you require in-person assistance, please CALL AHEAD (587) 771-3567 to ensure that someone will be available to help. Our email address is [fcss@townofspiritriver.ca](mailto:fcss@townofspiritriver.ca).*



### Show & Sale Sponsors, Thank you!

The River Bend Junior Cattleman's Club hosted a show & sale at the Rycroft Ag Centre, on June 12th & 13th; an event that wouldn't be possible if not for the many sponsors that support this incredible club that teaches our youth many skills they will carry with them long into their future.

### First up is a huge thank you to the Club's Steer Buyers

Fountain Tire  
Solution Services  
Ryson Ventures  
Tatanka Meats

SixFive Industrial  
Jassman Farm  
Ken Drysdale  
Mac Family

Lori & Lawrence Andruchiw  
Rage Oilfield  
Shayne Wood

### Second thank you goes out to the Club's Sponsors

Rycroft Ag Society  
RT Rentals  
Jassman Farm  
Evertrack Ventures  
South Peace Grain Co-op  
Lefley Honey Co.  
Rage Oilfield  
Lawrence & Lori Andruchiw

Red Brick Real Estate Services  
Wallin Stock Farm  
Canadian Natural Resources  
Spirit River Ag Society  
Roads End Ranch  
M&S Hay Hauling  
Lighthouse Promotions  
Blum Enterprise

Fountain Tire  
Saddle Hills County  
Spirit of the Peace Newsletter  
Rocky Mountain Equipment  
RG Farms  
Secure Energy Services

**Stay tuned for photos and details of how things went during the show & sale in the next month's issue of Spirit of the Peace.**





## Sign Up Today – Stay Connected and Informed!

Wildfires, severe weather, and other emergencies can happen with little warning. Make sure you and your family receive important alerts when they matter most by registering for **Voyent Alert!** today. The system provides immediate notifications for emergency situations affecting our area and can even be customized to include neighbouring municipalities.

Don't wait until an emergency is at your doorstep **register now and stay informed, prepared, and connected.**

To register, go to

<https://voyent-alert.com/community/#registration>

or Scan the QR Code.



Learn more and sign up today!

**BONANZA**  
AGRICULTURAL FAIR  
MUD BOG and DEMOLITION  
DERBY

The event  
for  
excitement!

**JULY 17-18 2026**

**showcasing**  
The ever popular  
**PEACE COUNTRY TRACTOR PULLERS**  
**plus**

- MUD BOG RACES • GYMKHANA • KIDS GAMES
- AGRICULTURAL BENCH SHOWS
- STEAK SUPPER • BREAKFAST

**and DEMOLITION DERBY**

**FUN FOR EVERYONE!**

For more information: 780-353-3771 or Facebook page

# CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Friendly reminder that you are invited to participate in the MD of Spirit River No.133's photo contest.

**FIRST PRIZE • \$200.00**

**Runner up • \$100.00**

### Enter up to 10 photos per person

To be eligible for the contest, all photos submitted **must** be taken within the boundaries of the MD of Spirit River. *Please give a description of where and when the photo was taken.*

By entering and participating in the contest, you consent to the use of your photographs by the MD of Spirit River, during or after the contest closing date, without compensation.

Photos may be submitted in either color or black and white. Each photo should be high resolution (minimum 300ppi for

digital or 5" x 7" or larger for hard copy). Hard copies can be mailed to the MD of Spirit River No.133, Box 389, Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0. Digital copies may be emailed to:

[mdsr133@mdspiritriver.ab.ca](mailto:mdsr133@mdspiritriver.ab.ca).

**Don't forget to include your name and contact information!** Waiver forms/model releases and/or copyright laws are the responsibility of the entrants.

Photos **MUST** be submitted by **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

Winners will be selected by October 30th, 2026.

