

# BROOKS BULLETIN

*Serving Brooks & County of Newell since 1910!*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021



## WELCOME 2021!

Best wishes to students, parents and all staff as the school year begins again. Your ability to adapt along with your patience in these extraordinary times is appreciated.

*Thank you!*



# County writes off close to \$1 million in unpaid taxes

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The county will write off \$911,391 in unpaid oil and gas taxes, the majority of which is from one company.

The total write off will be applied against \$659,500 for uncollectible taxes from previous years and \$280,000 for uncollectible taxes that were part of the 2020 budget.

"We built this into our financial plan," Matt Fenske, the county's finance manager told council on Thursday.

He said the majority of the uncollected taxes are from Houston Gas and Oil which went into receivership.

"The assets have since sold," he said.

The taxes have been written off and Fenske has submitted an application to the province for credits through the education and designated industrial

requisitions.

He said the company's receiver would take possession of the company's assets and go through a ranked list of creditors.

The county is near or at the bottom of the list.

"The court does not consider linear property taxes to be a secured interest which is truly unfortunate for us," he explained.

He said there is a straight forward procedure to collect unpaid residential or commercial property taxes but there are no provisions in place for linear properties.

Legal services have been hired to chase linear dollars but it hasn't gotten anywhere because there are no teeth to recover those dollars, he said.

"We've stopped short of suing individual companies directly prior to receivership and I think that's maybe the last recourse that we would have."

Fenske suggested that

the county write a policy where they would not let arrears accumulate to such an extent before court action is forced, however, having a policy is also a concern.

If the county is the one that puts in a claim it could potentially bankrupt a company, many of which are small businesses.

"I don't have a real good solution for council on how you go about recovering these but I think something needs to happen in terms of our process and procedures where we pull the plug on these types of things earlier."

Reeve Molly Douglass said she hopes the province understands the effect on municipalities.

"I just hope that the province realizes what they're setting a lot of rural municipalities up for with the lack of interest in trying to do something different with these companies so that they can't just walk away from their tax bills. Crazy," she said.



Mike Stewart, (left) the city's parks services foreman, discusses repainting a portion of the boards at the Griffin Park outdoor rink with Mike Ryckman who will repaint the boards, following the removal of graffiti. Spray painted graffiti has shown up in numerous locations around the city, Stewart said, including on a private home. Brooks RCMP members are investigating the occurrences where graffiti was found on the wall of a dance studio on 1st Street West, a downtown convenience store and several businesses. If anyone has information call RCMP at 403-794-4400 or CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-8477. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

## Alberta expands vaccine program but expects shortfall

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The province's vaccine program is expanding to include paramedics and emergency medical technicians but a shortfall by about 20,000 doses are expected by next week.

On Monday Premier Jason Kenney told media by the end of the day he expected that just over 50,000 doses would be given which is about 80 per cent of all of the province's doses.

He said with the ramping up of the program more doses are required from the federal government and provinces have started to look into whether or not they can purchase vaccine on their own.

"Very shortly our capacity to administer these vaccines will outstrip the expected supply," he said.

In Brooks the vaccination program has started with long term care centres and medical staff.

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, the chief medical health officer, noted there have been seven adverse reactions reported

to Alberta Health following a vaccination but were not necessarily caused by the vaccine including swollen lymph nodes, diarrhea and a rash and three allergic reactions.

"If a health problem happens after an immunization we want to know so we can evaluate it," said Hinshaw.

She said the number of adverse reactions is on par with other vaccinations.

As of Sunday there were no outbreaks declared in the city or the county with seven active cases in the county and 16 in the city. There have been no additional deaths reported by the province in the area.

Schools across the province opened on Monday and will be carefully monitored by Alberta Health Services. Currently, there are no outbreaks at any city or county schools.

## City council approves ICF with county

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

City council on Monday approved the Intermunicipal Development Framework, (ICF) recreation and fire agreements with the County of Newell with minor amendments.

The ICF, which was approved by the county in November, is a provincially mandated document to ensure that neighbouring municipalities share the cost of services such as water, wastewater, recreation and fire services.

The ICF includes most of the services, while recreation and fire agreements are separate.

County finance manager Matt Fenske told council it is normal to make minor changes.

He said the city was concerned that their updated 10-year capital plan would be subject to the county's approval because

they are providing funding but this is not the intent.

Fenske said the intent is that both municipalities approve an updated portion of the agreement from the city's capital plan.

The city also amended the 365-day termination agreement to include "when mutually agreed amendments cannot be secured."

The city presented how the funds will be spent until 2023.

The recreation funds of \$71,600 in 2021 will see \$4,000 go to capital improvement/replacement program, \$60,000 will go into new or non-recurring projects and \$7,600 will be directed to vehicles, machinery and equipment replacement.

In parks, the \$51,330 will see \$46,416 to capital improvement/ replacement and \$4,914 will be directed to vehicles, machinery and equipment replacement.

The entire facilities funding of \$31,000 will be directed into new or non-recurring capital projects.

Although the agreement was signed in late 2020 and early 2021, it went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

The agreement will see the city receive \$136,112 for capital funding for 2020 and \$153,930 in 2021.

For the recreation, parks and culture operations budget, the city will see \$638,425 for 2020 and \$648,640 in 2021.

City of Brooks mayor Barry Morishita thanked the county for working in good faith with the city and he looks forward to working with them in the future.

## County and Rosemary to begin service sharing discussions

ICF and recreation discussions to begin...

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

County council and the Village of Rosemary will begin discussions to establish an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) agreement for the cost sharing of services which will include a recreation agreement. The municipalities have a fire agreement in place.

On Thursday Matt Fenske, the county's finance manager, told council the village wants to begin discussions which are expected to be completed by

the end of March.

"An initial proposal has been received from the village which was reviewed mid-December by an informal committee," Fenske said.

That committee included Fenske, reeve Molly Douglass, deputy reeve Kelly Christman, Division 7 councillor Ellen Unruh and the county's CAO.

The formal committee will include Christman, Douglass and Division 4 councillor Wayne Hammergren.

"Judging by the information we got from Rosemary, I think we should be able to hammer through it relatively simply," said Fenske.



