



Volume 142 • No. 9

FORT MACLEOD WAS FOUNDED IN 1874 WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE
FORT MACLEOD, ALBERTA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

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NEWS



Candidate

John Bruinsma was acclaimed as the Liberal candidate in the Foothills riding.
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NEWS



On a mission

David and Nony Orr report on their mission in Zimbabwe.
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NEWS



Resignation

Darryl Seguin will step down as Livingstone Range superintendent.
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COAL MINE PROTEST



Photo by Frank McTighe

John Wort Hannam performed at the Western Sounds of the Eastern Slopes benefit concert Saturday at the Empress Theatre.

Concert rallies Albertans to oppose coal mining

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

The provincial government is ignoring the wishes of the vast majority of Albertans by opening the door to coal mining in the Rockies.

The vast majority of Albertans — an estimated 75 per cent — are opposed to coal mining.

"The future of coal mining is clear," biologist Lorne Fitch said. "The majority of Albertans don't want it anywhere, any time, under any circumstance. Albertans want it to go away and never return."

Award-winning singer-songwriter Corb Lund agreed.

"Whatever the argument is, if we don't want it, we shouldn't have it," said Lund,

one of the performers at the Western Sounds of the Eastern Slopes benefit concert at the Empress Theatre.

"Nobody wants these mines," Lund added. "The only people who want them are the people in the Crownsnest Pass who want the jobs and the government, which keeps inexplicably grinding away trying to put these mines in."

The Western Sounds of the Eastern Slopes benefit concert was held in support of the Livingstone Land Owners Group and the Pekisko Group.

Both groups work to protect the foothills, watershed and mountains, and are fighting legal battles against coal mining.

Continued on Page 2

Macleod highway realignment in new UPC budget

GEORGE LEE

THE MACLEOD GAZETTE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

A long-awaited and much-lobbied-for highway realignment to address traffic woes in Fort Macleod has found a home in the province's first deficit budget since 2021.

Capital spending in the budget tabled last Thursday includes the first stage of the realignment and connection of highways 2 and 3 at the east entrance to the town. The project is named in \$264-million in new funding over three years allocated for highway widening, widening and expansion.

Alberta Budget 2025 anticipates a \$5.2-billion deficit to allow spending of \$74.1-billion, as the province braces for the economic turmoil likely to stem from U.S. tariffs.

Said Nate Horner, the finance minister and president of the Treasury Board: "The budget meets the challenge of a rapidly growing population with the highest-ever investments in education and health care, and it's meeting the challenge of uncertainties in trade and security by focusing on diplomacy and the economy."

The budget takes "a cautious approach," Horner said. "We built in an expectation that the province will be facing tariffs that will significantly impact our province. These measures will dampen Alberta's trajectory for growth."

Budget 2025's capital plan earmarks \$2.5 billion over three years — 10 per cent of the

capital plan's total funding — for roads and bridges, highway expansion and improvement, and other transportation safety upgrades.

Proponents in Fort Macleod, including town council, have for years sought movement from the province to proceed on realignment, saying the project will relieve traffic congestion and spur commerce. Budget 2025 says the realignment will support expansion of the region's trade corridors. Also covered by new dollars are:

- A new interchange with Highway 2 at Cardiff Road, just south of Morinville and north of Edmonton, replacing an existing at-grade, signalized intersection.

- An interchange at Highway 1 and Range Road 33 in Rockyview County, west of Calgary, designed to improve access, support growth and enhance safety in the Springbank region.

- Improvements along Highway 791 to create a paved, continuous connection between Highway 590 and Highway 42, just east of the QE2 in an area near Penhold about halfway between Innisfail and Red Deer.

- Paving Highway 58, the only route to the remote northern Alberta communities of John D'Or Prairie, Fox Lake and Garden River. "The paved highway will improve mobility for more than 5,500 local residents, boost economic activity in the region and allow unimpeded access for emergency vehicles," the budget says.

Continued on Page 2



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The Macleod Gazette

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MACLEOD CALENDAR

Adult walking program at the community hall runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m.

Public skating 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 5:45-6:45 p.m. Friday, and 2:45-3:45 p.m. Sunday.

World Day of Prayer service 7 p.m. Friday, March 7 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Centre Stage Series presents BTU Bentall Taylor Ulrich at 7:30 p.m. March 8 at the Empress Theatre.

Fort Macleod RCMP open house 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 10 at the G.R. Davis Administration Building.

Fort Macleod Health Care Auxiliary Association annual general meeting 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 12 in the health centre meeting room.

Becoming the Beatles: Unplugged in concert at 7:30 p.m. March 20 at the Empress Theatre.

Fort Macleod Skating Club annual carnival 6 p.m. Saturday, March 22.

Fort Macleod Fish and Game Association awards banquet 5:30 p.m. April 5 at the community hall.



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Photo by Frank McLighe
Chris Spearman, former mayor of Lethbridge and a spokesman for the Water For Food.



Photo by Frank McLighe
Biologist Lorne Fitch was a guest speaker on Saturday night.



Photo by Frank McLighe
Boots Graham performed at the concert at the Empress Theatre on Saturday night.

Coal mine opposition urged

Continued from Page 1

Other performers were John Wort Hannam, Morgan Klaiber, Reese Klaiber, Boots Graham, Charlie Ewing, Lonni Robley, El Mule, Greg Herman, Riley Miller, and Ryan Fritz.

They were backed up by a house band featuring Trevor Christensen, Catherine Robertson, Keith Rodger, and Nik Winnitow.

In addition to the music, the audience heard from speakers urging them to continue their opposition to the proposed Grassy Mountain coal mine.

Chris Spearman, former mayor of Lethbridge and a spokesman for the Water For Food group, urged people to sign a petition that will be presented in the Alberta Legislature during the week of May 10.

The petition already has more than 6,000 signatures of people opposed to coal mining in the Rockies.

"We've been trying to keep the politics out of it," Spearman said. "We've been saying it's not about left and right. It's about right and wrong."

Spearman said Water For Food has been ignored by the coal mining company Northback, Energy Minister Brian Jean, and Premier Danielle Smith in their quest for answers.

"None of them have replied," Spearman said. "Not one of them have replied."

"I was at the Legislature and all I saw was arrogance and overconfidence. The government is going to go ahead. They don't care. You have to stand up."

Spearman said the 75 per cent of Albertans who oppose coal mining have to speak out in order to get the government to stand down.

People are encouraged to write their MLAs, the premier and cabinet ministers to express opposition to coal mining, reminding the elected officials there will be consequences if the mine is allowed.

"It's wrong to go ahead with the coal mines," Spearman said. "And it's time they heard from their electors to say, it's wrong. And if we have to, we'll



Photo by Frank McLighe
Lonni Robley was one of the performers at Saturday's Western Sounds of the Eastern Slopes benefit concert at the Empress Theatre.

have to recall them."

Lund, who has been in the fight against coal mines for five years, said his opposition is not rooted in politics or anti-resource development sentiment.

"Every project has to be looked at on its own merit, and this one doesn't make any sense," Lund said of the Grassy Mountain project. "I've spent a lot of time looking into this, and when I was brought into this thing it wasn't by raging leftists, it was by ranching families."

Lund said he has met with people on both sides of the issue and determined the project's finances don't make sense — any jobs created by the mine have to be balanced against jobs that will be lost in agriculture and tourism due to pollution.

"The biggest reason the finances don't make sense is no resource company ever puts a true bond up to really pay for the clean-up," Lund said.

"I've been saying for two years, I stake my reputation on it, I guarantee that 20-30 years down the road our kids will be

paying for the clean-up."

Lund said the coal mine will have detrimental effects on both the quality and quantity of water. Selenium produced by the coal mine will pollute local sources as well as water that flows downstream.

"There's no technological way to solve that," Lund said. "No one can point us anywhere in the world where they have solved that selenium problem."

Lund said if the mine goes ahead, the only place the water can come from is the Oldman watershed, which is already threatened by drought.

"Mining is a thirsty business," Lund said.

Lund said the government's fears of a law suit are a smoke screen.

"No judge is going to award foreign coal companies billions of dollars in future profits they weren't able to make," Lund said.

Lund said the UCP government got Alberta in the mess, and now want to give up the mountains so they don't get egg on their face.

Any amount of money a

judge awards is going to pale in comparison to the cost of cleaning up the coal mine's mess, Lund said.

Lund said if Grassy Mountain gets the green light, it paves the way for eight or nine more coal mines.

"Grassy Mountain is the goal line stand as far as I'm concerned," Lund said.

Lund urged people of all political stripes to unite in the battle against Grassy Mountain and its application for a mining permit.

Lorne Fitch, a biologist for five decades, said people who support coal mining are blind to the evidence.

"Coal mining is regressive, creating an unfortunate legacy of irreconcilable issues and problems," Fitch said.

"Every coal mine — every coal mine — in the Eastern Slopes that myself and my colleagues have reviewed, showed serious, acute, chronic environmental problems."

Harley Bastien spoke of the relationship the Blackfoot people have with the mountains and the environment.

Budget allocates funds for highway realignment

Continued from Page 1

• Paving of Highway 686 between Peerless Lake and Trout Lake, plus the start of design work to extend the highway from Fort

McMurray to Peerless Lake. The finished project will be "a key roadway project to connect the province's northeast and northwest regions," the budget says.

The provincial deficit is set to drop to \$2.4-billion next year and \$2-billion in 2027, before provincial legislation requires the government to run a

balanced budget.

Said Homer: "We made the difficult decision to run a deficit so that we can direct and target our spending to the top priorities of Albertans."



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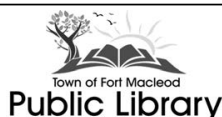
THURSDAY, MARCH 6 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 FRIDAY, MARCH 7 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. & 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
 SUNDAY, MARCH 9 | 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
 TUESDAY, MARCH 11 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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MONDAY/TUESDAY 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
 WEDNESDAY 12 NOON - 8 P.M.
 THURSDAY 1 P.M. - 8 P.M.
 FRIDAY 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
 SATURDAY CLOSED | SUNDAY CLOSED

Understanding SUICIDE

TUESDAY MARCH 11 | 5 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.
 Join us at the library for a presentation by LFS Outreach and Education
 focused on understanding suicide. This introductory session will cover various
 aspects of the topic, including attitudes and beliefs, common signs and
 symptoms, statistics, and the importance of available resources.

Family Storytime with Val

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12 | 6:30 P.M.
 Val will be reading an amusing story called "Down the Hole"
 that adults and kids will love!

Don't Call it Knitting Night

Beginners are welcome!
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 THURSDAYS | 6 P.M.

Join the Writing Group

Drop in!
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 THURSDAYS | 6 P.M.

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HOUSING & COMMUNITY SUPPORTS NAVIGATOR (HCSN)

Working collaboratively within the FCSS office the HCSN plays a critical role in supporting individuals and
 families experiencing homelessness or housing instability, as well as provide client navigation assistance
 within support services and agency referrals.

This position will also:

- Co-ordinate and facilitate community learning sessions on housing, and
 contribute to collaborative efforts addressing housing challenges.
- Identify and refer clients to appropriate community services and agencies.
- Manage client services, program activities, and community engagement
 to align with the objectives of the RDN's Reaching Home Grant.



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NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS NOTICE TO ALL QUALIFIED COMPANIES ToFM-FAC-RFQ-2025-003 LIBRARY ROOF REPLACEMENT

PROPOSAL DUE DATE: March 7, 2025

PROPOSAL NAME: Library Roof Replacement

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Town of Fort Macleod is requesting a detailed quote for the removal and replacement of the
 existing tar and gravel roofing system on our library. The new roofing system will be a 2-ply SBS
 modified bitumen membrane system.