*The winning pictures and winners' names will be posted on our Facebook page and in the Spirit of the Peace newsletter, and all winners will be notified by phone or email.*

**Thank you for your entries and GOOD LUCK!**



### Embracing Summer in the Central Peace: Finding Balance in Our Outdoor Life

Here in the Central Peace, summer is a season of long days, open skies, and the deep satisfaction that comes from working the land. Whether you're haying under that big Alberta sun, checking fences, tending the garden, or simply stepping out the back door, being outdoors is part of who we are. But as we soak up the beauty and benefits of our rural lifestyle, it's worth remembering that our connection to nature can nourish both body and mind—when we approach it with care and intention.

### The Mental Health Benefits of Being Outdoors

Few things reset the mind like time spent in nature. Research shows that simply being outdoors can lower levels of cortisol, the body's primary stress hormone. In a place like the Central Peace, where the rhythm of the seasons and the vastness of the landscape surround us, that natural stress relief is especially powerful.

Sunlight plays a key role too. Regular exposure helps regulate our circadian rhythms, improving sleep quality and boosting mood through increased serotonin and vitamin D production. For many of us who battle long winters, those bright summer days are more than just pleasant—they're restorative.

Time outside also sharpens focus and builds mental resilience. Studies consistently link nature exposure with better concentration and a greater ability to handle life's pressures. The best part for rural residents? We often have natural spaces right at our fingertips—woodlots, fields, riverbanks, and back pastures—that city dwellers might have to drive hours to reach.

The key is shifting from working outdoors to enjoying it as well. After a long day on the tractor or fixing equipment, take a few minutes to sit on the tailgate, listen to the birds, or walk the back forty without a task list. That intentional enjoyment turns everyday rural life into powerful medicine for the mind.

### When Too Much Heat Becomes a Problem

While our connection to the outdoors brings real benefits, the intense summer heat common in the Central Peace can sneak up on even the most seasoned outdoors people. Heavy physical work combined with high temperatures and humidity creates real risks if we're not paying attention.

Hydration is foundational. Water helps regulate body temperature, transports nutrients, and keeps our systems functioning. When we lose more fluids than we replace—through sweat during a long day of haying or fencing—dehydration sets in quickly. Early signs include thirst, dry mouth, headache, fatigue, dizziness, and darker urine. Don't wait until you're thirsty; by then you're already behind.

Heat exhaustion is the next serious stage. Watch for heavy sweating, weakness, cool clammy skin, nausea, muscle cramps, and a fast but weak pulse. If ignored, it can progress to heat stroke—a medical emergency marked by high body temperature, confusion, seizures, or loss of consciousness.

Certain activities common in rural life increase the risk: haying in unshaded fields, stringing fence line under direct sun, gardening during the hottest hours, or doing construction and maintenance work. Older adults and children are especially vulnerable. Aging bodies don't regulate temperature or sense thirst as efficiently, while kids may be so caught up in play or helping out that they ignore early warning signs.

### Practical Summer Wellness Habits

The good news is that staying safe and well doesn't require fancy equipment—just some smart, consistent habits that fit naturally into rural routines.

- **Carry a water bottle everywhere.** Keep a large reusable bottle in the truck, on the tractor, and near your work area. Refill it often and sip steadily rather than gulping when you're already parched.
- **Take shade breaks.** Schedule short rests in the shade of a tree, equipment cab, or under a tarp. Even ten to fifteen minutes can make a big difference.

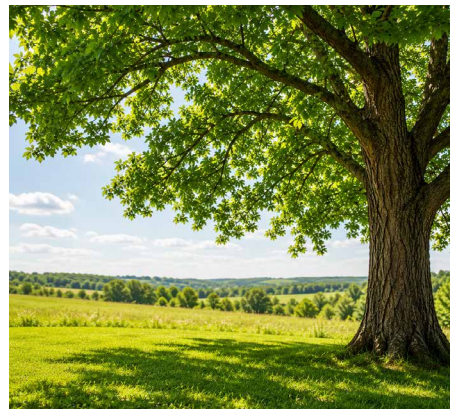
- **Wear light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing.** Light fabrics and colours reflect sunlight instead of absorbing it. A wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses protect your head and eyes.
- **Eat water-rich foods.** Fresh garden produce like cucumbers, tomatoes, watermelon, and berries help with hydration from the inside. Keep easy snacks handy during long workdays.
- **Take a few moments each day to simply enjoy the outdoors.** After the work is done—or even in the middle of it—pause and appreciate the view. Breathe deeply. Let the mental health benefits of nature do their work.
- **Listen to your body's signals.** If you feel overly tired, lightheaded, or unusually irritable, stop and cool down. Teach kids and check in on older family members and neighbours.