COUNTY OF  
NEWELL

### NOTICE OF NOMINATION PERIOD - 2021 LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTION

Residents of the County of Newell are hereby notified that the Nomination Period for the 2021 Local Authorities Election opened Jan. 1, 2021 and remains open until 12:00 PM (noon) local time on Nomination Day which is September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The positions open for election during the October 18, 2021 Local Authorities Election are 7 Councillors for Electoral Divisions 1 through 7 as established through Bylaw 1998-20.

A detailed Candidate Information Package which includes the prescribed nomination form, is available on the County of Newell Web Site: [www.countyofnewell.ab.ca/p/2021-municipal-election](http://www.countyofnewell.ab.ca/p/2021-municipal-election)

Completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Returning Officer between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM local time at the County of Newell Office located at 183037 RR 145.



MUNICIPAL 2021  
ELECTION

# BROOKS TO MEDICINE HAT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

## SAVE THE SHUTTLE

Who can help: Individuals, Service Clubs and Businesses

Shuttle provides transportation for those who need a ride to access vital service such as:

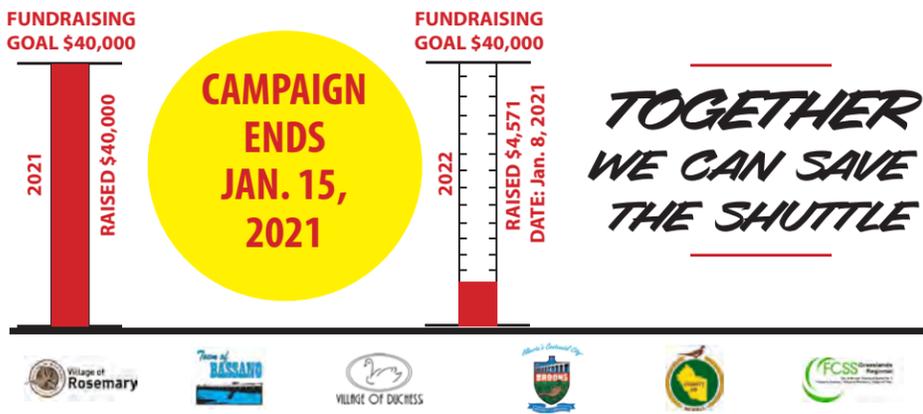
- Life saving treatment such as dialysis and cancer treatments
- Specialist appointments
- Maternity Clinics
- Day Surgeries

### How to Donate:

1. In-person at the City of Brooks Municipal Office (201—1st Avenue West, Brooks, Alberta).
2. By cheque: City of Brooks (The word "Shuttle" in description. Mail to City of Brooks, Box 879, Brooks AB. T1R 1B7).
3. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Call City of Brooks Municipal Office 403 362 3333 get transfer information.

### Tax Receipts can be issued!

If donating by cheque (or E-transfer), please include request for tax receipt.  
In-person donations will be issued a receipt at the time of donation.



# Brooks to Medicine Hat

Monday, Wednesday & Friday



**\$20** ONE-WAY **\$40** ROUND-TRIP

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RIDERSHIP IS NOT RESTRICTIVE, HOWEVER PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE IN NEED OF MEDICAL SERVICES



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE PLEASE CALL 403-362-6190 OR VISIT

[WWW.BROOKS.CA/SERVICE](http://WWW.BROOKS.CA/SERVICE)





# City of Brooks

**CONTACT US**  
201-1st Ave. W.  
Brooks, AB, T1R 1B7  
403-362-3333  
[www.Brooks.ca](http://www.Brooks.ca)

**ELECTION 2021**  
CITY OF BROOKS

Find 2021 City of Brooks Election Information at **Brooks.ca**

**HELP MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY A SAFER PLACE**

Please dispose of your masks safely in the trash



City of Brooks

**COVID-19 INFORMATION**

**PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL AT LEAST JANUARY 21**

- All social gatherings | public and private – are prohibited
- Mandatory work from home measures
- Province-wide mandatory indoor public masking requirement
- Business closures and retail restrictions

Health officials actively continue to evaluate the situation and will adjust measures if required. Businesses, organizations and service providers will be given at least one week's notice prior to changes to the current health measures that may affect them.

**FOR FULL DETAILS ABOUT THE PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES, PLEASE VISIT [BROOKS.CA](http://BROOKS.CA)**



Brooks.ca

# EDITORIAL

## Alberta's spangled heavens

Alberta is the loftiest province in Canada. Its average height is half a mile above sea level so we live closer to the heavens than Canadians in other provinces—"a nearer vault and of a tenderer blue than that which ends above the eastern hills."

And it is the Alberta night skies in late autumn and early winter that provide the grandest sight. At this time the star spangled heavens seem less remote as the great constellations swing into their winter positions, as the planets loom large and neighborly and the faraway stars shine with unusual brightness. Ursus Major, variously known as the Great Bear or the Big Dipper, rises higher on the horizon in the northern sky of late evenings. Above, Cassiopeia, the Queen, reclines in her chair. Higher up is Polaris, the North Star. Orion, the Hunter, is in the

eastern sky.

In the upper east corner is the great red star Betelgeuse while in the lower west corner is the blue star Rigel. Hanging above Orion is the galaxy known as the Pleiades or the Seven Sisters.

In the west Aquila, the Eagle, is low on the horizon while Pegasus, the Winged Horse, is visible in the southern skies. All across the vast scope of sky The Milky Way spreads a mysterious and beautiful pattern.

Ancient people were familiar with the heavenly bodies and named them after their gods, heroes and animals. A record of the constellations made for the king of Macedonia 2,130 years ago was discovered some time ago.

And the people of Alberta still to this day and ever forward are provided with a panorama of unearthly beauty that a bounteous nature so cheerfully provides.

## Loyalty

(Selected)

You can't buy loyalty, they say;  
I bought it, though, the other day.  
You can't buy friendship, tried and true,  
Yet, just the same, I bought it too.

I made my bid and on the spot  
Bought love and faith and whole lot  
Of happiness; so, All in all,  
The purchase price was very small.

I bought a simple trusting heart  
That gave devotion from the start.  
If you think such things are not for sale  
Buy a brown-eyed pup with a wagging tail.



# Time Capsule



**1964 P-NUT CROWN GOES TO CARDINALS:** The playoffs in the P-Nut League baseball which took place recently resulted in the Cardinals, coached by Arta Jacobsen and Altha Neilson, winning the championship for 1964. FRONT ROW: Ricky Koch, Edward McCune, Donnie Renner, Gerald Oliver, Russell Thomas. BACK ROW: Mrs. Neilson, Bruce Loewen, Michael Pelchat, Rob White, David Dunne and Mrs. Jacobsen.