The Town of Fort Macleod will require the successful party to provide a detailed quote for:

- Option 1 — Full system replacement (including new insulation & vapor barrier).
 Option 2 — Membrane-only replacement over the existing insulation.
 Include any additional recommendations or cost savings.

QUOTATION PACKAGE:

Quotation forms must be submitted prior to the deadline via one of the following methods:

- Electronically: operations@fortmacleod.com
- Standard mail: P.O. Box 1420 Fort Macleod, AB T0L 0Z0
- Hand delivered: 410 20th Street Fort Macleod, AB

MORE INFORMATION:

www.fortmacleod.com/do-business/bid-opportunities

NOTES:

1. Interested parties must have proof of liability insurance, registered with
 WCB Alberta, and detailed information on criteria for payment
2. The Town of Fort Macleod reserves the right to reject any and all bids
3. The Town of Fort Macleod has the right to select the proposal that
 best satisfies its interests and not necessarily on the basis of price
 or any other single factor
4. The town will not be liable for any additional work or damages directly
 attributed to neglect or poor workmanship of the prime contractor or
 any of their subcontractors



NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS NOTICE TO ALL QUALIFIED COMPANIES TOFM-FAC-RFQ-2025-004 EMPRESS THEATRE WASHROOM RENOVATION

PROPOSAL DUE DATE: F2025.03.28

PROPOSAL NAME: Empress Theatre Washroom Renovation

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Town of Fort Macleod is requesting quotations from individuals or
 contractors with construction experience to renovate the downstairs washrooms in the basement
 of the Empress Theatre. Care must be taken to ensure the salvage and reuse of designated materi-
 als, and to match as closely as possible original esthetics.

The Town of Fort Macleod will require the successful party to:

- Obtain all necessary permits from Park Enterprises
- Procure all necessary materials as per drawings
- Maintenance and use of all equipment and tooling for the work
- Demolition as per drawings
- Construction of new walls and counters as per drawings
- Plumbing installation and mounting of sinks, urinal and toilet as per drawings
- Electrical work to ensure lighting and plugs align with new women's and men's washroom division
- Finishing with salvaged and new materials as per drawings
- Removal of all waste materials
- Final inspections of work and closing of permits

QUOTATION PACKAGE: Quotation forms must be submitted prior to the deadline via one of the
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 any of their subcontractors



EXPLORING GREEN SPACE



Diane Calder (center) led a gardening discussion titled 'Exploring Green Space' on Thursday at the Fort Macleod Library. A collection of gardening enthusiasts turned out for the talk.

Photo by Frank McTighe

MPC issues permit for secondary suite

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

A Fort Macleod resident received a development permit to build a secondary garage suite at a residence on Lyndon Road.

The Fort Macleod Municipal Planning Commission issued the

permit to Mike Herweyer during the Feb. 18 meeting.

The MPC considered the application during its regular meeting at the G.R. Davis Administration Building.

Herweyer applied to build an 891 sq. ft. secondary garage suite with a 216 sq. ft. covered patio at 355 Lyndon Road.

The application also included a 36 sq. ft. front porch on the west side of the existing 2,000 sq. ft. shop.

The application was approved with the usual conditions, including acquiring an updated new building permit from Park Enterprises, and meeting fire and building code requirements.

School board sets calendar

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Livingstone Range School Board approved a calendar for the 2025-'26 school year.

Deputy superintendent Richard Feller presented the calendar for trustees' consideration during their Feb. 25 meeting.

"It's very similar to the ones that we've had in the past," Feller said.

Feller told trustees the calendar honours feedback from stakeholders. The calendar went out to each school community for input.

The provincial government mandates that Grade 1-9 students receive at least 950 hours of instruction in a school year, and high school students receive at least 1,000 hours.

"This calendar does allow for us to meet and exceed those requirements," Feller said.

The year starts with five days of staff professional development Aug. 25-29.

That includes one Divisional Day as well as four days of school-based work.

"Staff appreciated the school-based PD days in the first week," Feller said.

Classes will start Tuesday, Sept. 2 following the Labour Day long weekend.

A five-day break included in an alternate calendar drew mixed reaction, and

was not included in the 2025-'26 calendar.

Staff found a full week off in November disruptive, preferring those PD days be spread out over the year.

The last day of school before the Christmas break will be Friday, Dec. 19, with classes resuming on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026.

A week-long break is scheduled for Feb. 16-20, encompassing the Family Day holiday, two days in lieu for parent-teacher interviews, and two days of Alberta Teachers Convention.

The next week-long break begins on good Friday, April 3, with classes resuming Monday, April 13.

The last day of classes is June 23, and the last day for staff is June 26.

Included in the calendar are eight days for staff site-based planning.

The last week of June provides for a divisional professional development day, as well as two school-based days.

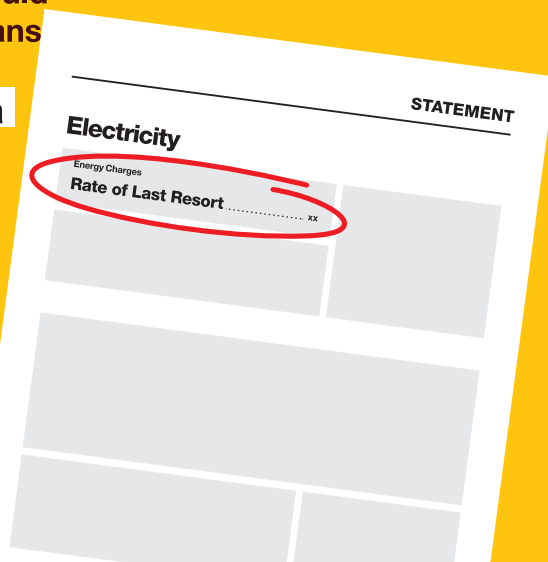
"Our staff has asked to make sure that they have time to prepare and be ready for the up-coming year," Feller said. "We know that the end of the year can be productive from a school perspective when the staff has time to take a look at what their up-coming school year plans are."

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Alberta



Foothills Liberals choose Bruinsma as candidate

John Bruinsma will represent the Liberal Party in the next federal election.

Bruinsma was acclaimed last month at the Liberal candidate for the Foothills constituency.

"With a strong focus on important new engagement with Canadians, the Liberal nominations process helps ensure we're ready to re-elect our dedicated Liberal team in Parliament and continue to elect even more talented, diverse, and hard-working community leaders as Liberal MPs across Canada, whenever the next campaign eventually arrives," national campaign co-chair Terry Duguid stated on the Liberal Web site.

"As we look forward to the important work ahead of us, the hope and hard work of Liberals across Canada will ensure our candidates and teams are ready to run competitive campaigns and earn another mandate from Canadians — including right here in Foothills."

Bruinsma was born to immigrant parents in southern Alberta and grew up on a farm where he cultivated a strong work ethic and a deep appreciation of the "rewards of hard work."

Bruinsma moved to Edmonton to complete his college education, earning diplomas in Instrumentation Engineering Technology, Computer Systems Tech-

nology, and Business Management Accounting from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

Bruinsma completed a 35-year career as an engineering technologist in industrial automation and controls, working on diverse projects ranging from the oil patch to major petrochemical plants, as well as water and wastewater facilities throughout Alberta.

Included in his career as an engineering technologist, Bruinsma embraced the entrepreneurial challenge of owning and operating an EPC Industrial Controls company for 10 years, further honing his leadership and technical skills.

In the latter part of his career, Bruinsma transitioned to a specialization in cyber-security for critical infrastructure with a major international utility, ensuring the safe and secure operation of essential services.

Throughout his career, Bruinsma balanced practical experience with continuous education. His passion for learning has also led to him achieving numerous industry-specific certifications.

Even though Bruinsma's career demanded a hectic pace, his family took every opportunity to partake together in all the outdoor activities available throughout the province, including



Photo contributed
John Bruinsma was acclaimed as the Liberal Party candidate in the federal Foothills constituency.

hiking, skiing, and canoeing.

Now free from career demands, Bruinsma has returned to his roots in southern Alberta with his wife of 44 years to join their grandchildren and extended family in the area.

Bruinsma has always been involved in grassroots politics and is now looking to fully engage in the political system, aiming to give back to the community with his extensive experience and passion for others.

Trustees request financial report on other divisions

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Livingstone Range School Board will compare its financial operations to similar-sized school jurisdictions in Alberta.

Trustees last week directed administration to prepare a comprehensive report comparing the division's operational budget to others.

"I think the more information we have as trustees empowers us to make informed decisions and be accountable to the public who trusts us to be here," trustee Brad Toone said.

Toone introduced the motion to have the report done during the board's Feb. 25 meeting at the G.R. Davis Administration Building.

Toone's request followed the board's decision not to proceed with a four-day week that was estimated to result in savings of just under \$600,000.

The report will include what is spent on each department and staffing including central office and school board trustees.

The report is to be completed prior

to the 2025-'26 budget approval.

Toone said there has been considerable discussion on how trustees can become better informed about the budget and its process.

Toone said it is difficult to make informed decisions when only considering the school division's budget.

"To my knowledge, as a board, we've never had the opportunity to see a fulsome report that compares us to other divisions," Toone said.

The idea is to compare the spending priorities of similar-sized school jurisdictions.

"I think that helps us as a board to be better informed and do better as governors," Toone said.

During discussions with stakeholders about implementing a four-day week Toone was questioned about other areas where spending could be cut.

Toone heard comments that the school board is wasteful in its spending, and that the school division is top-heavy in administration.

The school board would benefit, Toone said, from information that

compares its operations to other similar-sized school jurisdictions.

"I think this helps direct us as governors, getting all the information that we possibly can," Toone said.

School board vice-chair Lacey Poytress asked if it was possible to complete such a report when Livingstone Range must submit its budget by May 30 for provincial approval.

Trustee Carla Gimber said it is simple to bring information from any Alberta school divisions together on a spreadsheet, since they all use similar templates. "This should not be that cumbersome," Gimber said.

Gimber thanked Toon for bringing the motion forward.

"I think it's something we've been asking for in a lot of ways as trustees the past four years — a deeper understanding of the numbers," Gimber said. "Before we approve another budget, especially when we have such huge budget considerations, questions and worries I think we need that deep understanding of how we compare to the other divisions."

Fort Macleod RCMP plan open house

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Fort Macleod and district residents have a chance next week to help shape local policing.

The Fort Macleod RCMP detachment will hold a town hall meeting Monday, March 10.

"The idea is to get feedback from everyone," said Sgt. Christian Lafleur, who has command of the Fort Macleod detachment.

The town hall meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the G.R. Davis Administration Building.

Lafleur is hopeful more members of the public will turn out Monday than did for the town hall held last fall.

"The last one was mostly the council," Lafleur said. "Not too many people showed up, unfortunately."

"I'm hoping this one coming up will be better attended, just so we can set priorities that are

important to everyone."

Lafleur was at the Feb. 24 town council meeting to promote the town hall.

The RCMP detachment is shaping its plan for the coming year and welcomes input from community members to set priorities.

Council is also asked to provide its input into priorities such as crime prevention, traffic enforcement, community relations, and more.

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RCMP

OPEN HOUSE

HOSTED BY: THE FORT MACLEOD RCMP DETACHMENT
& THE TOWN OF FORT MACLEOD

March 10, 2025

6:30 PM - 7 PM

GR Davis Admin Building
410 20th Street
Fort Macleod

OPEN FORUM
with
SGT. LAFLEUR

Topics of discussion:
Providing feedback &
setting community
policing priorities.

Fort Macleod & District
**Chamber of
Commerce**

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 | 7 p.m.