### Making the Most of Our Central Peace Summers

Our rural life offers a rare gift: daily access to the healing power of nature. By mindfully balancing the mental and physical rewards of being outdoors with smart habits to manage the heat, we can enjoy strong, healthy summers for years to come.

This season, work hard when you need to, but don't forget to lift your eyes from the task now and then. Take in the golden light across the fields, the quiet of an evening pasture, or the simple pleasure of a cool breeze after a hot day. Your mind, body, and spirit will thank you for it.

Stay safe, stay hydrated, and make the most of this beautiful Central Peace summer.







## Canada Day: A Celebration More Than 150 Years in the Making

Every year on July 1, Canadians gather in parks, community halls, backyards, and town squares to celebrate Canada Day. Complete with parades, barbecues, fireworks, concerts, and plenty of red-and-white attire, the holiday marks the anniversary of the birth of Canada as a nation. But the story behind Canada Day stretches back much further than many people realize.

Canada officially came into existence on July 1, 1867, when the British North America Act united the colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Province of Canada (which later became Ontario and Quebec) into one country called the Dominion of Canada. While Canada remained part of the British Empire, Confederation gave the new nation control over many of its own affairs and laid the foundation for the country we know today. The first anniversary of Confederation was celebrated in 1868 after Governor General Lord Monck encouraged Canadians to mark the occasion.

Canada's growth did not stop with the original four provinces. Over the decades, other regions joined Confederation or were created as Canada expanded westward and northward. Manitoba became Canada's fifth province in 1870, followed by British Columbia in 1871 and Prince Edward Island in 1873. The vast North-Western Territory, acquired from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1870, covered much of what is now Western and Northern Canada.

In 1879, Parliament officially designated July 1 as a statutory holiday known as "Dominion Day." The name reflected Canada's status within the British Empire and remained in use for more than a century. During the early 1900s, Dominion Day celebrations often included picnics, sporting events, military displays, and community gatherings, although the holiday did not gain widespread popularity until after the Second World War.

For Albertans, an important milestone came on September 1, 1905, when Alberta and Saskatchewan were officially established as provinces. Prior to that, both were part of the North-West Territories. Newfoundland and Labrador became Canada's tenth province in 1949 after joining Confederation following a national referendum. In the North, Yukon was created as a separate territory in 1898 during the Klondike Gold Rush, Nunavut was established in 1999 as Canada's newest territory, and the Northwest Territories (hyphen dropped in 1906) continue to occupy a significant portion of Canada's Arctic region.

Interesting to note is that at its peak, the once called North-Western Territory included not only all of today's western provinces and territories, but also parts of Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Canada's centennial in 1967 marked a turning point. Massive celebrations were held across the country, including Expo 67 in Montreal, one of the most successful world's fairs in history. The centennial sparked a renewed sense of national pride and encouraged Canadians to embrace July 1 as a day of celebration.

In 1982, another important change occurred. The Canada Act patriated the Constitution from Britain, giving Canada full constitutional independence. That same year, Parliament officially renamed Dominion Day as Canada Day, reflecting a modern national identity and the country's growing sense of independence.

Today, Canada Day celebrations take many forms. Major cities host large concerts and fireworks displays, while smaller communities often celebrate with local fairs, pancake breakfasts, family activities, and volunteer-run events. For many Canadians, the day is an opportunity not only to celebrate the country's achievements, but also to reflect on its history, diversity, and ongoing journey toward reconciliation and inclusion.