## 'American' Democracy

COLUMNIST

GWYNNE DYER



If I have to read one more hand-wringing article about the 'crisis of American democracy' and what it means for the world, I'm going to retch.

The last straw was an article in the 'New Yorker' this week by Adam Gopnik, an accomplished journalist whom I usually admire. It was called 'What We Get Wrong About America's Crisis of Democracy', and the strapline read: 'The interesting question is not what causes authoritarianism but what has ever suspended it.'

No, that's the wrong question. It assumes, as Gopnik says, that "The default condition of humankind is not to thrive in broadly egalitarian and stable democratic arrangements that get unsettled only when something happens to unsettle them. The default condition of humankind, traced across thousands of years of history, is some sort of autocracy."

The obvious way to continue this article would be to point out that Joe Biden won the election, that thanks to the run-off elections in Georgia the Democrats will control both houses of Congress, and that the joint session of Congress withstood the assault of Trump's storm-troopers on Wednesday.

All that is true, but Gopnik is correct in saying that American democracy is still in serious trouble and that the populist tide is running strongly in the world. The problem is with his view of the rest of the world and

America's place in it.

Gopnik grew up in Canada, but he seems to have drunk the American Kool-Aid. That is the familiar mythology in which the United States is not only the first mass democracy but the indispensable one, the shining example without which the others would wander hopelessly in the darkness.

That's not true. Democracy, not autocracy, is the default mode political system, even though it is "the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time," as Winston Churchill said in the House of Commons in 1947 (quoting an unknown predecessor).

Almost every dictator in the world holds fake elections so he can claim legitimacy, however fraudulently. No democratic leaders falsely claim to be dictators or tyrants (although some, like Trump, Bolsonaro in Brazil, Orbán in Hungary and Duterte in the Philippines, secretly aspire to it). So default mode democracy wins in a walk.

This was not true before the 18th century. There are indeed "all those thousands of years of history" when the norm was "some form of autocracy". But before that there are all those hundreds of thousands of years of pre-history when all humans lived as equals, reaching their decisions by discussion and consensus, in little hunter-gatherer bands.

We know this because some of those bands, living in out-of-the-way places, survived long enough for anthropologists to study them - and they were all egalitarian. In fact, they had no formal leaders, and the worst social crime was for one adult man to give an order to another.

They didn't hold elections, because the bands were hardly ever more than a hundred

strong and they could just talk things over. But the core belief of democracy is that everybody has equal rights including a share in the decision-making process, and our distant ancestors all believed that. They believed it for so long that it became a basic human value.

That basic human belief went underground when the first mass societies appeared around 6,000 years ago. The only way to run them was from the top down, by force, because without mass communications (and they hadn't even invented writing yet) there was no way for tens or hundreds of thousands of people to make decisions together as equals.

So the tyrants took over and had a very long run, but the belief in equality never died, as all the slave and peasant revolts attest. And by the 18th century a kind of mass communications had finally emerged. Just the printing press plus mass literacy, but that meant everybody could get back to making decisions together as equals, and so the democratic revolutions began.

The United States was the first, perhaps because it then had the highest rate of literacy in the world. The far more radical French Revolution came only thirteen years later (it even abolished slavery), and democracy just kept spreading. By now half the governments on the planet are genuinely elected, and the other half pretend to be.

Democracy has nothing to do with being American or 'Western'. China was the first country with printing, and if it had also had mass literacy it could well have been the first country to have a democratic revolution. American democracy will probably survive its current difficulties. Democracy as the default mode in the world certainly will.

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Jamie Nesbitt  
Sandra Stanway  
Michelle Gietz  
Diane Reiss

Tracy Fyfe  
Kari Beblow  
Kevin Fowell  
Carol Robinson

Anne Beblow  
Chris Dingwall  
Christine Dingwall  
Val Hok

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Canada

# Brooks Food Bank manager grateful for record donations in December

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN  
In December close to \$70,000 was donated to the

Brooks and District Food Bank including \$18,505 from Brooks Canadian Tire. "That's just awesome,"

said Gwen Cameron, manager of the food bank. Lindsay Ullathorne, Canadian Tire's new owner,

said customers were asked to donate \$1 at the till. She matched the funds which were then donated through ATB Cares for an additional 15 per cent.

She said the decision to do the program was made because of the difficulties some people are facing. "This year has been really hard for families," said Ullathorne.

"Thanks doesn't seem to be enough," said Cameron. She said in December 2020 \$68,969 was donated and there is other money to be banked. In December 2019 there was \$50,148 donated.

"The community has heart. I have never come across a community that does something like this. Not only are they helping us, they are helping other non-profits," she said.

The food bank also handed out 78 food hampers which is a low number, but other organizations are also providing hampers.

"I think that everybody who needed them got them," she said.



Brooks Canadian Tire's new owner Lindsay Ullathorne, and employees Diana Dalpe and Lynn Vinton donate \$18,504 to Gwen Cameron, right, manager of the Brooks Food Bank. Customers donated \$1 at the till during December which was matched by Ullathorne. The collection was donated to ATB Cares which to add another 15 per cent. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

**DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**

EID MINISTERIAL ASSOC.

**Pastor Terry Jackson  
Duchess Mennonite Church**

There are few more enjoyable ways to spend a free evening than playing board games. The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat, what a rush! Playing games has been a passion of mine for nearly my whole life. My competitive spirit is directly tied to my love of games, however there is more to it than that. One aspect of playing games that is inviting, is the fact that with every new game comes a new opportunity to win. I may have lost the first six times I have played but now the game starts over and maybe this time I will be declared victorious. With every new game comes a new opportunity to start over, to start fresh and try again.

We have begun a new year, with new resolutions of hope for what this year may hold. Sadly, many of us have already failed at accomplishing our new year's resolutions. Experts tell us that if we are to succeed in making changes

we need to keep trying even when we have failed. With every new day comes a new opportunity to try again.

The good news of the gospel message offers hope to one and all. Even better than a new year or a fresh start. The gospel tells us that through Jesus Christ we can be given a new life. That everything we have done in the past can be forgiven and that we can start over. Moreover, we can start over with an advantage, God's presence with us and in us guiding us. "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you." John 14:16-17.