REO HALL
470 17th Street | Fort Macleod

Presentation of the 2024 Financials
Election of Officers and Directors

Light refreshments following

GAZETTE OPINION

Fraud awareness key to our safety

Fraud continues to be big businesses Canada, with citizens losing a reported \$638-million last year to the evil-minded criminals who prey on people's trusting good nature and perhaps their naivety.

The amount Canadians reported losing to fraud is likely low, since officials estimate only five to 10 per cent of such losses are reported to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

Our advice to protect yourself from fraud is simple: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Preventing fraud is not that simple, of course. If it was, Canadians would not be losing millions of their hard-earned money to scheming criminals each year. That is why events such as Fraud Prevention Month are so important in creating awareness and educating people about the risks that scammers pose in our country.

The people who commit fraud are benefiting from advances in technology that allow their scams to appear to be sophisticated and more realistic than ever before. They are utilizing that technology to attack us with unexpected messages and offers that catch us unaware with our guard down.

According to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, last year the top three types of fraud that were most often reported included identity fraud, service fraud, and investment fraud — all designed to get you to pay or give away sensitive information like your social insurance number, passwords or banking details.

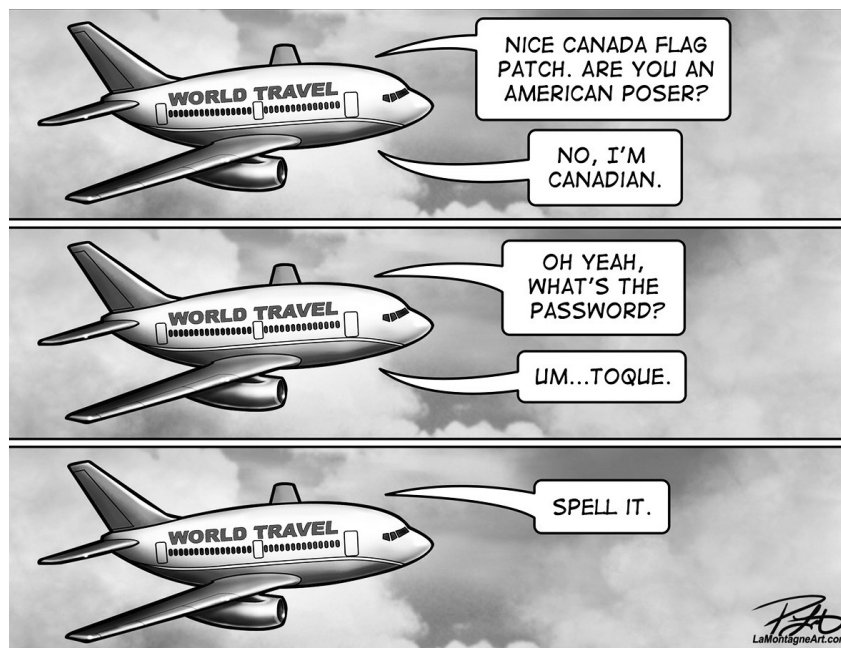
The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre reported the top three frauds reported with the highest level of financial impact were investment frauds, romance scams and spear phishing — a type of phishing campaign that targets a specific person or group and often will include information known to be of interest to the target, such as current events or financial documents.

It will serve us all well to be aware of the dangers that unexpected notices and offers present, and to resist the urge to comply with any requests without first verifying through another trusted source whether or not the offer or request is a scam.

Those of us who have people who might be the most susceptible to scams — elderly parents or aunts and uncles, perhaps — would do well to talk to them about the potential danger that persists in Canada and to educate them about ways to protect themselves and offer to be their trusted source.

We will never stop scams entirely. They have been around in some form or another for seemingly ever. With vigilance and awareness, however, we can protect ourselves and others and limit the damage.

We can also help by reporting scams to the RCMP or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 so they can investigate and warn other people. It takes a team effort to stop the scammers.



Keeping cold weather at bay

Mother Nature sure threw a hissy fit at us with that last cold spell. I survived it and sure hope it was the last of this season. I think I have mentioned a few times how much I do not like winter.

I have discovered that there are a few perks to being retired and of a certain age. One of them being that if you don't want to do something you can just say, "No, I do not want to," and not do it. Well, I do not want to go outside in the cold weather so I don't.

To be able to stay inside for a cold spell you need to prepare for it. I check the weather network and if I see a cold spell coming I get ready for it. I make a list of things I might feel like cooking or baking and then I check my supplies and see what I have. I make a list and go to the store and get them along with the regular basics like coffee cream and eggs.

This makes me sound like I am an

organized person. I am not. Halfway through the cold spell I will decide that I do not want to make what I had planned on making and now do not have what I need to make what I do want to make.

I do not want to go out in the cold more than I do not want to make whatever it is so usually end up making something totally different that I only kind of want.

I do not go hungry and I get through the cold spell. I stay inside and stay warm.

There are a lot of people who cannot do that. Some people have to

go out in the cold weather no matter what the temperature. Farmers are one example. They have to go out and feed those animals, milk those cows, gather those eggs sometimes twice a day.

Police officers are another example. They go out to help whenever help is needed, standing out at accident sites doing their best to help until the EMTs get there.

The EMTs are another one — they go help the injured or sick no matter what the temperature is.

We can't forget firefighters. They not only have the cold to deal with they have the back spray of water from the water hoses freezing on their faces.

What about the ATCO people who go out in the middle of a storm to get our power back on.

I think of all these people while I am nice and cozy in my recliner. I want them to know that I appreciate them all. Thank you.

NANA'S BLOG



Lois Perepelitz

Companion proves to be funny black comedy

COMPANION — 3.5/5 14A

I've already re-written my first sentence three times with this review. I think it's because every time I try bringing up what's so funny about this flick, I realize, "Hey, dopey, you're spoiling the surprises in the first bloody sentence."

So instead I'll try and be vague, tip-toeing around some reveals that admittedly do come pretty quickly — this isn't a *Sixth Sense* situation where you have to worry about me ruining a twist ending.

It's just that if you don't know what's coming, or what to expect, then the first 20 minutes before the movie reveals its true intentions are going to play much stronger, I think, than if you walk in knowing the whole shebang.

So let me tread lightly. *Companion* is

about a young couple in love (Sophie Thatcher and Jack Quaid) going on a weekend vacation to a friend's boyfriend's super fancy cabin.

It doesn't take long before a murder happens, and then, well...crap, that's as far as I can go without whiffing the surprises.

Normally I don't care as much about this kind of thing, but

MOVIE MATTERS



Riley Webster

Companion is one of those rare low-budget indies that really did throw me off guard, and made me constantly question what was coming next.

It's also, in case that previous description turned you off, a very funny black comedy — IMDb lists its genre as "horror sci-fi," which I guess is also accurate, though there's nothing about the flick that's scary.

It's more like the implications it brings up are creepy, even though you're constantly laughing at the befuddled villains, the misguided romantics, and the poor heroine who is doing everything she can to remain herself amidst the bloody chaos.

The movie occasionally shows its

low-budget seams — an easy trick, to tell if a film was made for almost no money, is to count how many times a scene takes place in a clearly British Columbian forest. Yet that's also part of *Companion's* charm; at no point was I worried this would fly off the rails with a huge CGI alien battle scene or some other nonsense. It stays focused on our hilariously flawed characters, letting them try and work out the dangerous situations they find themselves in (or in some cases, were born in).

Companion is now available to purchase digitally on Apple and Amazon. It's home video release is April 1.

(Riley Webster is the local author of *Movies of the 90s*, a review compendium available on the Friesen Press Store.)



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FROM PAST ISSUES

130 Years

March 1, 1895, The Macleod Gazette — Eleven settlers and a car of stock from Nebraska went up north last Thursday. They form the vanguard of an army of peaceful invaders who will overrun Alberta next season.

It is rumoured a mountain lion has taken up its abode on the island opposite town. Several claim to have heard the peculiar plaintive scream with which those animals are endowed.

A subscription was taken up in town to provide the wherewithal to enable Louis Grosse, an old party who has been existing in some miraculous way for some months past, to depart for a more congenial atmosphere. He accordingly left on Wednesday's stage for Lethbridge.

120 Years

March 3, 1905, The Macleod Gazette — Northern Alberta with the opening up of the fertile Saskatchewan valley by two lines of railway may look forward to an era of development which will surpass all previous records.

J. Riley was arrested on Tuesday and lodged in jail charged with the theft of a saddle, the property of J. Allen. Another charge of vagrancy was also preferred against the accused by the chief of police.

The Macleod Amateur Athletic Association cleared about \$60 on their entertainment Wednesday.

110 Years

March 4, 1915, The Macleod Spectator — After a three-day trial the jury in the so-called "White Slave" case this afternoon found Frederick Neldig not guilty on both counts. The accused, 27, was charged with having endeavoured to procure the 15-year-old daughter of a respectable citizen of Bellevue, to become an inmate of a bawdy house in Canada or the United States.

A getaway from the Mounted Police barracks was made by Ann Inglis and Edna Kent on Monday evening last but they were picked up at Kipp on Tuesday by Const. McKenzie. The women were undergoing an 18-month sentence on the charge of conducting a disorderly house.

The greatest day in the history of Beaver Creek took place on Friday last, when a splendid banquet in honour of the boys who have joined the 13th Canadian Mounted Rifles was held at the George Ranch.

100 Years

March 5, 1925, The Macleod Times — Hugh Mackintosh of Howe, Pete Koole of Pearce and Joseph Horner of Rathwell are new councillors in the MD of Bright.

A committee appointed by the Macleod Board of Trade to look into the covered rink proposition recommended a joint stock company be formed with shares sold at \$1 apiece.

The Supreme Court of Canada decided this morning that the Crow's Nest Pass Act was binding on the board of railway commissioners for Canada.

90 Years

March 7, 1935, The Macleod Gazette — Before a packed audience, the members of the Salvation Army Corps of Macleod and Pearce presented their annual concert in the Salvation Army Citadel on Friday.

Town council referred to the relief committee with instructions to report to the next meeting a petition from the relief workers asking for an increase in food allowances and a reduction in working days.

The Trainmen's annual ball attracted close on 700 persons from points between Calgary and Macleod, from Medicine Hat and all points west, from Coleman and all points east, Macleod and rural district surrounding. About 100 were present from Lethbridge alone.



Harold Moore homesteaded in the southwest Macleod district in 1902.

80 Years

March 1, 1945, The Macleod Gazette — On Sunday at St. Andrew's Church the memorial tablet for John Swinarton was unveiled by R.G. Charlton on behalf of the congregation and friends for dedication by Rev. A.F. Howick.

Of a population of 41 men in Waterton Park, the newly organized Lions Club has 34 members, constituting a record. Macleod Lions sponsored the new club.

70 Years

March 3, 1955, The Macleod Gazette — Women of various church denominations in Macleod united in a service of prayer prepared by a missionary in South America.

The game between the current team and one composed of former players took place. Members of the All Stars were Carl Sorenson, Wallace Hamilton, Leo Bourassa, Bill Collar, Johnny Red Crane, Joe Doyle, F. Doyle, Skipper Field, Ken Hart, Bob Hart, Len Loyst, Ralph Townsend, Mel Young, Gower Kennedy and Red Kennedy.

60 Years

March 4, 1965, The Macleod Gazette — The Cub and Scout father and son banquet held in the Elks Hall last week was the most successful ever held in Fort Macleod with an attendance of 180.

Fort Macleod Broncos beat High River Flyers 9-3 in the final game of the Foothills Hockey League regular season. The Broncos were two points behind the Flyers in the standings.

A gala time was had by all at the party held Friday to honour Ralph Townsend, Peter Pedersen and Frank Stockton, who were retiring from the fire department.