More than 150 years after Confederation, Canada Day remains a time to come together, honour the past, celebrate the present, and look ahead to the future of one of the world's most diverse and welcoming nations.

# CHIEF'S BRIEFS



Here we are once again, the older I get the quicker time sure seems to go. Lots on the go for the team this past month.

This past month's emergencies have slowed right down (knock on wood) and has been a blessing giving our members a well-deserved break.

As of my last briefing to you we have had 7 Medical First Responder calls, 1 Motor Vehicle Collision, 1 Fire, and 3 alarm calls mostly due to cooking issues. This brings our total emergency calls this year to 85 at the time this was written.

I know I mentioned this last month, but again, I would like to thank everyone who has had large burns over the winter months for good management and maintenance of those fires. With our high winds of late we haven't been called to any previous burns.

Some of our members participated in some residential elevator training, provided by the Fairview Fire Department on May 30th and brought back some great information for us to attend any elevator emergencies. On June 27th, CPFR hosted a regional training for Electric Vehicle Extrication and Fire Operations. We had people come from Peace River, Fairview, Birch Hills County, Saddle Hills County, High Prairie, MD of Smokey, and, of course, our own people. It's been a sought-after course for the whole Northwest fire region, and were excited to have the ability to offer spaces to our Northwest partners.

Another training coming up in the very near future is some helicopter operations. Entering and exiting a helicopter while hovering. This is great training for times when we need to employ a helicopter for wildfire and search and rescue operations using our members when needed on board the air ship. So, lots of exciting stuff coming up soon. Again, I want to thank our members for their continued commitment to the department and the community.

I also had an opportunity to represent the Fire Department at the Rycroft Ag Safety Day, in the Rycroft Ag Centre. Lots of children asking lots of questions. It was a real pleasure to be there. With this and the local school tours, we have been interacting with our future firefighters. I would like to thank Firefighter Jackson for his professionalism and fantastic presentations to the schools. Great job!

Summer is here and travellers are up and down the highways; just a reminder to drive safe and sober so that everyone gets to their destinations safely.

Again, another quick reminder, as you pass emergency workers on the road, whether fire, police, EMS, tow vehicles, or roadside workers, please slow down to 60kmh as we all have families we want to return to at the end of the incident. Always pull over and stop in both directions for emergency vehicles approaching. Just the other night, heading to a structure fire, I had a pickup truck in front of me and instead of slowing down, pulling to the side of the road and stopping, this individual decided that they needed to speed up. We do take licence plate numbers down and report them to the RCMP to send a voucher in the mail. There is quite a large fine for failing to pull over and stop for approaching emergency vehicles with lights and sirens on.

Just please be careful out there.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Brian Kroes**  
Fire Chief, CPFR



## More Than a BBQ – A Community Celebration

The MD of Spirit River is excited to invite the residents to our Annual MD Resident BBQ on July 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at beautiful Nardam Campground!

Each year, Council and Administration look forward to this special opportunity to connect with residents in a relaxed and welcoming setting. This year, we're especially pleased to host the event at Nardam Campground and to include a Seniors Appreciation component as part of the celebration.

The MD Residents' BBQ is a chance to meet your elected officials and municipal staff, chat with members of Council, Public Works, Agriculture & Seasonal Operations, and Administration, and share your questions, ideas, concerns, and feedback. It's an opportunity to strengthen connections, learn more about the services provided by the MD, and enjoy an afternoon together as a community.

There will be something for everyone to enjoy, including great food, entertainment, a prize draw, and information booths featuring organizations and groups that support residents throughout our region. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the many programs, services, and resources available right here in our community.

Whether you're interested in learning more about municipal services, connecting with local organizations, or simply enjoying a delicious burger with friends and neighbours, we hope you'll join us for this fun-filled summer gathering.

Bring your lawn chair, bring your appetite, and come spend the afternoon with MD Council and staff. We look forward to seeing you there!



## MOUNTIE MINUTE

On June 13th, Spirit River RCMP along with FCSS had a great time hosting a Bike Rodeo for kids during Spirit Days. The kids learned all kinds of things such as proper hand signals, road safety, and maneuvering their bikes around an obstacle course. Now they have the whole summer to have fun and practice their skills.