The good news of gospel is that if you are reading these words there is still an opportunity for a fresh start. As we align ourselves with Christ, we will ultimately be victorious.

see us online at  
www.brooksbulletin.com

# Church *Come worship with us...*



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Brooks, AB.  
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Fax: 403-793-2571

**Parish Priest  
Father Marino Infante**

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Saturday at 5:00 pm  
Sunday at 9:00 am,  
11:00 am,  
and 6:00 pm  
**WEEKDAY MASS**  
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Church: 403-362-5060  
Cell 403-793-7203

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - 11 am**

Affiliated North American Baptist Conference  
Connecting People to Christ and His Caring Community!  
EVERYONE WELCOME!



**Pastor Ryan Reeves**  
780-232-2926

430 - 2nd St. W.

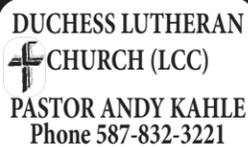
**SATURDAY SERVICE**  
**Sabbath School: 10:00 am**  
**Worship 11 am**



**Brooks Alliance Church**  
304 Cassils Road East  
Phone 403-362-8908  
Website:  
www.brooksalliancechurch.com

**PASTOR DAVID BRADFORD**

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45 am**



**PASTOR ANDY KAHLE**  
Phone 587-832-3221

**Sunday Worship Service 11:30 am**  
Everyone Welcome!

**LUTHERAN HOUR**  
Sundays 7:30 am  
CHAT FM94.5 RADIO  
8:30 A.M.  
CKMX 1060

"Los in Wonder, Love and Praise!" (Mark 3)



Box 298, Duchess, AB. T0J 0Z0  
Phone 403.378.4966  
Email: office@duchessmennonite.ca  
Website: www.duchessmennonite.ca

**Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am**  
Sunday School  
Children, Youth and Adult Sunday School starts at 9:30 am

**Pastor Alvin Penner**  
Associate Pastor Nathan Ramer  
Associate Pastor Terry Jackson  
Office Hours: Tuesdays to Thursdays  
8:30 am to 12 Noon



**Brooks United Church**  
REVEREND ESTHER CREWS  
507 - 3rd Ave. W.  
Brooks, AB.  
Phone/Fax: 403-362-3637  
Email: bksunite@shaw.ca

Office Hours: 9:00 to 12 Noon (Tues. - Fri.)

**SUNDAY SERVICE NURSERY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM**



Pursuing God, Life, Family & Purpose

God is doing a NEW thing!  
Jesus came so we could all have life, and life in abundance.  
Come & encounter your fullest life with us!

Worship Service & Kids SuperChurch (K-Gr.6)  
Sundays | 10:00am

Youth Group (Gr. 7-12)  
Fridays | 7:30pm

Pastor Aaron & Cynthia Barrington

15th Ave & 3 St W  
403.362.7785



403 - 2nd Street West

**PASTOR KOLA AYENI**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 am**

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 5:30 pm**

Everyone Welcome!



**Brooks International Gospel Church**  
120 - 1st Ave. E., Brooks, AB. T1R 0S4  
T: 403-362-2129 CP: 403-363-0848  
Email:  
brooksintl@gospelchurch@gmail.com  
"We believe in the Prophetic"  
**A Year of Success Luke 1:37 2021**

Sunday Adult Bible Study - 10:30 am  
Youth Bible Study - 10:30 am  
Sunday Service - 11:30 am  
Tuesday Bible Study - 7 pm  
Prophetess Maureen Banda



**403-378-4933**  
**Sunday School 10 am**  
**Worship Service 11 am**  
Welcomes Everyone!

**Pastor: Lorne Willms**



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Join us for **Sunday Worship 10:00 am**

**Sunday School for all ages 11:40 am**

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**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
LCMC  
811 Cassils Road West  
Brooks, Alberta  
Pastor: Maggie Theiss  
403-362-4259  
www.brookstrinity.ca

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 am**  
**IN PERSON and ONLINE**



# LETTERS

## Letter to county councillors and CEO

Editor, The Bulletin;  
This is an open letter to county council...

Dear County Councillors and CEO,

I am writing you today in regards to my children's and my ability to continue to farm and ranch in the county of Newell.

There is a serious problem that is not being addressed - spending.

You have been focusing all your efforts at reducing the councillors from 10 to seven and I am told it is to save 500,000 over four years. I disagree that this will make any difference in the big picture. The budget is 120 million over that time frame so that is .4 of a percent in savings. It's a start as virtue signaling that you are cutting costs but not 24 million over 4 years as the province has suggested. Start now to set the corporate culture to that of cost cutting and be a leader for other municipalities. Kenney didn't cancel the cuts, he just delayed them. Everyone can cut 10% if they really have to. I have seen no interim budget of 10% cuts. I am trying to make the point that you are the experienced leadership and need to set the trend in this BUSINESS for the next councillors and CEO to fol-

low.

I believe it is the job of this experienced out-going county council to make the tough decisions and take the lead on cost cutting. If you do this, the next Council will already have leadership to continue cost cutting. Everyone is addicted to oil money and it is time to wean off it. Everyone likes the person handing out money but those times are gone. Now is the time to instruct the staff to implement cuts and present a 10% cost cutting budget to the public. How much are you going to raise taxes on Agriculture (2 times, 4 times, 10 times)? Tell us now. Look at the reduction in councillors issue. Short consultation and then push it through, without allowing time for the 60 day petition period. Is the tax increase going to be the same process? Just raise the taxes with no input?

Property taxes are not based on profits so don't tax agriculture to death. The majority of farmers carry a very high debt load and operate on a low margin. Always remember ag competes on the world market. Are you aware of how much agriculture contributes to the County of Newell in spending, employment

and the value of foreign exchange for the Country? How many of you have children taking over your farms? If you have, you look differently towards the future and how much less competitive agriculture will be with high taxes. Cut spending instead and start now with real cuts. I think you are being naive if you think the county does not have to cut 10 or 20%. Everyone has a vote and the cities will vote to take your linear assessment because they need that money now. They will all say the County of Newell already had their turn with the high tax revenue. Do you know the history of the area? The EID had to sell grazing land in the 1930's because the taxes were too high. You have an award winning CEO and now he can use his expertise to set up future success if county council gives him the mandate to serious cost cutting. Maybe you will maintain the agriculture base you have now and even attract a new industry to the county with this philosophy.

