

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of

Spirit River

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

Congratulations to Our 2026 Bursary Recipients: Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

The Municipal District of Spirit River #133 is pleased to congratulate **Colton Witts, Shaelyn Beaupre, and Tyler Tomkow** on being selected as the **2026 recipients of the MD of Spirit River #133 \$1,000 Bursary**.

The bursary program was established to support local students pursuing full-time post-secondary education at universities, colleges, and accredited online programs anywhere in Canada. More than financial assistance, the program recognizes students who demonstrate **leadership, initiative, community involvement, and a commitment to contributing to the future of Northern Alberta**.

Applicants are encouraged to share their experiences in leadership, volunteerism, and community service, as well as how their chosen field of study will help them continue supporting and strengthening their communities.

The MD of Spirit River #133 is proud to invest in students who are working toward their goals while remaining connected to their communities. Supporting local students means investing in **stronger communities, brighter futures, and the continued growth of our region**.



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Cherished Lives, Lasting Memories

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MOUNTIE MINUTE
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Congratulations, Colton, Shaelyn, and Tyler! We wish you continued success in your studies and every success as you take the next step toward your future.



Celebrating 18 Years of Dedication:

Honoring Ron's Retirement from Public Works

After more than 18 years of unwavering service, the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 is bidding a fond farewell to one of its most steadfast public works team members, Ron Lindsay.

Throughout nearly two decades behind the wheel, Ron has been a cornerstone of the MD's operations as a highly skilled equipment operator. In a role that demands resilience, early mornings, and tireless physical effort through all types of weather, Ron established a reputation for being remarkably reliable, dependable, and deeply loyal to his community.

Municipal infrastructure and operations face continuous evolution, and Ron saw the organization through significant periods of change management. Over the years, his exceptional versatility allowed him to adapt seamlessly to changing demands, stepping up wherever the team needed him most.

Beyond his technical competency on heavy machinery, Ron will be remembered most as the ultimate team player. Colleagues note that he was always willing to lend a hand to mentor newer operators. His quiet dedication kept the MD's roads safe, clear, and functional year after year through each season, directly benefiting MD residents and visitors alike.

As Ron transitions into a well-earned retirement, he leaves behind a legacy of hard work, adaptability, and public service excellence.

The MD thanks Ron for his remarkable 18 years of commitment and wishes him the very best in his next chapter.



Left to right: Chief Administrative Officer Shirley Hayden, Public Works Manager Dave Johnson, and Ron Lindsay.

COUNCIL MOTIONS

MDSR No. 133 Council on August 12th, 2026



The next Council meetings will be held on **October 14th & 28th 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 Meeting on August 12th, 2026.

MD Graders in Weaver Auction

Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer that Council direct Public Works Supervisor Dave Johnson to coordinate for the sale of the two MD graders in the September 2026 auction sale.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rail Safety Week Proclaimed

Moved by Councillor Evelyn Bzowy that Council officially proclaim the week of September 21st to 27th, 2026, as Rail Safety Week in the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Pleasant View Lodge Fundraiser Sponsorship

Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council direct Administration to purchase a corporate table for the Friends of the Grande Spirit Foundation Harvest Dinner Fundraiser in the amount of \$850.00, and further that the tickets for the event be donated to residents of the Spirit River Pleasant View Lodge who may want to attend, and further that the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 provide the MD Transit Bus service at no charge, for the purpose of ensuring the safe transportation of the ticket recipients to and return from the Grande Spirit Foundation Annual Harvest Dine and Dance event, where the MD transit bus costs may total up to \$750.00 including driver, to come from Reserves; and further that an item be donated to the GSF Harvest Dinner & Dance Silent Auction.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Policy for Construction Standards

Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council direct Administration to draft a policy regarding standards for the construction of approaches and bring back to a future meeting for review.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recognition for Ron Lindsay's Service

Moved by Reeve van Rootselaar that Council recognize the significant long-term contributions made by Ron Lindsay, and grant the full 20-year service award upon retirement, to come from the Employee Recognition/Human Resources Operating Budget.

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**.