On the topic of road safety, we need to discuss tailgating. Not only do you look ridiculous doing it, but it often leads to accidents. Don't forget, following too closely is also a ticket-worthy offence, as it should be. If the person in front of you should stop suddenly for something **(up here, likely a moose or deer)** and you hit them because you were too close, it's your fault. If you're not sure if you're too close, you should probably back off a little bit.

I guess I need to say it again, but get off your phones and keep your eyes on the road. Every day we get calls about careless lunatic drivers swerving back and forth along the highway, nearly hitting oncoming vehicles or the ditch, putting everyone else on the road at risk, and for what?

To reply to some stupid message? Time to grow up and pay attention.

Another issue is obnoxiously loud exhaust. I can appreciate good-sounding exhaust, but there's a point when it just sounds rattly and ridiculous. **(picture the sound of kicking a tin can filled with nuts and bolts down a road, with the occasional puff and pop of a misfire)** Beyond the noise level, the main annoyance we get called about is revving. There's no need to mash the gas pedal constantly while cruising in a straight line or stopped at a stop sign or red light. Will it stall if you let off the gas? Or do you just want everyone to look at you? Well, they're looking, and they're shaking their heads.

Again, I must bring up the drinking and driving. It's summertime, and many people are enjoying themselves, but fail to plan. There's no need for it, and it's not an excuse. It's selfish, thoughtless, and leads to countless deaths and injuries. You'll undoubtedly be crying the blues once you lose your license and curse the police for catching you, but you have no one to blame but yourself.

The same goes for off-highway vehicles. Operating them while impaired is just as dangerous, only you're more likely to hurt yourself or your passenger instead of another driver. If you see your friends about to go for a ride and you know they've had one too many, be a real friend instead of a coward and stop them, or call the police. It's just that simple. It could change their mind and save a life.

As discussed before, thieves are mostly nocturnal, and the longer daylight hours are reducing their ability to steal in the dark. Don't let your guard down, though. They're still out there waiting for their next opportunity to help themselves to what's rightfully yours. Cameras and alarm systems are a great way to deter and/or catch these thieves in the act.

Speaking of such, **Kyle Dale HUDSON** is still wanted on a warrant for stealing fuel near Codessa. If you know his whereabouts, please report it to the RCMP immediately.

Corporal Don McCullough

RCMP Spirit River Detachment

IF YOU SEE  
**SMOKE OR FIRE,**  
PLEASE CALL  
**911**



**DO NOT** assume that someone else has called it in!



# Back to Basics: Practical Living in the Central Peace

*Real-life ways to grow, save, and live more self-sufficiently.*

## Making It Last: Simple Clothing Habits That Save Money

In an era of fast fashion and disposable goods, becoming more self-sustaining with clothing and household items offers significant financial, environmental, and practical benefits.

By focusing on mending basics, switching to line drying, and adopting habits to make things last longer, you can slash expenses, reduce waste, and gain valuable skills. These approaches are accessible, underrated money-savers, and promote a more resilient, independent lifestyle.

### Mending Basics: The Huge, Underrated Money Saver

Mending extends the life of garments dramatically, preventing premature replacements and keeping money in your pocket. Many people discard clothes with minor issues like loose buttons, small tears, or frayed hems, but basic repairs can revive them for years.

**Why it pays off:** Learning to mend can save hundreds annually. Instead of buying new jeans or shirts, a quick fix keeps them in rotation. It's also sustainable, reducing textile waste that ends up in landfills.

### Essential sewing kit for beginners (inexpensive to assemble, often under \$20-30):

- Needles (various sizes, including embroidery/tapestry for thicker work).
- Thread in basic colors (black, white, navy, etc.; match fabric when possible).
- Scissors or thread snips.
- Seam ripper (for undoing stitches cleanly).
- Pins or safety pins.
- Optional: Patches, extra buttons (many clothes come with spares), thimble, and fabric scraps from old items.