50 Years

March 6, 1975, The Macleod Gazette — The Fort Macleod Lions Club sponsored a double treat evening on Friday. Some 500 citizens were privileged to listen to two hours of fine home-grown talent and a family who had lost all their possessions in a recent fire were the recipients of the profits.

The McQuarrie rink from Lethbridge edged Fort Macleod's Reach rink in the finals of the Macleod Ladies Bonsel.

Fort Macleod Centennial Rookies ended their first season in the Central Alberta Junior Hockey League. Darcy O'Sullivan led the team with 56 points and Mike Plourde was second with 35 and led the team with 191 penalty minutes.

40 Years

February 27, 1985, The Macleod Gazette — Town council decided to pass on to customers a 5.5 per cent increase in electrical bills after TransAlta Utilities increased its rate.

Trustees approved a four per cent increase to teachers' salaries and a two per cent hike in CUPE members' wages.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UCP budget continues health care destruction

The Editor:

Albertans are worried about accessing the health care they need when they need it. Heading into Budget 2025, we were watching for key investments in public health care including prioritizing action on health care capacity and workforce planning for a growing province.

Unfortunately for Albertans, that's not what we saw in Thursday's budget.

Instead, Budget 2025 continues to roll out the government's expensive and chaotic restructuring of public health care in Alberta, while doubling down on their failing privatization schemes. Neither of which have delivered on promised improvements to access to health care for Albertans.

Alberta is in a health care workforce crisis. Doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and other skilled health care workers are all telling us they are burnt out, constantly working short-staffed, and looking to leave the health care system altogether.

This is an urgent situation, and we need our government to be laser-focused on the front line workforce with a plan for retention, recruitment and training.

We didn't see that in the budget.

Budget 2025 also continues to ignore long-overdue public infrastructure projects such as the South Edmonton Hospital, nor does it provide a clear plan for the full opening of the new Calgary Cancer Centre.

As our population has continued to boom, we have fallen further and further behind in hospital bed capacity in Alberta. We are already short hundreds of beds in Edmonton, and thousands across the province, yet the budget provided no plans or timelines to get facilities built and open.

Instead, the government is continuing to use our public health care dollars to fund the expansion of private addictions treatment centres, and to accelerate the use of private, for-profit surgical centres and other contracts with for-profit providers. Our public health care budget should go towards providing quality, timely care, not proliferating corporate profits.

We are decades behind in needed health care infrastructure. It's time to get to work. Alberta urgently needs a capacity plan for new beds and a workforce plan to ensure we can keep our health care system staffed and our facilities open. This budget offers neither.

**Chris Galloway, Executive Director
Friends of Medicare**

Budget fails public services, workers

The Editor:

The government of Alberta's 2025 Budget fails to provide adequate funding for vital public services, impacting staff and the Albertans who rely on services the most.

As the province's population grows and inflation rises, government investment must keep pace to maintain quality services and manageable workloads for staff.

Budget 2025 falls far short of keeping up with Albertans' needs, underfunding public services by almost \$1 billion in 2025-'26 alone and more than \$3 billion between 2024 and 2027.

This government has released yet another bad news budget at the expense of critical public services.

For example, the ministry of Children and Family Services is not receiving a staff increase (zero new full-time equivalents) and the ministry of Seniors, Community, and Social Services is only receiving a one per cent increase in staffing (32 new full-time equivalents).

The government also projects deficits of \$5.2, \$2.4, and \$2 billion over the next three years — which it largely blames on the looming threat of U.S. tariffs.

However, the government has a history of understating revenues. In Budget 2024, the government anticipated a small surplus of \$0.4 billion. In reality, the surplus turned out to be \$5.8 billion.

For the 82,000 AUPE members negotiating new collective agreements, this budget shows the government is unwilling to offer

a fair deal at the bargaining table.

Budget 2025 and the government's three-year fiscal plan is a blueprint to starve health care, education, and public service workers into submission.

Is the government moving money around to help hard-working Albertans, or are they manufacturing a deficit so that the government can cry poor at the bargaining table?

AUPE members are prepared to fight for what we deserve — on the picket line if necessary.

**Sandra Azocar, Vice-President
Alberta Union of Provincial Employees**

Failing grade for budget from ATA

The Editor:

Budget 2025 fails to meet the funding required to address the needs we have repeatedly outlined as plaguing Alberta's public education system.

Instead of a desperately needed \$11.35 billion investment in the future of Alberta, this government has shortchanged Alberta's students by \$910 million (eight per cent).

Alberta's public schools deserve better. Less than \$10 per student per school day would have begun to address the unmet needs in our classrooms. Even more unacceptable is the increased funding of private schools. Public dollars belong in public classrooms.

**Jason Schilling, President
Alberta Teachers' Association**

Albertans play role in preventing fires

The Editor

With wildfire season officially beginning on March 1, I want to talk to all Albertans about the importance of being prepared and proactive. Alberta has faced unprecedented wildfire challenges, and our government is committed to a three-pronged approach to wildfire preparations: prevention, mitigation and readiness to respond.

The key to prevention efforts is stopping wildfires before they start. It is essential that every Albertan understands their role in preventing wildfires. Every small effort counts in preventing wildfires and protecting our communities and natural resources.

For situations where prevention is not enough, we have strengthened our wildfire mitigation efforts. This includes controlled burns, creating firebreaks and managing forest vegetation to minimize fuel for fires.

In 2024, the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta funded 38 FireSmart projects across the province worth more than \$3.4 million. These measures focus on wildfire prevention and mitigation, educating communities on fire safety and supporting local emergency response plans.

Alberta is home to some of the best firefighting personnel in the world, and our teams are well trained, well equipped and ready to respond to any wildfire incidents. We continue investing in the technology and resources needed to support firefighting efforts.

This year, we are entering the wildfire season with 10 active fires, a significant change from the almost 60 wildfires we saw this time last year. This is in large part thanks to the incredible work of Alberta's wildland firefighters and support teams, the resilience of Alberta's communities, and to the province's historic investments, preparations and quick response to last year's wildfires.

As Albertans take the time to enjoy our incredible outdoor opportunities this year, it is important to remember we all have a shared responsibility in preventing wildfires. I encourage everyone to follow fire bans and restrictions, remember you must have a permit for any burning in the Forest Protection Area, and follow the soak it, stir it and soak it again method to ensure your campfires are extinguished completely.

By working together, we will be ready to face whatever the 2025 wildfire season brings.

**Todd Loewen, Minister
of Forestry and Parks**



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Women-owned businesses are driving economic growth, and a deeper look at some of the numbers supports that notion.

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Women-owned businesses are thriving

Women entrepreneurs are not to be underestimated. Data affirms that women-owned businesses are growing and thriving.

- Women's Business Enterprises Canada says more than 85 per cent of buying decisions are influenced by women.

The Canadian minister of small business notes that women business ownership is growing.

In 2023, approximately 18.4 per cent of all businesses in Canada were majority owned by women, compared to 15.6 per cent in 2017.

According to North One banking, women-owned firms account for more than 12 million businesses in the United States.

In addition, the 2024 Wells Fargo Impact of Women-Owned Business Report, in partnership with Ventureneer, Core Women and Women Impacting Public Policy, found the number of women-owned business increased at a rate of 4.5 times between 2019 to 2023.

Women-owned businesses are driving economic growth, and a deeper look at some of the numbers supports that notion.

- The Women's Business Enterprise Council says there are 12.3 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., which comprises about 40 per cent of the total number of businesses.

- Women-owned businesses bring in nearly \$2 trillion every year, says the National Women's Business Council.

- During the pandemic, women-owned businesses added 1.4 million jobs and \$579.6 billion in revenue to the economy, says Wells Fargo.

- World Bank indicates that roughly one-third of principal owners of all businesses are female.

- WBENC advises that 64 per cent of new women-owned businesses are started by women of colour.

- According to Forbes, women-led tech companies achieve a 35 per cent higher ROI.

A Forbes study with First Round Capital, a venture capital firm, found female-founded businesses in their portfolio outperformed male-founded companies by more than 60 per cent.

Women-owned businesses are making a large impact on North America and around the world.

Such firms continue to employ millions of people and foster strong economies.

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Government budgets for capital work

GEORGE LEE

THE MACLEOD GAZETTE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

Capital projects — the stuff you can see, touch, use repeatedly, walk through or even drive upon — will account for \$26.1-billion in provincial spending over the next three years, the Alberta government estimates in a deficit budget released last Thursday.

For regions beyond the two major cities, the question is, how many of those dollars will the government scatter far and wide for roads, hospitals, schools and more?

Regional capital projects worth an estimated \$1.74-billion over the next three years are in the budget. But the figure is only part of the story because it doesn't include new school spending and new highways and bridge work.

Last year, the all-in number for the regions was about \$30-million smaller at \$1.71-billion.

Nearly half the total, or \$819-million, is earmarked for projects in Central Alberta. The biggest ticket item there is \$557-million to continue redeveloping Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre.

Another \$22-million flows to the hospital for an interim cardiac catheterization lab in partnership with the Red Deer Regional Health Foundation.

Also in the three-year plan for central Alberta is spending worth \$21-million to support expansion for Rocky Mountain Clean Fuels Inc. in the creation of synthetic diesel. The Canadian company currently

operates a plant in Carseland.

Twinning of Highway 11 from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House gets \$208-million. And \$11-million over two years will support the expansion of the Red Deer Regional Airport.

Some portion of \$225-million over three years for school projects across Alberta will go towards the planning of an unnamed new school in central Alberta.

Northern Alberta's share of that same \$225-million pot will fund the planning and design of five new school projects. It also gets a share of \$264-million in new funding for highways.

Paving the only access route to a trio of remote Alberta Indigenous communities — John D'Or Prairie, Fox Lake and Garden River — is in the budget. So are paving Highway 686 in the Municipal District of Opportunity between Peerless Lake and Trout Lake, and starting design work to extend the highway from Fort McMurray to Peerless Lake.

The province-wide envelope also includes detailed design work to improve safety on Highway 28, which serves Cold Lake's oil sands and Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake.

Other northern spending is estimated at \$723-million and includes \$101-million over three years to twin Highway 63 north of Fort McMurray.

Keyano College in Fort McMurray gets \$2-million in 2025-2026 for expansion and upgrades "to provide an



Photo by George Lee, Local Journalism Initiative

Health care, schools and roads top capital spending as more bucks are aimed at Alberta's regions.

enhanced learning environment for in-demand programs like nursing and paramedicine to help address labour needs in Alberta's health care system," budget documents say.

La Crete Bridge gets \$87-million for upgrading and the La Crete Maternity and Community Health Centre gets \$80-million. Replacement of the Beaverlodge Health Care Centre receives \$189-million.

In the south, the planning and design of three new school projects is included in cross-Alberta

new spending.

Funding for the first stage of realignment and connection of Highways 2 and 3 near Fort Macleod is part of the cross-Alberta transportation package, representing a long-awaited announcement to help expand trade corridors, improve safety and access land for commercial development.

Twinning of Highway 3 between Taber and Burdett gets \$106-million over two years, part of \$198-million for southern Alberta that includes funding worth \$25-million for Alberta's

new border security initiative. The border money is for equipment and patrol facilities.

The rest of the southern Alberta capital spending falls under health and higher education.

Those numbers are \$39-million for the University of Lethbridge Rural Medical Teaching School to address doctor shortages in smaller communities; \$22-million for renal dialysis at Chinook Regional Hospital in Lethbridge; \$5-million over two years to build intensive care capacity in Medicine Hat and

Lethbridge and add a catheterization lab at Chinook Regional Hospital; and \$1-million to plan the replacement of Cardston Health Centre.

Overall, the province's three-year capital plan rises by \$1.1-billion to \$26.1-billion.