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 | mdspiritriv.ab.ca

Mailing Address:
Box 389

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



Rycroft
MERRY
PIONEERS

OCTOBER 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.

- October 1st & 6th** ➤ **Chair Yoga;**
- October 7th** ➤ **Mahjong;**
- October 8th & 13th** ➤ **Chair Yoga;**
- October 13th** ➤ **Foot Care** from 1:00pm-4:00pm;
- October 14th** ➤ **Mahjong;**
- October 15th & 20th** ➤ **Chair Yoga;**
- October 21st** ➤ **Mahjong;**
- October 22nd** ➤ **Chair Yoga;**
- October 24th** ➤ **Old Time Music & Dance**
from 1:00pm-4:00pm;
- October 27th** ➤ **Chair Yoga;**
- October 27th** ➤ **Potluck Supper** @ 5:00pm;
- October 28th** ➤ **Mahjong;**
- October 29th** ➤ **Chair Yoga;**

The Rycroft Merry Pioneers Senior Centre is located within the Rycroft Community Hall, at 5208 – 47th Avenue in the Village of Rycroft.



Unique Financial Services

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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



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

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



VOYENT**ALERT!**

REMINDER



REGISTER**NOW!**



SAFE HALLOWE'EN



OCTOBER 31, 2026

CENTENNIAL HALL, SPIRIT RIVER

5:00 PM TO 8:30 PM

GAMES & ACTIVITIES

GAME TICKETS \$0.25 EACH



Trick-or-Tater Challenge

Let your imagination take root as you turn an ordinary potato into a Halloween character masterpiece. From heroes to villains and everything in between, we can't wait to see your creative "spuds" come to life!

Kids, teens, and adults are encouraged to use whatever materials inspire them—paint, felt, fabric, wiggle eyes, pipe cleaners, clay, and more. The only rule? Your creation's base must be a potato!



Age Categories:

0-6 years

7-12 years

13-17 years

18 +

Only 1 entry per person!

Deadline: Drop off at Spirit River Municipal Library before 8:00 pm on Thursday October 29

Judging: The public will vote for their favorites during Safe Halloween on October 31 between 5 - 8:00 pm.



Life Tributes



MAUREEN JOY ROSS

October 19, 1942 – August 18, 2026



We are saddened to announce the passing of Maureen Joy Ross on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, at the age of 83.

Maureen was born on October 19, 1942, the second child to Dave and Sophia Ross and sister to Allan Ross. Maureen grew up in Spirit River, where she attended school. She

had a happy childhood with her brother, Al, who loved to tease her but was also her fiercest protector. In her late teens, Maureen moved to Edmonton, where she attended Grant MacEwan University, completing a secretarial course. She was hired by Western Supply Plumbing in Edmonton and worked there for six years.

Wanting to see more of the world, Maureen and two of her girlfriends went to England for three years, where she worked for Cummins. She was able to travel around England and Scotland, where she met some of the Ross clan. This exploration cemented a lifelong love of art and literature, as well as travel.

Maureen eventually returned to Canada and completed classes she needed for entrance into post-secondary education in Fairview. She continued her education at the University of Alberta, where she obtained her teaching degree with a master's in English. Maureen remained in Edmonton and started her career with the Catholic School Board. She designed English study guides and developed curriculums for over ten years.

During her time in Edmonton, Maureen decided to open Western Flair Ladies Wear. For a brief period, the store was located in the West Edmonton Mall and afterward, in Calgary, when Maureen relocated. While purchasing clothing from wholesale markets, she realized there was a limited amount of western wear for women, which spurred her to design her own line. In November 1985, Maureen and her brother Al made the first trip to Hong Kong with her design sketches. They knew a local from Spirit River, Manny Perra, who was in Hong Kong on a buying trip. With his help, Maureen was able to get valuable information to help her deal with local clothing manufacturers. She made numerous trips back and forth. Maureen successfully ran her store and made many friends during her years in Calgary. She also had a fondness for Ranchman's.

After some time, Maureen chose to move back to Spirit River to be closer to her parents. She continued with her clothing store, Western Flair, and expanded into workwear.