BLAINE JOHNSON,  
Scandia, AB.  
*Editor's Note: There is a 60-day period for a petition to be presented to the county. The end date is February 22, 2021.*

# School board chair earns long term service award

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

During the virtual Alberta School Boards Association's (ASBA) general meeting in November it was announced that Grasslands School board chair Jody Trembecki earned a long service award.

The award, which was presented to five trustees across the province, recognizes significant contribution to trusteeship.

Trembecki has been the trustee for Ward B, representing Duchess, Bow City and rural Brooks since 2010. She served as vice chair under Vic Budz and moved into the chair's position in 2017.

She became involved with the school board when she was asked by former trustee Jo-Lee Godfrey to seek the position.

"I was actually going

to back out," she said but Godfrey had the nomination papers for Trembecki to sign.

Having been a student who struggled in school, Trembecki said knew it was a good way to advocate on behalf of students while getting involved her kids' education.

Trembecki said the experience has been enjoyable and educational but it will be her last year. She will not seek re-election in October.

"I think what I've really enjoyed is how government works. I really, truly did not know how political the job was going into it," she said.

She has also enjoyed getting to know so many people from local trustees and staff to those across the province.

Prior to her final day in the chair, Trembecki would like to see the end of COVID19.

"It's taken a toll on our



Jody Trembecki with her Long Service Award from ASBA. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

staff, on our kids and on our families. I'm someone who worries. I just hope we can be back to a better normal than what we're in right now," she said.

## One Tree World

IRMA MERKL



ONE TREE —Well, another week has gone by and the weather has been very easy to take. Hopefully it stays around for a while longer, as I'm sure enjoying not to have to push mounds of snow. But I'm very sure we are not going to stay this way as it is still January. Although today I heard geese squawking and that's a bit early for them to be here yet. They probably think Spring has sprung and boy are they ever going to be fooled.

Well this COVID is just not letting up and not letting things get back to normal. nor have we heard as to when we can get immunized either. So once again I really haven't any news of any significance. If there is, no one wants to report it to get into trouble.

Birthday greetings for the coming week go out to Linda Slomp on Jan. 14th; to Tamzin Velasco (Buhler) on Jan 19th; and to David Slomp on Jan. 20th. We wish you all a "Very Happy Birthday" and all the best for the coming years. We wish everyone else who is celebrating this week a happy birthday and all the best too.

Happy anniversary wishes go to John and Sandra Day of Lethbridge on their 47th anniversary. We wish you both all the very best for the coming years.

I can't believe we are almost half through January already, wow!

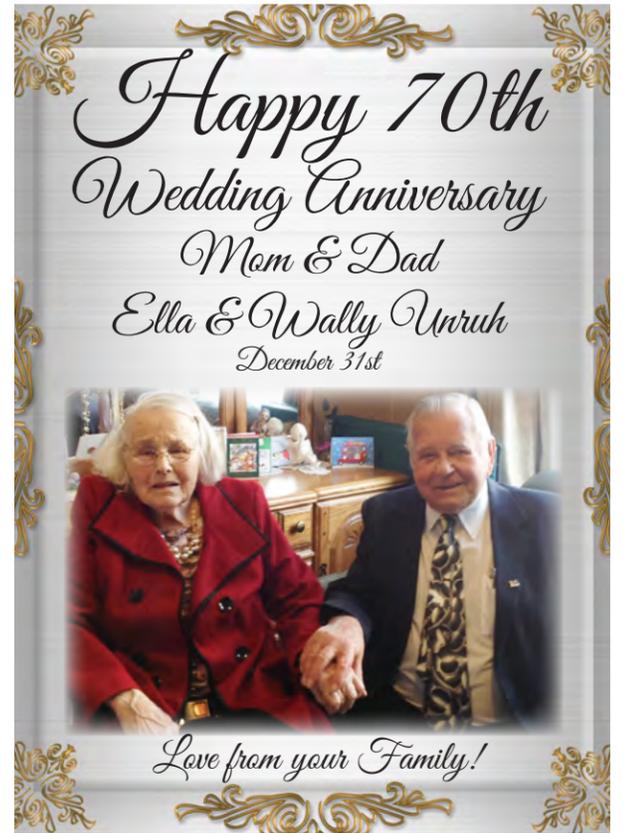
"Dental dilemma"  
I was playing tooth fairy

when my daughter woke up. Spotting the money in my hand, she cried out, "I caught you!"

I froze, trying to think of an explanation for why I, rather than the tooth fairy, was depositing a gift under her pillow. I was let off the hook when my daughter

interjected, "You put that money back! The tooth fairy left it for me!"

Hope everyone stays healthy and safe from this COVID, wear your masks and wash your hands and use the hand sanitizers when going into the stores or where ever. Wishing everybody all the best.



Mannix Smith-Hoffman, a Grade 6 student at Griffin Park School, gets himself ready for an in-class learning day on Monday. Schools across the province resumed in-class teaching following the December break and a week of on-line learning. Shelley MacNaughton, the school's administrative assistant, is relieved to have students back. "A school isn't a school without students," she said.

"The decision to resume in-class learning was reaffirmed after careful consideration of the importance of attending school in-person as well as the latest evidence of COVID19 cases dropping in all school-age groups in December," wrote Adriana LaGrange, the minister of education, in a letter to parents. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

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## Career-bound students gain experience during pandemic

It's no surprise that Mount Royal University nursing and midwifery students have been fast-tracked into the workforce during the pandemic, but students from other health disciplines, plus science, communications and business programs, have been gaining experience remotely from industries across Canada as well.

This past summer, typically a busy time for students looking for career experience, hundreds of MRU students in programs such as environmental science, accounting and policy studies, were placed in internships and co-op work terms despite in-person workplace restrictions.

"We really had to get creative and advocate for students to find placements during that time," says Sarah Imran, director of Career Services at Mount Royal. She knew students could provide support where many offices and clinics needed the extra hands.

"They needed them as much as students needed the experience," Imran says.

Internships help students meet not only their program requirements towards graduation, but also gain hands-on insight in their chosen fields. According to Imran, over 50 per cent of MRU programs require one or more industry placement.