### Basic mending techniques:

- Sewing on a button: Thread a needle, pass through button holes and fabric several times, secure with a knot or shank.
- Mending a seam or small tear: Use a backstitch or simple

running stitch inside out. For visible mending (a creative trend), use contrasting thread or embroidery for decorative "sashiko" style repairs.

- Patching holes (e.g., knees in jeans): Cut a patch slightly larger than the hole, pin it, and stitch around the edges with a whip or running stitch. Weaving/darning works well for knits or thin areas.
- Hem repair: Fold and stitch neatly.

Start with free online tutorials (YouTube has many beginner-friendly ones) or books on visible mending. Practice on old clothes. Over time, these skills build confidence and creativity. Many report saving significantly by avoiding replacements.

### Line Drying vs. Dryer Costs: Fresh Air Savings

Dryers are energy hogs, often one of the biggest electricity users in a household after heating and cooling. Switching to line drying (or air drying indoors) yields real savings and gentler treatment for fabrics.

### Cost comparison:

- An average electric dryer load costs about \$0.40–\$0.50 (depending on local rates, typically 3–5 kWh per cycle for a standard load). Running it frequently can add \$50–\$100+ yearly.
- Full-time line drying can save \$200–\$2,100 over a dryer's lifetime, plus reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Even partial use (e.g., 3 months/year) cuts notable energy.
- Gas dryers are cheaper to run than electric but still add up compared to free sun and breeze.

### Benefits beyond money:

- Clothes last longer (no heat shrinkage or fiber damage).
- Natural UV disinfection removes odors and bacteria.
- Softer fabrics without harsh dryer sheets; fresher scent.

### Practical tips:

- Use an outdoor clothesline, indoor drying rack, or shower rod.
- Shake items out, hang with space for air flow, and avoid direct sun on delicates to prevent fading.
- In winter or apartments, use racks near vents or fans. "Fluff" briefly in the dryer (5 minutes) if needed for softness.
- Combine with full loads and efficient washers for

maximum impact.

Many households report \$30–\$60 monthly electric bill drops from consistent air drying.

### Making Clothing and Other Items Last Longer

Prevention and care multiply the effects of mending and line drying. Quality + maintenance beats frequent replacement. A few longevity tips:

- Buy fewer, higher-quality items (check seams, fabric, and care labels). Natural fibers or durable synthetics hold up better.
- Wear items multiple times before washing; wash in cold water, inside out, and like colors to preserve color and fibers.
- Treat stains immediately; avoid overloading machines.
- Skip or minimize the dryer; air dry when possible.
- Store properly: Fold knits, hang structured pieces, use cedar or moth repellents for wool.
- Repair promptly—small fixes prevent bigger damage.
- Repairing small tears in bedding or curtains
- Maintaining footwear with proper cleaning and waterproofing

When people think about saving money, they often focus on earning more or spending less, but making the things you already own last longer amounts to payoffs with lower bills, less clutter, reduced environmental impact, and the satisfaction of self-reliance. In uncertain times, these skills foster resilience—one stitch, one line-dried load, and one extended-use item at a time.

And like many of the habits featured in this series, they remind us that self-sufficiency isn't about doing everything ourselves—it's about learning simple ways to make our resources go further. Sometimes the most effective money-saving strategy isn't buying something new. It's taking care of what we already have.

## Supporting Our Club, Strengthening Our Community

The Happy Valley Ag & Recreation Club would like to extend sincerest gratitude to all of our sponsors. Their generous support plays a vital role in maintaining and operating the Ag & Recreation grounds, while also helping the Club host a variety of events throughout the year. These events include spring and fall trail rides followed by community dinners, gymkhana competitions, animal clinics, and many other activities that bring people together and strengthen our community. Thank you for helping make these programs and events possible.