Hockey was Maureen's favorite sport. She was an avid Oilers fan and lent her skills to the Spirit River Senior Rangers hockey club by acting as their treasurer for several years and supporting her great-nieces and nephews in minor hockey. For a short while, she also sat on the library board.

Later on, Maureen took the chance to sell the Western Flair building to Fields, looking to retirement on the horizon. Time

was well spent with longtime friends, Patty and Wendy, at Sylvan Lake during the summers and the community in Desert Hot Springs in the colder months.

Maureen took the opportunity to travel back to Mexico, a country that had held her heart since her first visits there in the 70s. In February of 2007, she purchased a condo in Puerto Vallarta. She made many trips and, for the first few years, took her mom Sophia with her. They truly enjoyed the warm weather and Mexican hospitality. In October 2017, Maureen left for an extended stay in Puerto Vallarta and shortly after, met John. They married a few years later. She was happy sitting on their sunny patio with her cat on her lap and John doing all the cooking.

Maureen is survived by her brother, Allan Ross; nephews Warren (Goldie) Ross and Brad (Everdien) Ross; niece Stacy (Matthew) Packard; as well as numerous great- and great-great-nieces and nephews.

The family will hold a private burial at a later date.

Condolences may be sent by visiting **OLIVER'S** Funeral Home www.oliversfuneralhome.com.

JAMES "JIM" ALFRED SAWERS

September 26, 1931 – July 13, 2026



It is with deep sadness that the family of Jim Sawers announces his peaceful passing on Monday, July 13, 2026, at the Pleasant View Lodge at the age of 94.

Jim was born on September 26, 1931, in Wanham, AB. He was the third son of Robert and Anne Sawers. He lived in a little log house with his two older brothers, Rob and Stan,

and his little sister Sheena.

Jim's father passed away when he was 11 years old. He finished Grade 8 and went to work on a surveying crew at age 14. Later, he worked on the farm of Jim Watson, where his love for horses began. In 1949, at the age of 18, he started working for the Alberta Wheat Pool in Wanham. He worked in elevators around the Peace Country and in 1954 he became the Elevator Agent in Woking.

That September, he married the love of his life, Ellamay Gulick, and they started their life together in Woking. In 1955, they welcomed their son James, and a year later, on Jim's 25th birthday, their daughter, Linda. They lived there for 24 years until he retired from the elevator, and they moved to Grande Prairie. He then worked laying ceramic tile for his son at Spirit River Flooring. In 1982 he bought the Plaza Laundromat in Grande Prairie, which he owned for ten years. During this time, he had numerous 25-cent vending machines and ride-on machines throughout the Peace Country. His grandchildren loved helping him empty the quarters and clean the laundromat! Jim's final job was with D & D Well Service, which he called his workout job.

After moving to Grande Prairie, he was very proud of the fact that he went back to school and completed his Grade 12 in his 40s.

Jim curled and golfed right into his 80s. Jim taught all of his family how to play crib and shared his love for horses at the horse races. He never missed a sports game that any of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were playing. He was a quiet, gentle man who was always there for his family.

He took trips to Inuvik, Arizona, Jamaica, Disneyland, Hawaii, Radium Hot Springs, and Summerland. He was fortunate to be able to go to Palm Springs every year for ten years. He travelled for 42 years with friends Art and Ona Currie.

Jim is survived by his wife of 71 years, Ellamay; son Jim Sawers (Gaynel); daughter Linda Chmilar (Lennard); nine grandchildren: Rob Sawers (Kristi), Carla Knezevich (Ben), Lynell Geherman (Rudy), Sheena Wallan (Kelsey), Tom Sawers (Justine), Gordon Chmilar (Monika), Talara Germain (Sean), Cole Chmilar (Salima), and Codey Chmilar (Tracy); 28 great-grandchildren: Shanell, Kearra (Marko), Bowden (Cheyenne), Tyra, Dylan (Olivia), Kylie (Ried), Zayn (Zoe), Korben (Erin), Darcy, Brooklyn, Dextin, Brielle, Halle, Kade, Isabelle, Emmett, Annalee, Ethan, Evin, Indira, Allegra, Xavier, Remington, Barrett, Hugo, Florence, Fergus, and Freya; and eight great-great-grandchildren: Miley, Kendrick, Stormi, Jovi, Zoe, Ivy, Evander, Bow, and Milania.