Katherine Sharples, fourth-year Bachelor of Communications – Public Relations student, secured a summer internship with a busy marketing and communications team while they were in the throes of relaying new COVID-19 protocols. "Leading up to the internship, we had a class specific to work-term preparation. We did mock interviews, learned how to write proper cover letters and had our resumes approved by a Career Services expert," Sharples says.

Despite the challenge, Sharples says she was prepared. Like many MRU programs, public relations provides students with work experience through in-class projects with community partners. In total, MRU students have contributed more than 300,000 hours of community service learning at

over 500 community organizations. It's working outside the classroom that allows students to further exercise the skills they've learned over the course of their degree.

Imran was right about the value of student placements. The work Sharples completed during her internship proved invaluable to her team and she is now working as an employee while completing her studies.

"I know that this experience will act as a strong foundation for the rest of my career," Sharples says.

Now that the new year is upon us and the winter semester has begun, Imran and the Career Services team are working to secure placements for more students like Sharples in 2021.

"While we are still very much dealing with the pandemic restrictions, together with our industry and community partners we are committed to providing students with valuable career experience by the time they graduate," Imran says.

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# Bassano rancher named to Alberta Beef Producers committee

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Jason Hale will sit as a delegate for the newly formed southeast zone of the Alberta Beef Producers and will seek a seat on the board for 2020-21.

The organization held its fall producers meeting in November during which time delegates received ballots. The results of the election were announced last week.

Delegates will select the new board member positions at their next meeting in the spring.

Last year Hale served as one of six zone 1 delegates who represented Vulcan, Newell, Forty Mile and Cypress counties as well as Taber and Special Area No. 2.

Effective this year the number of delegates has been reduced from 54 to 35 and the number of zones

has been reduced from nine to five.

Hale is a member of the southeast Alberta zone which includes producers from Stettler in the north to Forty Mile in the south and in the west from Vulcan to the MD of Acadia.

As well as the restructuring of the zones the organization dissolved the Cattle Feeder and the Cow-Calf councils and

agreed to move its annual general meeting to coincide with the Alberta Beef Industry Conference.

"We're trying to be really cost effective," he said.

He said although the year started out with concerns because of the closing of the Cargill and JBS Food plants which produced a backlog of finished cattle and affected markets all the way down, the fall calf market was

comparable to last year and the bred market was fairly strong.

"It's great to see the optimism in our industry. We know we do provide the best source of beef in the world," he said.

The organization works on behalf of beef producers to provide a sustainable quality product in Alberta.

Hale is the chair of the Eastern Irrigation District.

## Duchess Dispatch

LINDA MOREY



**DUCHESS** - This has been another roller coaster week as far as Covid goes. Kids are back to school but restaurants, salons and small business continue to struggle. It's a bit inconsistent and that's what hits people's emotions. Good luck to staff and students as they transition back to the in-school learning environment.

Brooks Music Festival will be holding a 'Virtual Festival' from March 15 - 19. Registrations accepted on-line only until January 22. Entry forms and details available at [brooksmusicfestival.ca](http://brooksmusicfestival.ca)

Congratulations

to Darrell and Michelle Elsbett formerly of Duchess who won a huge amount of money when Darrell purchased a ticket for the Red Deer Legion 50-50 draw! Darrell is the son of Bernie and Donna Elsbett of Duchess and Michelle is the daughter of Gary and Trudy Koleyak! So happy to hear a familiar winning name!

The outdoor ice rink often has skaters on it! Thanks again to Norsemen Metal Supply for giving the residents, of Duchess and surrounding area, an outlet to be outside and having fun.

Have a good week and stay safe while walking the roads. With freezing

and melting going on, sometimes the roads and alley's are a bit icy. You can call or text me at 403-793-1630 with your news items.

Quote: "The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts."



JEAN LAVOIE

**WARDLOW** - Lila Bird asked me to let everyone know that she still has community calendars to be sold. These were a fund raiser for the Berry Creek Community Club but since they are no longer it has been taken over by the Ella-Jane WI. If you haven't gotten your calendar give Lila at call at 403-633-0402.

The Ella-Jane has been unable to meet due to COVID restrictions but our annual memberships are due.

If everyone could get \$25 to Monique she can send in our dues.

Here's hoping that the kids going back to school works out and they are able to see their friends, it seems they are happier when life is more normal.

If you have some news to share call me at (403) 566-2448 or email at [hippies2@telusplanet.net](mailto:hippies2@telusplanet.net).

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**Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 19th at 2 pm**

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**Friday, January 22nd**  
Regular Sale ..... 9:00 am  
Bred Cow Sale ..... 12:00 Noon

**Friday, January 29th**  
Regular Sale ..... 9:00 am

For a list of all upcoming sales & pictures visit our website  
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Erik Christensen, Asst. Manager ..... 403-363-9942  
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**FORM 3A**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Irrigation Districts Act [RSA 2000, c 1-11] Sec 12

**EASTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
**CHANGE TO THE EXPANSION LIMIT**

TAKE NOTICE that public meetings will be held:

Location	Date	Time
Online [ <a href="http://www.eid.ca">www.eid.ca</a> ]	Monday Jan 18, 2021	2:00 p.m.
Online [ <a href="http://www.eid.ca">www.eid.ca</a> ]	Thursday Jan 21, 2021	7:00 p.m.
In person [ <i>venue TBD</i> ] [if allowable under current COVID-19 public health orders or public gathering restrictions]	Monday Jan 25, 2021	TBD

to discuss a proposed change to the expansion limit of the Eastern Irrigation District from the existing limit of **311,000** acres to **345,000** acres.

Additional information regarding this proposed change is available to the public at the offices of the District.

DATED at the City of Brooks in the Province of Alberta, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020.

Ivan Friesen, General Manager  
Eastern Irrigation District

51-03c

# EU seems to want less food production... CAP principles perverted by political correctness and corruption

It was one of the founding principles of the six-nation European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957. Due to World War II devastation, the EEC, now the European Union (EU), was determined that food shortages and famine would never happen again in Europe. To cement that noble goal, the EEC in 1962 created the common agriculture program (CAP). It was a grandiose subsidy, minimum pricing and stockpiling scheme that would encourage the production of dozens of commodities deemed strategic to the EEC's food security. This would be done by giving producers financial incentives to increase commodity food production. The idea was that if growers were offered an income opportunity to make a reasonable living from farming, it would stabilize the ag industry and make the EEC self-sufficient in



essential food production. A noble goal indeed, but a subsidy program without some checks and balances is sure to run out of control quickly. There is a truism: give most farmers a financial incentive, and they will produce more food than was ever imagined.