Alberta's budget anticipates a \$5.2-billion deficit to allow spending of \$74.1-billion, as the province attempts to weather economic uncertainty stemming from potential U.S. tariffs. The government forecasts deficit budgets for two more years.

Council gets update from planning group

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Fort Macleod council received an update last week from the non-profit organization that assists with planning and subdivisions.

Representatives from the Oldman River Regional Services Commission appeared as a delegation at council's Feb. 24 meeting at the G.R. Davis Administration Building.

The commission provides professional planning, geographical information system and regional assessment review board services and advice to its 41 member municipalities, including the Town of Fort Macleod.

Chief administrative officer Lenze Kuiper and board chair Christopher Northcott discussed the commission's plans going forward, which includes a three-year budget plan.

"I'm hoping you find a lot of value," Kuiper said of Fort Macleod's membership in the commission.

Northcott, who is a Vulcan County councillor, is taking over as chair from Fort Macleod's Gord Wolstenholme who stepped down after 10 years.

"I have some pretty big shoes to fill,"

Northcott said. "It's been a pleasure serving on the executive committee with Gordon for the last three years."

Northcott said the commission faced a serious budgetary shortfall that had to be addressed while finding a way to sustain operations.

In response the commission developed a new model in which membership fees cover the commission's fixed expenses of about \$2.4-million.

Fixed expenses include salaries, benefits, utilities, telephone, accounting and audit fees, insurance, software and equipment rentals.

The membership fees range from a low of \$5,000, an increase from \$2,370, up to \$104,000, which is an increase from \$77,190.

This is the first change to membership fees in a decade.

The fees for service and subdivision fees, which were not changed, will cover variable expenses of just over \$160,000 and will help the commission build a reserve.

Variable expenses include staff mileage, professional development, office supplies, postage, courier, and more.

Northcott said during its deliberations

as well as through conversations with members, it became clear a new membership agreement is needed.

"We believe if we have a clear model for everyone, that's part of our financial sustainability plan," Northcott said.

The new membership agreement will reflect how the commission operates.

The agency has existed in some form for 70 years, acting as a provincial agency until 1995.

The Klein government closed all the planning commissions which forced the Oldman River commission to reinvent itself.

In 1994 the commission had 44 employees, but that number has been reduced to 20. In addition to Kuiper and two office staff, the commission employs a subdivision technician and nine planners and contracts two others.

There are two GIS analysts, two GIS technologists and one technician.

The commission has three revenue streams including membership fees, which are based on each municipality's equalized assessment.

"We try to keep those fees relatively

low," Kuiper said.

The commission also gets revenue from its subdivision work as well as fees for other services.

"You are growing, and that is a very good thing because not all our municipalities are," Kuiper said. "A lot are struggling to remain viable."

The Town of Fort Macleod pays about \$61,000 for planning services.

Coun. Jim Monteith told Kuiper and Northcott the commission should consider small membership increases each year, rather than one large increase.

Kuiper said they have heard that sentiment from other municipalities. The problem is it is difficult to increase membership when the commission has money in reserve.

"I think you've proved that reserves are good because you never know what's going to happen," Monteith said.

Mayor Brent Feyter said the town appreciates the services it receives from the commission and its designated planner Gavin Scott.

Real Time Operations Centre supports Macleod RCMP

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

The Fort Macleod RCMP has help beyond its detachment borders.

The RCMP's Real Time Operations Centre provides advice and resources in emergent situations.

Sgt. Christian Lafleur was at council's Feb. 24 meeting at the G.R. Davis Administration Building.

As part of his presentation, Lafleur told

council about the RCMP's Real Time Operations Centre that was established in October 2022.

The centre is staffed by senior police officers who monitor policing operations in real time and assess incident risk.

Those officers co-ordinate specialized and expert resources, and manage the response to the incident. The centre's staff provides guidance, direction and support to the front line police officers.

Lafleur told council the centre is also used to co-ordinate deployment of all RCMP resources in Alberta and nationally, if necessary. The centre uses the latest technology as it provides the real time support to RCMP officers during emergency situations across Alberta.

Lafleur explained that as a situation develops across multiple detachment areas, RCMP policies state command of the situation shifts to the local police.

That has created difficulties that the centre addresses.

"What the Real Time Operations Centre does is they actually take charge of the situation," Lafleur said.

The local detachment lets the centre know what resources are needed, such as police canine services, and those are dispatched.

"There are more experienced police officers in those positions, and they take charge," Lafleur said.

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Photo courtesy Nony and David Orr

The three buildings of Tamuka Primary School. The two buildings in the foreground are the ones the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has funded and organized and overseen the construction.

Fort Macleod couple set to return from mission

As we will be home this month (already our year and a half period of voluntary service here in Zimbabwe will come to an end!), we thought to share one last time an update on the humanitarian work we have been doing.

There has been no shortage of things to do these last months, and we will be racing to accomplish all that we can before another missionary couple takes our place and carries on with the work.

Back in November we reported that we had successfully selected and had mobilized local building contractors at each of five new major construction sites: four rural schools, and one rural health clinic.

At the schools, there will be a total of 19 new classrooms in eight new buildings catering to some 2,500 students, with thousands to follow in the years to come.

We also provide new sources of water at these schools.

At the rural clinic, buildings include a clinic, housing for waiting mothers (those soon to deliver their babies), two staff houses, cooking shelter, and security shelter. A borehole is also provided.

New infrastructure is a means, not an end. Blessing the lives of others is the goal.

It is remarkable to see these structures take shape, and the excitement grow within the

communities who will benefit.

Once construction begins, we visit the sites often to oversee the work. Oh, the stories we can tell as we have worked to bring these projects to fruition! We never knew how knowledgeable we would become in Zimbabwe construction — aprons, slabs, sprockets, guttering, cables, common vs. load-bearing bricks, header course, termite protection, borehole drilling and solarization of the hole, school furniture construction, etc.

Despite many delays, and lots of problems to be solved along the way, each of these projects will soon be completed. A month ago, we took some drone shots of these sites. All are in rural areas but one. You can see the beauty of the Zimbabwe landscape in the rainy season — all is lush and green. Unlike last year where we received only three or four good rains, resulting in poor or no life-sustaining crops, this year there is good rain. The people are so grateful — water is life!

To bring a project to conclusion, the

community organizes a handover ceremony where the project is deemed complete and is officially “handed over” to the community. Local dignitaries attend including chiefs, headmen, politicians, and representatives from our church to mark the occasion. Speeches are many! The children perform with song, poems, and often dance. Often, we find ourselves dancing right along with the community. Fun times!

The women will have cooked on an open fire a meal of sadza (corn meal), chicken, and greens to feed the guests. We are so humbled to receive their thanks and be the face of their good fortune. We know we represent the effort and sacrifice of so many to make this happen, those who are part of the humanitarian team here in the Africa South Area of the Church, and all those who have donated in tithes and offerings to help those in need. Ultimately, we give thanks for Christ's example and invitation to be our “brother's keeper” (which includes “sisters” of course!).

In a short time, we will return to our beloved prairie town of Fort Macleod in all its abundance and order, and once again be among family and friends. We look forward and will embrace such reunion as never before bringing with us an experience from Zimbabwe we could never forget. Thank you for sharing in our journey.

ZIMBABWE REPORT



David and Nony Orr



Photo courtesy Nony and David Orr

The six new buildings and temporary construction buildings on the right, of the Mandoga Rural Health Clinic. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has funded and organized and overseen construction.

RCMP makes quarterly report to council

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Fort Macleod RCMP continue to carry one of the highest workloads in Alberta.

Sgt. Christian Lafleur was at Fort Macleod council's Feb. 24 meeting at the G.R. Davis Administration Building to provide a quarterly report.

From October to the end of December, Fort Macleod RCMP dealt with 24 crimes against persons, including 10 assaults, six cases of criminal harassment and four cases of threats.

In the same period in 2023 the RCMP dealt with 47 crimes against persons, including 32 assaults.

Property crimes from October to the end of December totalled 115, including

49 cases of mischief, 20 cases of theft under \$5,000, 10 thefts of motor vehicles and 10 cases of fraud.

In the same period in 2023 the RCMP handled 113 crimes against property, which included 44 mischief reports, 16 theft under \$5,000, and 14 cases of fraud.

The RCMP dealt with a total of 25 other Criminal Code offences, including 14 reports of disturbing the peace and eight cases of someone failing to comply with court orders.

Lafleur noted the RCMP issued 142 traffic tickets during the past quarter, ranging from speeding to distracted driving.

"The goals for the year have been surpassed already, and we have one more quarter," Lafleur said.

Lafleur said the RCMP have also met and surpassed goals set for community relations and visibility.

"I'm still telling my officers to go out and be visible," Lafleur said. "The workload is a little heavy so they're in the office a bit more than I would like doing paperwork."

An influx of offenders is resulting in increased call volume for the Fort Macleod RCMP.

Attracted by affordable rent, offenders from Calgary and other centres are coming to Fort Macleod and creating problems.

"It's been keeping us busy," Lafleur told council.

The detachment is at full strength on paper right now with a sergeant, corporal and five constables, Lafleur said,

but that will change.

The detachment could be short one officer for up to 18 months due to a maternity leave.

Lafleur is hoping to counter that by getting a new officer from RCMP Depot.

The detachment just added a fresh recruit out of Depot to replace a departing officer. That officer will spend six months training with an experienced officer.

Lafleur continues to work with his bosses to have the staffing increased due to the volume of calls.

Mayor Brent Feyter encouraged Lafleur to reach out if there is anything council or the Town of Fort Macleod can do.

"We appreciate the work you and your team do," Feyter said.



Photo contributed

BTU Tom Taylor, Shari Ulrich and Barney Bentall will perform at the Empress Theatre on March 8.

BTU here Saturday for final concert of series

Acoustic trio BTU are coming together at the Empress Theatre on Saturday, March 8 as the final show of the 2024-'25 Centre Stage Concert Series.

Comprised of three of Canada's most celebrated singer-songwriters — Barney Bentall, Tom Taylor, and Shari Ulrich — BTU blends rich harmonies, masterful songwriting, and decades of musical experience.

Their collaboration is a testament to their shared love of storytelling and melody, drawing on folk and roots influences to create a timeless sound.

The story of BTU began as a natural convergence of talent.

They first played together in November 2007 at a song-writer concert on Bowen Island.

Their collaboration grew, and a year later, they recorded *Live at Cates Hill*,

an eclectic mix of the character, voices and songwriting talents of these three unique artists.

Barney Bentall, best known as the frontman of Barney Bentall and the Legendary Hearts, has been a staple of the Canadian rock scene since the 1980s, delivering hits like *Something to Live For* and *Come Back to Me*.

After years in the spotlight, Bentall turned toward folk and roots music.

Tom Taylor, formerly of the Vancouver-based band She Stole My Beer, has built a reputation for crafting evocative lyrics and warm, understated melodies. His solo work is marked by introspective songwriting and a voice that conveys both grit and tenderness.

Shari Ulrich, a Juno Award-winning multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter, first rose to prominence in the

1970s with The Hometown Band and later as a solo artist. Her work spans folk, pop, and jazz, showcasing her ability to weave intricate narratives with soaring vocals and skilled musicianship.

BTU's music is a seamless blend of their individual styles, emphasizing intricate vocal harmonies, acoustic instrumentation, and heartfelt storytelling. From Bentall's road-worn reflections to Taylor's poetic imagery and Ulrich's crystalline melodies, BTU crafts songs that resonate deeply with listeners.

Their performances are a mix of new material and reinterpretations of past favorites, offering a fresh yet familiar experience for fans.

Tickets to see BTU are available at www.macleodempress.com, by calling 403-553-4404 or at the Box Office.