Loveleen, Chester, and Chloe were very important people in the last few years of Jim's life, and their love and care for him was greatly appreciated.

Jim was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Anne Sawers; brothers Rob Sawers and Stan Sawers; sister Sheena Rumberger; brother-in-law Bob Rumberger; mother-in-law Margaret Gulick; and father-in-law John Gulick.

The family extends gratitude to Dr. Funk, the staff at Pleasant View Lodge in Spirit River, and Ryan and the staff at Spirit River Hospital for their care, support, and compassion.

A private family service was held on Friday, July 31, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Oliver's Funeral Home in Grande Prairie.

Condolences may be sent by visiting **OLIVER'S** Funeral Home www.oliversfuneralhome.com.



TOGETHER IN HEALING



Life can feel overwhelming. Whether you're navigating grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, or a difficult life transition, compassionate support is available.

**Individual – Marriage
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Educational support and
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By appointment only

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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.



Join us for our next event or

call for private bookings!

For more info, contact us at:

✉ Happyvalleyagrec@outlook.com

f Happy Valley Ag and Rec

☎ Connie Poss @ (780) 864-0785

Now Accepting Obituaries

We are now accepting **obituary notices at \$5 per line**, with an average of 10 words per line and a **minimum charge of \$60**. Photos are charged at the equivalent of **15 lines**, with the remaining space on those lines available for text. This provides families with a local avenue to honour and remember their loved ones.

A LOWER-COST OPTION

If publishing a full obituary is more than you would like to spend, we also offer a **condensed obituary option** when the full obituary is available on a funeral home's website.

We can publish a **photo of your loved one along with a portion of the obituary and a QR Code linking directly to the full obituary online**. This allows families to share the essential details and a personal tribute in our local publication, while giving readers easy access to the complete obituary.

This option can **significantly reduce the number of lines—and therefore the cost of the notice**, while still providing a meaningful way to honour and remember your loved one in our community.

*Spirit River & District
Ag Society's*

50th Annual Christmas Craft Show

*Friday, November 6th
4:00pm to 8:00pm*

*Saturday, November 7th
10:00am to 4:00pm*



2026 Photo Contest REMINDER

FIRST PRIZE \$200.00 - Runner up \$100.00

DEADLINE OCTOBER 16TH, 2026

Scan QR Code for Contest Rules



Financial Assistance Available for Alberta Seniors with Special Needs

For Alberta seniors living on a fixed or limited income, the cost of replacing an essential appliance, paying for certain health-related supplies, or arranging help around the home can add up quickly. The Government of Alberta's **Special Needs Assistance for Seniors (SNA) program** provides financial assistance to eligible seniors toward the cost of certain appliances, health supports, and personal supports.

Who is eligible?

To qualify, applicants must be **65 years of age or older**, be an Alberta resident, and be a Canadian citizen or have been lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence. Applicants must also meet the program's financial eligibility requirements and have provided a Seniors Financial Assistance Application.

Eligibility is based on the previous year's total income reported on line 15000 of the income tax return. The benefit year runs from **July 1 to June 30** of the following year.

For the current benefit year:

Single seniors

- **\$28,290 or less:** eligible for primary and secondary items
- **\$28,291 to \$32,690:** eligible for primary items only
- **Over \$32,690:** no funding

Senior couples

- **\$45,600 or less:** eligible for primary and secondary items
- **\$45,601 to \$53,800:** eligible for primary items only
- **Over \$53,800:** no funding

What can the program help cover?

The SNA program covers a range of items and services. **Primary funded items** include essential appliances and furniture such as beds, refrigerators, stoves, washers, and dryers. Certain health supports may also qualify, including CPAP machines and supplies, diabetic supplies, nutritional beverages, podiatry, and prescription costs.