By the 1970s and 80s, producers were not only making the EU self-sufficient in several commodities, but surpluses were creating butter mountains, massive frozen meat piles and lakes of wine. Since the EU subsidy was based on how much you produced, the more you grew, the more money you made. A classic story was the

British barley barons who used high-tech intensive crop production practices to grow over 100 bushels of barley per acre that fetched \$10 per bushel with EU subsidies. The EU bought all the surpluses - those were the glory days of EU subsidy madness. It was further aggravated when the EU doubled to 12 members. CAP subsidies soon consumed up to 60% of the EU budget, topping out at a whopping 40 billion Euros to this day. It was not sustainable given the extra millions it cost to store surpluses and more millions to dump those products on world markets, much to the aggravation of trading partners.

By the 2000s, the EU abandoned production subsidies and initiated an acreage and income subsidy. That gave producers no incentive to produce unless there were favourable free-market prices. What it

did do, which is similar to some American subsidies, it paid producers and landowners to watch grass grow. About ten years ago, under pressure from powerful green lobby groups, the EU initiated a program where producers would get higher subsidies if they adhered to organic farming practices. As expected, such methods further reduced EU commodity production. All of that was contrary to the original CAP goal of Europe becoming food self-sufficient. The EU, over time, has steadily increased food imports from the rest of the world. Another goal of CAP was that increased production was to be achieved through innovation and scientific progress. That occurred during the 1970s and 80s but faltered when the EU banned growers from using GM plant genetics. That set back yields unless herbicide/

pesticide and fertilizer use increased, which then clashed with EU organic farming rules. It boggles the mind. It would seem that CAP principles were being sacrificed for crass political correctness, but it was soon to get worse.

By the 2010s, the EU had expanded to 27 members, including new countries with dubious commitments to democratic principles. The most notorious being Hungary, Romania, Czech Republic and others. In those EU nations, a cabal of scheming corrupt government politicians and bureaucrats found a way to milk the CAP land subsidy program to the tune of hundreds of millions. Little of that money went to actual producers. It was all legal as EU members determine under loose rules who gets CAP subsidies in their own countries. Former communist countries are well acquainted with past

corruption on a grand scale, so redirecting CAP subsidies into the ruling elite's pockets is just too easy. The outrageous part is that the EU governing bureaucracy and parliament are almost powerless to stop CAP corruption. As it operates mostly by consensus, the EU needs the support of almost every EU member to get anything approved. To get the cooperation of its more corrupt members, the EU's overall membership overlooks the corruption and plundering of the CAP land subsidy program. This is to the exasperation of the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark, who due to their small land base, receive minimal EU CAP land-based subsidies. It's all rather sad to see a principled ag program degenerate into such a deplorable state.

*Will Verboven is an ag writer and ag policy advisor.*

# Hydrogen production project considered in county

Kitsim Hydrogen project ....

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

An alternative to burning fossil fuels may find its key in hydrogen which Calgary's Brian Bietz is counting on.

Bietz, the vice president of IEPS (Integrated Energy and Power Solutions) Canada Ltd, gained support from county council in November for the Kitsim H2 (Hydrogen) Project which is proposed to be developed near the Kitsim Reservoir.

Hydrogen, which is clean-burning, is a colourless, odourless gas at room temperature.

It is not found naturally in the environment but is found with other elements, such as water, so it has to be

produced through an active process.

It can be used like any fossil fuel. In either its pure form or blended with liquid fuels and natural gas it can be used for heating buildings and homes or fueling vehicles and it is an important building block for fertilizers and petrochemicals.

It is the only by-product of water and heat both of which can be recycled.

"This essentially means turning an energy consuming process into an energy producing one," states howstuffworks.com.

Bietz's company will produce green hydrogen which is made by extracting hydrogen from water using electrolysis powered by renewable energy.

While one company may

purchase the hydrogen for heating homes or buildings, another company may purchase the hydrogen molecules as feedstock.

"Hopefully, they'll be willing to pay a premium to us for the hydrogen," said Beitz during a recent interview.

It has the lowest carbon intensity and offers the greatest climate benefit, according to the Pembina Institute, an environmental think tank.

"If you believe that climate change is real and you believe that we need to be part of a solution to climate change, it's important that we find better ways to use our energy resources," said Bietz.

"By using renewable power we effectively have

a zero carbon source of electricity and therefore zero carbon hydrogen.

"It's not a gas or coal-driven generating station producing our power. It'll most likely be wind power."

Hydrogen has long been touted as a replacement for hydrocarbons and Alberta's fertilizer, petrochemical and refining industries use large amounts of hydrogen, however, not all hydrogen is equal.

While green is viewed as the best the others, grey, offers little to no climate benefit and blue has a low to moderate carbon intensity.

The cost of producing green hydrogen has been a barrier to its use but Bietz said improvements in technology have allowed the company to double their project size. He said suppliers have indicated the company can get to a bigger scale than originally thought.

He said one of the biggest issues associated with producing green hydrogen is getting it to customers.

"We know we can source our power. We know we can source our water. We know we have a good site and we know we have community support."

He said the company's vision is to either ship the hydrogen through the existing natural gas pipelines where it can move anywhere or through a new dedicated line.

To get the project up and running a Water Act application has been filed through Alberta Environment and Parks to divert 966,102 cubic meters of water annually through the Eastern

Irrigation District's (EID) infrastructure.

The EID has the ability to supply the water and if they're approved it will be supplied.

"That's our business. We support industries

that want to come here and if they need water we're definitely opened for business if it comes to that," said EID general manager Ivan Friesen.

Comments from the public are being accepted until Feb. 7.