Town updates memorial bench policy

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

People who want to honour a loved one in Fort Macleod's cemeteries can do so with a memorial bench.

Fort Macleod council last week approved an updated policy that removes memorial trees as a possibility, leaving benches as the only option.

"This has been overhauled," director of operations Brennan Orr said. "The most major thing is we've taken out the tree aspect of the policy. We found that was not sustainable."

The policy was on the agenda of

council's Feb. 24 meeting at the G.R. Davis Administration Building.

People who desire to place a memorial bench will work with the director of operations and facilities foreman in finding an appropriate location.

"We're looking to have council accept this policy as presented," Orr said.

Trees were removed as an option in an attempt to simplify maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery.

In response to a question from Mayor Brent Feyter, chief administrative officer Anthony Burdett told

council it is still possible for someone to donate trees to the Town of Fort Macleod.

"We would direct them to put the trees in the most appropriate place," Burdett said, suggesting it would be a location where there is irrigation.

Feyter said the town should not discourage people from donating trees to be placed in other parts of town.

"We hope no one sees this as us removing trees, as us removing the desire to plant more trees," Burdett said. "We're budgeting each year to beautify our town with shrubbery and trees."

School division projects slight enrollment drop

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Livingstone Range School Division is projecting a slight drop in enrollment for the 2025-'26 school year.

Trustees learned last week projections are for 3,588.33 full-time equivalent (FTE) students, which is down 5.74 FTE students from this year.

"These are projections," associate superintendent of business services Jeff Perry said. "They're a long way in advance of Sept. 1 so lots of things can happen."

Perry presented the projected enrollment during the school board's Feb. 25 meeting.

School divisions were required to submit enrollment projections early in the year to the provincial government.

The government used those projections to determine school funding in its 2025 budget announced Thursday.

Following are the enrollment projections across Livingstone Range.

Fort Macleod

Enrollment in the two Fort Macleod schools is projected to decrease by 12.5 FTE students next year.

W.A. Day school forecasts enrollment of 268 students, a drop of 22.5 FTE from this year.

F.P. Walshe school expects to enroll 385 students, an increase of 10 FTE students.

Granum

Granum school is projecting that it will gain 2.5 FTE students next year, giving it an enrollment of 47.5.

Nanton

Enrollment is projected to decline by 11.5 FTE students next year to 371 in the two Nanton schools.

A.B. Daley school is projecting enrollment of 185 students, an increase of 2.5 FTE.

J.T. Foster school is projecting 186 students, a decline of 14 FTE.

Stavelly

Enrollment at Stavelly school is projected to

decline by 8.5 FTE to 73 students.

Claresholm

Enrollment at the two Claresholm schools is projected to increase by 8.5 FTE.

West Meadow elementary is projecting enrollment of 307 students, an increase of 1.5 FTE.

Willow Creek Composite high school is expected to have 333 students, or seven more than the present year.

Pincher Creek

Enrollment at the two Pincher Creek schools is projected to be 510.5

next year, a decline of just 5 FTE students.

Canyon school is projecting an enrollment of 245.5 students, which is down 3.5 FTE from this year.

Matthew Halton school expects 265 students to enroll, an increase of three from this year.

Lundbreck

Livingstone school is projecting enrollment totalling 222.5 students, which is down 4.5 FTE from the present year.

Crowsnest Pass

Enrollment in the three Crowsnest Pass schools is expected to increase by 1.55 FTE next year.

Horace Allen school has a projected enrollment of 164.5, an increase of seven students from this year.

Isabelle Sellon school is expected to enroll 133 students, or seven fewer than the present year.

Crowsnest Consolidated school has a projected enrollment of 318 students, or 1.55 FTE more than this year.

Outreach school enrollment is expected to remain constant at 61 students.

Colony schools are projecting an enrollment increase of 14.5 FTE students to 262.

The number of international students is projected to increase by one, to 42 next year.

Home education and virtual school enrollment is projected to be 90.33 FTE, an increase of 3.71 FTE.



Jeff Perry

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Town closes roadway in new subdivision

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

A process that began in 2023 of closing roadways in a new Fort Macleod subdivision concluded last week.

Council gave second and third readings Feb. 24 to By-law No. 1978.

Mayor Brent Feyter said the roadways have been in existence for more than two decades but never developed.

"We need to close them for the new subdivision," Feyter said.

By-law No. 1978 was on the agenda of

council's meeting at the G.R. Davis Administration Building.

Council gave first reading to By-law No. 1978 in November 2023 and sent it for consideration by Alberta Transportation.

A public hearing was held in February 2024 and those details sent to Alberta Transportation for approval.

That led to the by-law returning to council's Feb. 24 meeting for consideration of second and third readings.

Coun. Jim Monteith asked what the land will be used for in the new subdivision.

Director of operations Brennan Orr told council some land will become part of subdivision lots.

Other parts become part of new roads and some will be used for utility right-of-ways.

"Eventually we do want to continue a bit of a pathway," Orr added. "It all has varying new uses in the Macleod Landing subdivision."

The land is behind Jon's Independent Grocer and the RCMP detachment.

The 33.8-acre Macleod Landing subdivision will extend south from

30th Street to 18th Street.

The subdivision includes land designated for a seniors centre and assisted living development.

Single detached homes, townhouses, multi-unit residential complexes, neighbourhood-scale commercial development, a storm retention pond, open space and recreational facilities are planned in the subdivision.

To the south there is an area designated for highway commercial and retail development.

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK



Fort Macleod Library has an interesting display that promises good fortune should you take a chance on a blind date with a book. Members can choose books wrapped in brown paper for a surprise.

MLA lauds work of Rowan House in 25-year history

GEORGE LEE
THE MACLEOD GAZETTE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

Domestic abuse survivors across southern Alberta benefit from the life-changing shelter and support offered by Rowan House Society, the legislature heard as the group geared up for a March fund-raiser.

Chelsae Petrovic, the member for Livingstone-Macleod, celebrated the organization's 25th anniversary in a statement to colleagues in Edmonton, highlighting the High River group's humble beginnings and its role in breaking cycles of abuse for women and children fleeing abuse.

their impact.

High River flooding in 2013 forced Rowan House to rebuild. "But like the survivors they support, they emerged stronger, expanding their services and reinforcing their commitment to trauma-informed care," said Petrovic.

"Today they continue to evolve, adapting to the growing and changing needs of those they serve, ensuring their impact is felt across generations."

In 2023, intimate partner violence reported to police was committed against 385 of every 100,000 Albertans. The Statistics Canada figure represents victims aged 12 or



Chelsae Petrovic

Rowan House began in 2000 as a two-bedroom shelter in a Black Diamond basement suite. Today it's an ultra-modern, high-security facility in the north end of Petrovic's riding.

Speaking to her legislature colleagues Feb. 25, the UCP's Petrovic said: "Over the years Rowan House has provided life-saving emergency shelter, outreach services and preventative education, transforming countless lives."

Petrovic said the society's impact "extends far beyond providing a safe place to stay. Rowan House empowers survivors through counselling, advocacy and other programs. It helps survivors 'rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.'"

With seven bedrooms and a 24-person capacity, the house offers 30-day emergency shelter for women with or without children.

One initiative reaches more than 3,000 students a year to help stop domestic violence before it starts, Petrovic said in her statement.

Rowan House offers a children's program, a legal resource navigator program, a safe-at-home program and even a 24-hour support line: call or text 403-652-3311.

Sun Country 99.7 FM will broadcast a radiothon for the society on Thursday, March 6. Donations all month of up to \$25,000 will be matched by other supporters, doubling

older, and it's higher than the national figure of 354 per 100,000 people.

Under the separate reporting category of family violence for all ages, the numbers are 366 in Alberta and 350 in Canada per 100,000.

Domestic abuse often goes unreported to police. Some studies even peg the unreported rate at 90 per cent, the result of demotivators like fear of retaliation, shame and stigma, economic or social dependency on abusers, and distrust of law enforcement and the justice system.

The Canadian government cites studies that suggest 44 per cent of women who have been in an intimate partner relationship have experienced psychological, physical or sexual abuse from a partner since turning 15.

Women and girls are statistically more likely than men and boys to have experienced any form of intimate partner violence.

But for a quarter century, Rowan House Society has provided a pathway for escape and recovery.

Said Petrovic: "This milestone is a testament to the dedicated staff, volunteers and community supporters who make Rowan House's work possible."

"Their efforts have saved lives, strengthened families, and built a safer Alberta for all, and the compassion and dedication they offer is a shining example of the power of community."

Town will seek meeting with NRCB

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Fort Macleod council will invite the Natural Resources Conservation Board to discuss enforcement of regulations on feedlots and other developments.

Council made that decision after deciding it was pointless to comment on changes approved by the NRCB on an area feedlot.

The NRCB wrote to inform council of some changes to a feedlot expansion by Van Huigenbos Farms north and west of Fort Macleod.

The NRCB last July approved an application by Van Huigenbos Farms Ltd. to expand its beef feeder calf operation to 16,500 head, from 2,500 head.

In its letter to council, the NRCB explained a new condition was added to the feedlot approval that Van Huigenbos must prove with a survey

that the manure storage facility is at least 526 metres from the outside walls of the closest neighbouring residence.

"What they put very clearly in their letter is the original application is still approved," chief administrative officer Anthony Burdett told council. "It's just that they're changing a detail."

Burdett said there is no opportunity to protest the original approval of the feedlot expansion.

Council originally wrote the NRCB urging the board to consider concerns expressed by residents about odour and other issues.

"We didn't take a formal stance saying we were for or against it, although we did echo the concerns of residents," Burdett reminded council.

Coun. Jim Monteith wondered who enforced the rules set out for the feedlot. Burdett said the NRCB sets the

rules, but it is likely a complaint from a neighbour or someone else that sparks enforcement of the rules.

"In some way or another it gets back to them (NRCB) and then they send someone to inspect it," Burdett said.

Mayor Brent Feyter said the process is likely working, given the NRCB's request for comment on the new developments. "It shows that somebody somewhere must be watching it or else we wouldn't be seeing it."

Council took no position on the NRCB's request for comment.

"I don't know there is much merit in sending a letter because it's only speaking to the amendments," Feyter said.

Council did agree, however, to invite someone from the NRCB to attend a meeting to discuss enforcement of regulations.

Livingstone Range submits local courses

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

A list of locally developed courses is being compiled in Livingstone Range School Division to submit to Alberta Education.

The school board last month went through an annual process of authorizing superintendent Darryl Seguin to submit the list of expired or recently acquired courses.

"This is a really important piece in our division," school board vice-chair Lacey Poytress said. "We are constantly working

towards offering as much as we can that is relevant to our students to get them to their final destination quicker."

"I know that there is a lot of energy and effort that goes into it."

The request to give the superintendent authorization was on the agenda of the school board's Feb. 25 meeting at the G.R. Davis Administration Building in Fort Macleod.

Associate superintendent of curriculum and innovation Chad Kuzyk told trustees the list of courses

is being prepared for submission to the government.

"We have a number that are there," Kuzyk said, listing such courses as Developing Personal Integrity, Film and Fine Arts, Forensic Science, and Instrumental Jazz.

"These are ones that we are going to currently put forward, and we are working on more for next year," Kuzyk said.

Poytress asked Kuzyk about enrollment in these courses.

Kuzyk said a course such as Developing Personal

Integrity, which is used in the summer FACES program, has seen enrollment increase.

"That is a mixture of (Livingstone Range) students and students from abroad," Kuzyk said.

Kuzyk said enrollment in the other locally-developed courses likely remains constant.

The Alberta Education Act requires locally developed courses with a start date for the 2025-'26 school year to be approved by the board and submitted to Alberta Education.