Personal supports that may qualify include celiac groceries, clothing, bed bug remediation, home clean-up, medical transportation, medication administration fees, personal response services, relocation of a washer or dryer, utility disconnection, and wigs.

Secondary funded items include a microwave, vacuum, and television, as well as services such as housekeeping, yard maintenance, and respite care.

continues on following page

For appliances and furniture, only one of each funded type is considered for a single senior or senior couple during a benefit year.

Before making a claim

Seniors should review the SNA Information Booklet for eligibility requirements and benefit maximums before submitting a claim. **A receipt or estimate is required for all items requested**, and the applicant's primary residence can affect which appliance or furniture items are eligible. Some items also require a medical note from a health professional, while certain benefits are funded only once in a lifetime.

Claims can be submitted online using an Alberta.ca account. The online system allows seniors to make claims, track their status, view payment and claim history, and access program letters and documents.

For seniors who may not be comfortable navigating the online process, assistance is available through the **Alberta Supports Contact Centre at 1-877-644-9992**, Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. TTY users may

access information at: 1-800-855-0511.

A program worth checking

For seniors in rural communities, where access to services and transportation can sometimes present additional challenges, it may be worthwhile to check whether an expense you are facing could qualify under the Special Needs Assistance for Seniors program.

Program information and benefit maximums can change, so seniors are encouraged to check the most current information before applying. The Government of Alberta's SNA information is available at alberta.ca/seniors-special-needs-assistance or scan the QR Code.

Information in this article is based on the Government of Alberta's Special Needs Assistance for Seniors Information Sheet, published July 1, 2026. Program information is subject to change.



Remembering the Little Lives That Changed Us

MD of Spirit River Proclaims October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day & October 2026 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

Some losses are difficult to talk about. Pregnancy and infant loss can be one of them.

Behind every loss is a family whose hopes, dreams, and plans may have changed in an instant. The grief can be profound, and yet families may find themselves grieving quietly, sometimes without the understanding or support they need.

That is why awareness matters.

The Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 has proclaimed **October 15, 2026, as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day**, joining communities across Canada in recognizing the lives of babies and children gone too soon and supporting the families who continue to carry their memories. Council's proclamation also recognizes **October 2026 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month**.

The request was brought forward by **Kristin Pichoskie, founder of Oak's Tree of Love**, a Northern Ontario initiative created in memory of her son, Oak Beaudyn Noel. The organization supports bereaved families through memory boxes, remembrance projects, advocacy, awareness, and community support.

The proclamation recognizes something that is sometimes difficult for those outside the experience to understand: a baby or child does not have to have lived a long life to have made a lasting impact. Their lives are cherished, their absence is felt, and their place within a family remains.

Pregnancy loss, infant loss, and child loss can affect parents, siblings, grandparents, and entire communities. For many families, grief can feel isolating, particularly when others don't know what to say or may not realize that the loss continues to affect them long after the initial heartbreak. The MD's proclamation acknowledges the importance of breaking that silence and creating a community where families know they do not have to grieve alone.

Awareness isn't about taking away the pain. It's about making sure no family has to carry it in silence.

October 15 provides an opportunity to pause, remember, and acknowledge the babies and children whose lives, however brief, were deeply loved. It is also an opportunity to recognize the strength and resilience of grieving families and to offer something that can mean more than we realize: compassion, understanding, and simply being willing to remember with them.

The Municipal District of Spirit River is proud to stand with families affected by pregnancy and infant loss and to help foster a community where these losses can be spoken about with kindness and without stigma.

During the month of October, we invite residents to take a moment to remember the little lives that were loved, are missed, and will never be forgotten.



Scan QR Code to
view proclamation

MOUNTIE MINUTE

Fall is Here! This means that many people will be staying inside and spending significantly more time online. For adults, the risk of becoming a victim of frauds is high, and for children and youth, there's the risk of online bullying.

Every day it seems that scammers are finding new creative ways to take your money. You must stay vigilant and don't be too trusting of these slimy crooks.

I want to warn residents and local businesses about money safe scams targeting retail employees.