Saddle Hills County  
ATCO Electric  
Lefley Honey Co  
Richardson Pioneer  
Keddie's Tack and Western Wear  
Clear Shot Industries  
Hawrylenko Trucking  
Edge Auto Repair  
MD#133 of Spirit River  
Emerson Trail Veterinary Services  
C & C Potable Water Ltd

Schoorlemmer Seeds  
Birchcliff Energy  
Kelt Exploration  
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd  
Full Force Ventures  
Weaver Bros Auction  
Village of Rycroft  
Wild Horizon





### Deadstock Disposal: A Responsibility We All Share

Livestock mortality is an unfortunate but unavoidable reality of agricultural operations. While no producer welcomes the task, proper disposal of dead livestock is an important part of responsible farm management and plays a vital role in protecting animal health, wildlife, water resources, and neighbouring properties.

Recently, the Municipal District of Spirit River #133 became aware of livestock mortalities being abandoned under a bridge within the municipality. While incidents such as this are uncommon, they serve as an important reminder that proper disposal is both a legal requirement and a responsibility shared by everyone involved in agriculture.

Under *Alberta's Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation*, livestock mortalities must be disposed of within seven days of death using an approved method. Acceptable disposal options may include composting, burial, burning, rendering, landfill disposal, or natural disposal under specific circumstances. The most appropriate method depends on factors such as species, cause of death, site conditions, and environmental considerations.

Improper disposal can create a variety of problems. Carcasses left in ditches, bush areas, road allowances, waterways, or other unmanaged locations can attract scavengers and predators, including coyotes, wolves, bears, and ravens. These situations can increase wildlife conflicts, pose risks to neighbouring livestock operations, and create concerns for residents and recreational users. Improper disposal may also contribute to disease transmission, unpleasant odours, and contamination of surface water or groundwater.

One increasingly popular disposal method is on-farm composting. When managed properly, composting provides a practical, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible solution for routine livestock mortalities.

Successful composting relies on adequate carbon materials such as straw, manure, wood chips, or other organic matter to fully cover the carcass and support the decomposition process while limiting odours and discouraging scavengers.

Planning ahead is one of the best ways to ensure mortalities can be managed effectively when they occur. Producers are encouraged to identify disposal options before they are needed, particularly during winter months when frozen ground may make burial difficult or during periods of increased mortality caused by weather events, disease outbreaks, or predation.

For producers who prefer not to use on-farm disposal methods, the Aquatera Waste Management Facility near Grande Prairie accepts both small and large animal carcasses for disposal. Contacting the facility in advance is recommended to confirm current requirements, fees, and operating hours before transporting livestock mortalities.

Numerous resources are available to help producers develop effective mortality management plans. Alberta Agriculture provides guidance on approved disposal methods and regulatory requirements, while organizations such as the Waterton Biosphere Region offer practical technical guides covering composting, predator prevention, and environmentally responsible deadstock management.

Agriculture has long been built on a foundation of stewardship and responsibility. By ensuring livestock mortalities are disposed of properly, producers help protect the environment, reduce wildlife conflicts, support healthy livestock operations, and maintain the strong reputation of Alberta's agricultural community.

#### Helpful Resources

- Government of Alberta – Livestock Mortality Management  
[www.alberta.ca/livestock-mortality-management](http://www.alberta.ca/livestock-mortality-management)
- Aquatera Waste Management Facility – Animal Carcass Disposal  
[www.aquatera.ca/billing-rates-payments/rates/landfill](http://www.aquatera.ca/billing-rates-payments/rates/landfill)
- Waterton Biosphere Region – Deadstock Management Technical Guides  
[www.watertonbiosphere.com/technicalguides](http://www.watertonbiosphere.com/technicalguides)

## 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 residents 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,**  
7.6875 in x 10.25" | Glossy  
\$500 per edition

**HALF PAGE AD COLOUR,**  
7.6875 in x 5.0625" OR  
3.78125 in x 10.25" Vertical | Glossy  
\$250 per edition

**QUARTER PAGE AD COLOUR,**  
5.39 x 4.065" OR  
3.78125 x 5.0625" | Glossy  
\$125 per edition

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

*\*All advertising must be  
high resolution.*