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PUBLICATION DATE:
Wednesday, March 26

DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISING: Friday, March 21

The
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USPORTS CURLING



Photo contributed

The University of Guelph women's curling team competed last week in the 2025 USports/CCAA Curling Canada Championships at the Lethbridge Curling Club. The team stopped at the Fort Macleod Curling Club on Feb. 23 to

practice. The Guelph rink included skip Jillian Uniacke, third Abigail Parkinson, second Liana Flanagan, lead Monica Tanguay, alternate Sarah Woodward, coach Morgan Lavell, and assistant coach Steve Szymanski.

Cardston gives Mavs the blues

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Fort Macleod U9 Mavericks came up a few goals short in a weekend playoff hockey series with Cardston Blue.

Cardston beat Fort Macleod 10-6 on Saturday and 4-3 on Sunday to win the two-game, total-goal series by an aggregate score of 14-9.

Cardston 10 Mavericks 6

Cardston scored four third-period goals Saturday while holding visiting Fort Macleod to just one in a 10-6 victory.

Cardston took a 3-2 lead in the first period and were in front

6-4 after 40 minutes.

Fort Macleod scored just 22 seconds into the third to close the gap to 6-5 but Cardston scored four straight goals to put the game out of reach.

Bennett Dietrich-Gunderson had a hat trick for Fort Macleod and Caleb Bredeweg scored twice. Lukas Brussee had the other Fort Macleod goal.

Cardston 4 Mavericks 3

It was a similar story on Sunday with Cardston scoring two unanswered goals in the third period to steal a 4-3 come-from-behind win.

The teams traded goals in the first period, with Cardston scoring

mid way through and Joel Van Hierden replying for Fort Macleod with 38 seconds remaining. Kade DeKok and Jace Archibald assisted.

Goals by Jack Vanece and Bennett Dietrich-Gunderson put Fort Macleod ahead 3-1 in the second period, with Lukas Brussee and Jace Archibald picking up assists.

Cardston scored with 4:13 left in the second period to narrow Fort Macleod's lead to 3-2.

The score remained that way through 12 1/2 minutes of the third period before Cardston tied the game.

The visitors got the winning goal with 2:32 to play.

U11 Mavericks win exhibition game

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Fort Macleod U11 Mavericks exploded for five third-period goals Sunday in a 6-4 win over the visiting Lethbridge Ninjas.

Lethbridge jumped out to a 2-0 lead on first-period goals by Weston Eng and Felix Sawatzky and held it until mid way through the second frame.

Cohen Vanece got Fort Macleod on the scoreboard with nine minutes left in the second period, assisted

by Hudson Brauer.

Vanece scored goals just over two minutes apart early in the third period to complete a natural hat trick and put Fort Macleod in front 3-2.

Nate Wooldrik and Adrian Semyrozum picked up assists on one goal, and the other was unassisted.

Adrian Semyrozum increased Fort Macleod's lead to 4-2 with 11:24 left in the third period, assisted by Hudson Brauer and Cohen Vanece.

Lethbridge scored a minute later to cut Fort Macleod's lead to 4-3.

Semyrozum scored his second of the game with five minutes to play, Nate Wooldrik picking up the lone assist.

Lethbridge came right back 31 seconds later with its fourth goal to make the score 5-4.

Cohen Vanece got his fourth of the game with 12 seconds to play as the Mavericks secured a 6-4 victory.

Greyson Vandervalk was in goal for Fort Macleod, making 22 saves.

The Mavericks fired 39 shots on the Lethbridge goal.

Flyers grounded in junior A boys zone tourney

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

The F.P. Walshe Flyers had a short stay at the junior high A boys basketball zone tournament in Taber.

Matthew Halton Hawks beat the Flyers 58-42 Friday in the opening game of the tournament at W.R. Myers school.

Due to the tournament's

unforgiving format, the Flyers were eliminated by that single loss, ending their season.

The Hawks didn't waste any time on Friday, opening an 18-9 lead in the first quarter.

The Flyers fought in the second quarter but were outscored 12-10 as Matthew Halton took a

30-19 lead into the halftime break.

Each team scored 12 points in the third quarter as Matthew Halton held its 11-point lead, staying in front 42-31 at the break.

The Hawks scored another 16 points in the fourth quarter while limiting the Flyers to just 11 to

wrap up the 58-42 win.

Gabe Traspe was top scorer for the Flyers with 21 points.

Zannah Cristophe chipped in with eight points for the Flyers, Nathan Gurney had five and Ryder Peterson, Brayden Blackforehead, Kayson Creighton and Rope McDougall each had two points.



Photo by Frank McTighe

Ammi Saunders of the F.P. Walshe Flyers shoots in Thursday's game with Ashlyn Yellow Wings of St. Mike's Dragons defending



Photo by Frank McTighe

Ashlyn Yellow Wings of St. Mike's Dragons defends against Raegen Gurney of the F.P. Walshe Flyers in Thursday's game.

Dragons scorch the Flyers

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

The F.P. Walshe Flyers could not slay the dragon on Thursday night.

St. Mike's Dragons scorched the Flyers 53-19 in their Chinook Basketball League game.

The Dragons got off to a quick start in the high school girls' game, opening a 13-3 lead in the first quarter.

St. Mike's continued its strong play in the second quarter, increasing their lead to 23-7 by halftime.

F.P. Walshe fared a little better in the third quarter, but were still outscored 9-6 and trailed 32-13 going into the final 10 minutes.

The Dragons scored another 21 points in the fourth quarter to wrap up the 53-19 win.

Zoe Nelson led the Flyers with eight points and Ammi Saunders had six.

Bethany Loyst and Raegen Gurney had two points apiece and Kaylin Delaney had one.

Bella Moller of the Dragons led all scorers with 12 points and teammates Ashlyn Yellow Wings and Chloe Penaverde each had 10.

Amelia Van Bussel had eight points for the Dragons, Kyla Misa had six, Mackenzie Potts had four and Celine Zepeda had three.

The Flyers are at home on Wednesday, March 5 to take on Matthew Halton Hawks at 6 p.m.



Photo by Frank McTighe

Natalie Donahue of the F.P. Walshe Flyers battles Amelia Van Bussel of St. Mike's Dragons for possession of the ball.

Certain messages need to be repeated several times



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5. Advertising frequently helps put your name out in front of the competition's.
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PURE POWER WRESTLING



Photos by Frank McTigue

The stars of Pure Power Wrestling were in Fort Macleod on Friday for a card full of matches at the Fort Macleod and District Community Hall. In starring roles were referee Curtis Jestin (above) and Travis (The Heat) Copeland (right), both with Fort Macleod roots.





Ilia Korkunov of the F.P. Walshe Flyers tries a lay-up with Mason Chase of the County Central Hawks defending.



Jack Hewlett of the F.P. Walshe Flyers drives to the basket against Mathew Clarke of the County Central Hawks.

Flyers ground the Hawks

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Ashten Khela's basket late in the fourth quarter stood up as the winner as the F.P. Walshe Flyers edged County Central Hawks 60-59 in a Chinook Basketball League nail-biter.

The Flyers led most of the way in the high school boys' game but had to fend off a determined Hawks rally to record the win.

F.P. Walshe jumped out to a 16-3 lead in the first quarter and were ahead by 10 points at the break.

The Hawks continued to chip away and pulled to within seven points at halftime.

Ashten Khela led the Flyers attack with 14 points and Hudson Bare Shin Bone had 13.

Payton Provost scored 12 points for the Flyers, Jack Hewlett had 11 and Ilia Korkunov had 10.

Vance Jackson of the Hawks led all scorers with 25 points.

Mason Chase had 14 points for County Central, Mathew Clarke had 13, Cameron Akitt had five and Josh Davidson had two.

The Flyers will travel to Vulcan on the weekend for the Chinook Basketball League postseason tournament.



Ashten Khela of the F.P. Walshe Flyers battles for position under the basket with Gage McKay of the County Central Hawks.

April 30th
1:00-8:00pm

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Gazette Classifieds

OBITUARIES

Mabel Loyst February 10, 2025

Mabel Loyst passed away at the age of 97 peacefully at Extendercare in Fort Macleod on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025.
In respect for Mabel's wishes, no funeral service is to be held.

AUCTIONS

MEIER GUN AUCTION — Saturday, March 15 - 10 a.m.; Wetaskiwin. Selling over 200 rifles, shotguns, antique firearms, ammunition, scopes. Consign now. Free pick-up. Call 780-440-1860 www.meierauction.com.

BUILDINGS FOR SALE

INTEGRITY POST FRAME buildings since 2008 built with concrete posts. Barns, shops, riding arenas, machine sheds and more, sales@integritybuilt.com 1-866-974-7678 www.integritybuilt.com.

COMING EVENTS

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Fort Macleod Healthcare Auxiliary Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, Mar. 12
10 a.m.**

Fort Macleod Health Centre meeting room
Everyone welcome

SENIOR'S CENTRE WELCOME MAT

REGULAR MEETING

**Monday, March 10
2 p.m. - at the Mat**

All seniors 55+ welcome

Enjoy the following activities

- EXERCISES
- CRIBBAGE
- FLOOR CURLING
- SHUFFLE BOARD
- POOL TABLES

Every day

World Day of Prayer 2025

Friday, March 7 — 7 p.m.

"I Made You Wonderful"

Psalm 139: 1-18

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Please enter at the West parking lot, wheelchair access available

Light refreshments to follow

Service written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Cook Islands

OBITUARIES

FEED & SEED

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AGM

**Tuesday, March 11
6:30 p.m.**

Fort Museum

EMPRESS

235 Main Street
Fort Macleod, AB

NO MOVIE: Sat., Mar. 8
BTU Concert

Friday, Mar. 7 and
Sunday, Mar. 9 thru
Thursday, Mar. 13 @ 7 p.m.

MATINEE
Sunday, Mar. 9 @ 2 p.m.

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STARRING:
Zachary Levi, Meghann Fahy,
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- Replacement and maintenance of signs in assigned area
- Maintain Municipal equipment to ensure reliability and safety
- Other duties that provide challenge and variety

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This is a **permanent full-time position**, salary commensurate with experience. There will be a probationary period for this position.

We Offer:

- Competitive compensation.
- A positive working environment.
- A personally fulfilling and professionally challenging position.
- Ongoing opportunities for personal and professional development.
- Exciting Opportunity to work in a team-based, supportive environment.
- A Community without equal — something for every member of your family.

Only e-mail resumes will be accepted. Please indicate your location preference and include three professional references.

Forward your resume and cover letter in care of:
Eric Blanchard — Manager of Public Works • Email: eric@mdwillowcreek.com

This competition will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

www.mdwillowcreek.com

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



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NohKohWaa Family and Youth Centre

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REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS:

- Degree, diploma or certificate in Social Work and/or Human Services
- Minimum one year experience working in a child and youth care setting
- In depth understanding of the Ministry of Children Services/ Residential Facilities/Indigenous Culture
- Child Welfare Intervention check/Criminal Record check or proof of submission
- Driver's abstract and a valid Class 5 driver's license, own vehicle for transports
- Knowledge of Blackfoot and/or Indigenous language an asset
- Experience working in Indigenous communities a must

PLEASE SUBMIT COVER LITTER, RESUME, THREE REFERENCE LETTERS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THE ATTENTION OF
Amanda Scout, Nohkohwaa Manager

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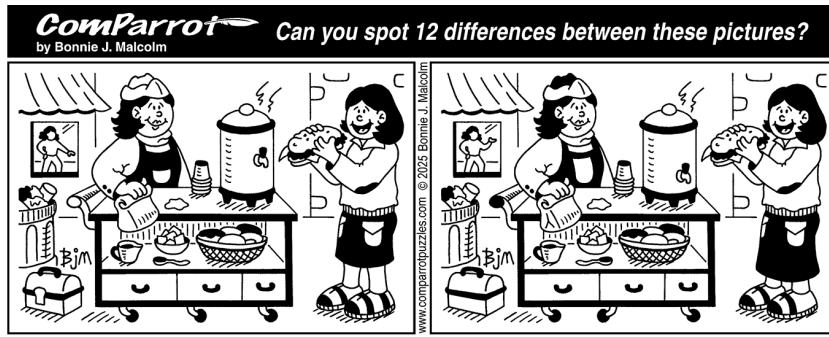
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Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?
Solution: 1. Stripe on girl's shoe is missing. 2. Extra fold in bag. 3. Latch on lunchbox is missing. 4. Top of baker's hat is colored moved. 5. Handle on cart is colored in. 6. Spoon on coffee pot has moved. 7. Wheel on cart has moved. 8. Brick in wall behind girl has moved. 9. Girl's skirt is longer. 10. Pocket on apron is larger. 11. Spoon on cart is reversed. 12. Mannequin's arm is different.