In these incidents, fraudsters contact store employees and use various tactics to convince them to hand over funds belonging to the business.

These tactics included:

- Instructing employees to activate a specific dollar amount worth of gift cards.
- Directing employees to send e-transfers from their personal bank accounts, resulting in losses exceeding \$500.
- Pressuring staff to access the store safe, remove cash, and deposit the money into nearby Bitcoin machines.
- Contacting store cashiers and attempting to arrange the pickup of cash intended for bank deposits.

Business owners and employees should take the following precautions:

- Think critically: does that actually sound like your boss's voice, and is this out of character for them?
- Hang up and contact your employer or supervisor directly to verify any request involving money or financial transactions.
- Never use your personal funds for business-related transactions at the direction of an unknown caller.
- Be cautious of caller ID information, as it can be easily spoofed to appear legitimate.
- Document everything such as times, phone numbers, and names provided, even though they are likely fake.
- **Report any suspicious activity or fraud attempts to your local police service immediately.**

For children and youth

Cyberbullying, online harassment, and sharing personal information can have serious and lasting consequences. Sadly, many times this has resulted in self-harm and even suicide for the victim. Students are encouraged to think carefully before posting, and to speak up if they experience or witness harmful behaviour online.

Online safety tips for students:

- Never share personal information such as your full name, address, school, or phone number publicly.
- Treat others online with the same respect you would in person.
- Think before you post — once something is online, it's hard to remove.
- If you are being bullied online, do not respond. Save the evidence, block the person, and tell a parent, teacher, or trusted adult.
- Remember that threats, harassment, or sharing intimate images without consent are criminal offences.

Online safety tips for parents:

- Talk regularly with your child about their online activities.
- Set clear rules and expectations for device use.
- Monitor privacy settings on all accounts and apps.
- Encourage open communication so your child feels comfortable coming to you with concerns.
- Remember, you need to be accountable for what your child does online, as well. Turning a blind-eye and letting them run amok is unacceptable.

If you're doing the bullying, it's time to get a life. Go outside and find a hobby.

Driving safety:

Good Grief! I bring this up constantly, but people need to start driving with more consideration to safety. At the beginning of September, we had a fatal crash just south of Woking on Highway 2. *This crash is still under investigation, so I won't discuss the details of it here.* There was a detour around the crash scene to keep traffic moving which is very common. It was obvious that the detour was for a serious collision, so one would think that people would consider this and drive a little more cautiously. NOPE! Within minutes there was another crash involving one vehicle rear-ending another on the detour. If you drive into the back of another vehicle like that, you were either driving too fast for what you could see (in this case it was gravel road dust) or following too close to be able to stop in time. I would compare this to walking (or running) around the house with your eyes closed and then slamming into a coffee table or a wall. You wouldn't do that because it would be pretty dumb, wouldn't it? So why would you do that on the road? Smarten Up!

A short while after this, I performed a "Next-of-Kin" for the family of the person killed in the first accident. For those who don't know: A Next-of-Kin notification is where police break the news to the family that their loved-one has died. While on the way to meet with the family, still only a few kilometers from the crash scene, another driver completely blew through a stop-sign right in front of me. He was promptly dealt with, and understood what he did wrong.

About a week before that, there was another crash that was the result of someone driving through a stop-sign, at a blind intersection, without stopping at all. By some sort of miracle, the driver was uninjured, but their truck was completely destroyed.

So again, I'm going to remind everyone to drive with respect and courtesy. The rules of the road aren't there as some sort of cash-grab. They're there for a reason and that's so everyone can get to where they need to go safely. The rules are basic and easy to follow. Can't remember them? Just review a driver's training manual. Maybe it's an inconvenience to make a full stop at a stop sign because you're just so busy and important? Too bad. You're late and need to speed excessively to get to work on time? That's your problem. Don't be so self-absorbed thinking that you're the only person who matters. Everyone else also has somewhere to be and deserve to get there in one piece.

Having said all that, I hope that everyone can enjoy the last few weeks of good road conditions before the snow flies!

Corporal Don McCullough

RCMP Spirit River Detachment