PET SITTER WORD SEARCH

C C L S E R D E Y O S L Y Y H L U V S P
P L P S S E Y S L M H S U N A V L S W Y A I
M P O A L N R O F R C Y L U T S V I T O R O
L E A S H U E T F E Y E H E K L L F A I U
V M N F T G U G L E R B D H P I R A C F P Y
D T T R P C Y G I L W O F E N F H N L G
B S D M Y M O A E N E N Y G R H M B U
N P T V U R D G I O P C U H N U E H F C E
K U H U I D G V E I T U E E T S I I M V S E
S I B A D D H E T S U H L B C V O W
N S N R D D E L N G C U K L E L O D O G
C H B L L D G C R C U K L V V M N Y C
H P K P S N I V O E A R R A A E P K C T
T M E C C K N L M U G T R T E N R W A H F K
H O F C O N M T S U R T E S T I N P F W
D D M E D I C I N E R S I G N B I O D D
H Y V S E C N R E M O H V S K I O C I T
S H R L C K R O K R L M B N T A C

WORDS

BOWL
CARE
CAT
COMPANION
DOG
FAMILY
FEEDING
HELP
HOME
INSTRUCT
LEASH
MEDICINE
OVERNIGHT
PETS
REFERENCES
SITTER
SNUGGLE
TRAVELING
TRUST
VETERINARIAN
WALKS
WELFARE

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

ANSWERS
A. BOWL
B. CARE
C. CAT
D. COMPANION
E. DOG
F. FAMILY
G. FEEDING
H. HELP
I. HOME
J. INSTRUCT
K. LEASH
L. MEDICINE
M. OVERNIGHT
N. PETS
O. REFERENCES
P. SITTER
Q. SNUGGLE
R. TRAVELING
S. TRUST
T. VETERINARIAN
U. WALKS
V. WELFARE

SUDOKU

2			9			1	7
6						9	
	7			4			3
		8					
	5			3		4	
			6			2	
						3	
7		2		9	8		
3					7		1

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	9	4	9	8	7	2	6	8
4	9	8	6	8	2	9	1	7
2	6	6	7	1	9	4	9	8
6	2	9	8	7	9	2	8	1
8	7	1	6	2	7	9	9	6
9	7	3	1	5	6	8	2	4
6	8	2	4	9	1	6	2	5
9	6	4	2	2	8	1	8	9
7	1	1	9	5	6	8	6	2

ANSWER:

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to pet sitting. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 10 = R)

- A. 26 22 10 4 12 2 9 4 10
Clue: Babysitter
- B. 6 21 6 6 8
Clue: Young dog
- C. 16 14 22 10 13 2 7 12
Clue: Overnight animal care
- D. 1 10 22 9 4 24
Clue: Vacationing

Answers: A. caregiver B. puppy C. boarding D. travel

WORD SCRAMBLE

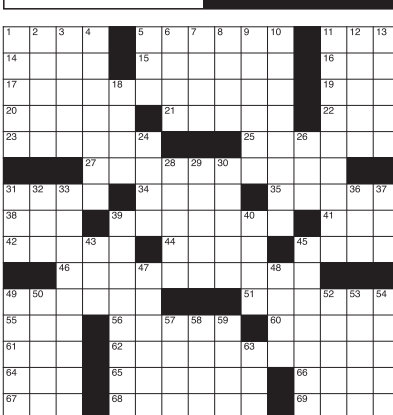
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to pet sitting.

WLKAS

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Walks

Crossword PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut a little bit off
5. State with confidence
11. River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

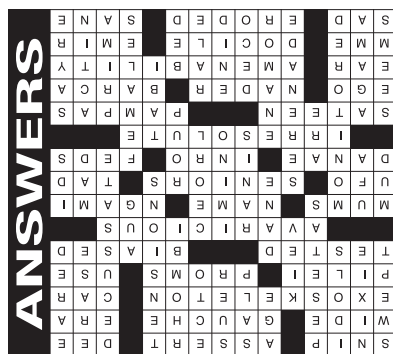
14. Not narrow
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame

19. Automobile
20. Toadstools
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Challenged
25. One-sided
27. Showing extreme greed
31. Potted plants
34. Everyone has one
35. Lake in Botswana
38. E.T. rode in one
39. Juniors' parents
41. Small amount
42. Mother of Perseus
44. Ornamental box
45. Gov't investigators
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. The vast grassy plains in S. America
55. Your consciousness of your own identity
56. Noted consumer advocate
60. Spanish sports club
61. Body part
62. Tractability

64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught
CLUES DOWN
1. Brushed aside
2. Water sprite
3. Ones to look up to
4. Monetary units
5. A number everyone has
6. Marine invertebrate
7. One who takes you to court
8. Indicates outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Strains
11. Cross
12. A way to remove
13. Some pages are dog-
18. Ukraine city
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Summer month (abbr.)
28. Hindu queens
29. Jewelry brand
30. Fictional rider of Rohan
31. Wet dirt
32. Russian city
33. Observed
36. Furious
37. Drivers' licenses

39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. They ____
45. Women
47. Inspire with love
48. Japanese ankle sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The leading performer
53. Type of protein

54. Pennsylvania town
57. Art ____ around 1920
58. ____ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to sleep
66. Muslim ruler title
67. Depressed
68. Gradually gave way
69. Clear-thinking





FORT MACLEOD AUCTION

PO Box 1330 • Fort Macleod, AB T0L 0Z0
Phone 403-553-3315 • www.livestock.ab.ca

REGULAR CATTLE SALES - TUESDAYS @ 9AM

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
9 <i>March</i>	10	11 9am Regular Sale Featuring Grassers & Feeders	12	13	14 11am Annual Texas Longhorn Sale	15 1pm V8U Ranch Bull Sale
16	17	18 9am Regular Sale 11am Monthly Video Sale	19	20	21 Little Royal All-Breed Heifer Show & Sale Show: 11am Sale: 1pm	22
23	24	25 9am Regular Sale	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 9am Regular Sale	2	3	4	5 <i>April</i>
6	7	8 9am Regular Sale	9 1pm W Sunrise Angus Bull Sale	10	11	12
13	14	15 9am Regular Sale 11am Monthly Video Sale	16	17	Go to www.livestock.ab.ca for more info and updated listings!	
20	21	22 9am Regular Sale	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 9am Regular Sale	30 1pm Spring Cow-Calf Pair Sale	1	2	3 <i>May</i>
4	5	6 9am Regular Sale	7	8	9	10

FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

Allan Lively 403.627.7776	Steve Quinton 403.653.7228	Colin McNiven 403.793.1699	SK: William Beierbach 306.299.2073
Justin Keeley 403.627.6534	Frank Jenkins 403.627.6700	Matt Lait 403.581.7592	SK: Dan Sawley 306.607.9043
Ryan Konyonenbelt 403.892.6534	Jay Nelson 403.652.0402	Jason Slomp 403.635.1473	SK: Jared Parsonage 306.661.7781
Cody Sawley 403.652.0684	Skyler McBride 403.815.5867	Matt Nelson 403.332.1003	Eastern SK: Ryan Beierbach 306.735.1341
Darren Shaw 403.892.4493	Dylan Bates 403.627.6546	Ty Streeter 403.601.0145	

Livingstone Range must replace superintendent

Livingstone Range School Division is looking for a new superintendent of schools.

Darryl Seguin will step down at the end of the present school term to take a new position in Saskatchewan.

"Darryl's contributions to Livingstone Range School Division are significant and lasting," school board chair Lori Hodges said in a news release.

Seguin began his 20-year tenure with Livingstone Range in 2005 as principal of G.R. Davis school in Fort Macleod.

In 2010, Seguin became principal of Willow Creek Composite high school in Claresholm.

Two years later Seguin moved into central office as an associate superintendent, being promoted to the top job in 2017.

Hodges, said Seguin was instrumental in championing innovative programs such as Leader in Me, FACES, Livingstone Ski Academy, Indigenous land-based camps, PEAKS Campus, and alternative education programming.

"These programs, along with meaningful relationships and his caring leadership will be an enduring legacy," Hodges said.

Seguin accepted a position as director and chief executive officer with Sun West School Division in Saskatchewan.

"This decision, though bittersweet, comes with a sense of fulfillment as I look back on my career and the privilege I've had to serve in this role," Seguin said. "I look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of



Photo by Frank McTighe

Darryl Seguin will step down as superintendent of Livingstone Range School Division at the end of the present school term.

Livingstone Range in the years ahead."

Seguin expressed gratitude for the opportunity to spend two decades working in Livingstone Range.

"It has been an honour to work alongside such dedicated colleagues, staff, and community members, all of whom share a common goal of providing the highest quality education for our students," Seguin said. "Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated achievements, and continu-

ously strived to create a supportive, enriching environment where both students and educators can thrive."

Hodges said Livingstone Range, including trustees, have been positively impacted by Seguin's leadership, integrity, and genuineness as a person.

"Although we are sad to see him leave, he will undoubtedly be an incredible asset in Sun West School Division," Hodges said. "We wish him all the best in his new role."

Fort Macleod RCMP respond to 42 calls

SGT. CHRISTIAN LAFLEUR
GAZETTE CONTRIBUTOR

CRIME BEAT

During the period of Feb. 24-March 3, Fort Macleod RCMP responded to 42 various calls of service throughout Fort Macleod, Granum and the MD of Willow Creek which included:

- One 911 call.
- One assault with a weapon.
- One report of someone administering noxious substances.
- One case of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.
- Three requests to assist other police agencies.

- One break-and-enter.
- One case of sexual interference with a minor.

- One report of a suspicious person.
- One theft of a vehicle.
- One report of fraud.
- One case of possession of property obtained by crime.

- Four reports of mischief damage or obstruction of enjoyment of property.
- Fifteen traffic operations or checkpoints.
- One well-being check.

Community awareness

Fort Macleod RCMP will hold a town hall meeting on Monday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the G.R. Davis Administration Building (town office) to gather feedback on policing priorities for the next year,

April 2025 to March 31, 2026.

Assault investigation

In the early morning hours of Feb. 25 following an argument in the drive-through of the Fort Macleod McDonald's restaurant, a man entered the restaurant twice, the first instance, trying to assault one of the employees, the second time holding a firearm.

The man, a resident of Standoff, was arrested and charged with nine counts of assault, assault with a weapon and uttering threats.

Following a judicial hearing, he was remanded into custody.

Report crimes

The RCMP encourages the public to report any criminal or suspicious activity to police.

Reports tell police where to look, who to look for, and where to conduct future patrols.

If you see a crime in progress, dial 911.

If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.