## NOTICE OF IRRIGATOR SURVEY

### CAPITAL ASSETS

**The Board of Directors of the Eastern Irrigation District is seeking irrigator input on setting new Capital Assets Charges. A short survey has been mailed to irrigators and is available online at:**

[https://www.eid.ca/surveys/capital\\_assets.html](https://www.eid.ca/surveys/capital_assets.html)

**The District appreciates the consideration and input from the irrigators. Please complete and return the survey on or before January 31, 2021.**

Ivan Friesen, General Manager  
Eastern Irrigation District

53-04c

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# Classifieds

**Deadline for Classifieds  
word ads is Monday - 3 PM  
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**obituaries**



**ADAMS** - Adolf Erhardt (Archie) Adams passed away in Brooks Alberta on January 9th, 2021 at the age of 89. He was born to Stefan and Marthe Adams on October 30, 1931 in West Prussia, Poland. In January 1945, the family fled in advance of invading troops to Hollenstedt, Germany. He became a licensed large engine mechanic and emigrated to Canada, joining his elder sister Margaret Heringer in Medicine Hat. Working at the Brooks Ford dealership, he delivered a new vehicle to a farm in Tilley and thereby met Margot Csozor. They

were wed in 1957, by which time Archie had established his own construction company, A.E. Adams Construction Co. Ltd. Archie and Margot lived in Brooks, moving as one house was sold and another built. They had three daughters Debbie, Edie, and Susie. He was active and respected in the business and social life of the community, serving on Brooks Town Council. In the 1980's Archie embarked on a new phase, building a great home in Courtenay, Vancouver Island, B.C., clearing trees and fishing for salmon. He married Ann Troidl and moved from the Island to Kelowna before returning to Brooks. Archie was preceded by his daughter Susie (Charles Foy) his siblings Emil, Erich, Stefan and Ingrid, and his second wife Ann Troidl. Left to mourn his loss are his daughters Debbie Niffin (Larry) of Atlanta, Georgia, Edie Adams (Michael Simons) of Seattle, Washington, his sisters Margaret Heringer of Medicine Hat and Lydia in Germany, Margot Adams Wood, and his stalwart friends John Schmal, Dr. Ramesh Patel, Henry Weiss, Burton and Wanda Johnson and Billy Wells. Dad's job here on Earth is done. He taught us to believe in our own strength, and we saw that in his last few weeks. In memory of Archie, a memorial tribute may be made to the Commemorative Forest of Brooks. Funeral Services will be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, January 18, 2021 at Thom's Funeral Home and Reception Centre in Duchess. Graveside Services to follow at Brooks Cemetery. Pastor John Theiss Officiating. The funeral Service recording will be made available online following the service. For further information, to light a memorial candle or to leave a message of sympathy, please visit [www.thomfuneralhome.com](http://www.thomfuneralhome.com) or call (403) 501-1010.

**in memory**



In loving memory  
**TERRI MARTIN  
(ANDERSON)**  
March 26, 1961 -  
January 19, 2006

Did you ever know that you're our hero? You're everything we wish we could be. We could fly higher than an eagle. For you are the wind beneath our wings."

Love you always,  
Mom, Dad & Family

02p

**in memory**

**JULIUS SYDNEY  
HOFFMAN**

May 15, 1953 -  
January 13, 2016



What you have once enjoyed you can never lose...all that we love deeply becomes a part of us.

Love Pat, Jody, William, Ben, Jason, Nicole and Taylor

02p

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47-02P

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02-52c

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**coming events**

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**Mon & Sat**  
8:00 pm Brooks United Church, 507 - 3rd Ave. W., Brooks  
**Tues. & Thurs.**  
8:00 pm Trinity Lutheran Church  
811 Cassils Rd. W., Brooks  
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01-52p

**in memory**



**DYLAN DENAULT**

April 1, 1992 - January 13, 2020

A year ago you left without saying good-bye In my mind I picture what could have been for you Instead I hide away in silence and cry The nights are so lonely and hard to get through So many lives that you helped other people get through

It took your death to make me see that I'm not the person you needed

You needed a man as compassionate as you Now I am doing my best to be that for you

I wish you could be here with us today But God needed you more than me Some day you will take my hand and show me the way

Until that time a part of you will live in me.

Mom, Dad & Shannon

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50c

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50-08p

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01-04p

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W4M. Call Brent Thygesen, [b\\_thygesen@ducks.ca](mailto:b_thygesen@ducks.ca) or 780-678-0150.

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**employment**

Crawling Valley is looking for Managers and staff for the office and grounds for the 2021 year. Starting middle of April to Middle of October.

**GROUNDS MANAGER** is responsible for the campground maintenance for all areas. Operating and maintaining of small equipment, supervision of staff, bathrooms, underground sprinklers, enforcing the rules.

**OFFICE MANAGER** responsibilities are registering campers, ordering supplies, supervising of staff, processing transactions, computer experience is required. Enforcing the rules.

**GROUND KEEPERS** are to assist the manager, operator and maintain small equipment and maintenance of the campground . enforcing the rules.

**OFFICE STAFF** are to assist the manager with registering campers, bathrooms and selling of product, enforcing the rules Computer experience is required.

**SECURITY** person to work weekends from 10:00 till morning.

**If interested please send a resume to Crawling Valley Campground: Box 567, Bassano, AB. TOJOB0 or [crawlingvalley@gmail.com](mailto:crawlingvalley@gmail.com) Cut off is Feb 28/21 only those considered for the position will be notified**

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Brooks, Alberta  
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Bow River Constituency  
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Brooks, AB. T1R 0S3  
403-793-6775/fax: 403-793-6778  
[martin.shields@parl.gc.ca](mailto:martin.shields@parl.gc.ca)  
[www.martinshieldsbowriver.ca](http://www.martinshieldsbowriver.ca)

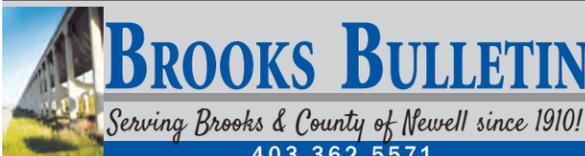


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<p><b>564 - 5 St W, Brooks</b></p> <p><i>New Price</i></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,760 Sq. Ft home</li> <li>In an exceptional location</li> <li>Perfect for a large family</li> <li>Great for an investment or a flip project</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>	<p><b>309 Railway Ave, Rosemary</b></p> <p><i>New Price</i></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delightful Bungalow in the perfect location</li> <li>Close to school, shopping and recreation</li> <li>3 bedrooms and an updated kitchen</li> <li>Spacious and private back yard with pergola</li> <li>Live in a great spot at an affordable price</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>	<p><b>72 Prairie Meadows Rd W, Brooks</b></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masterfully designed executive home</li> <li>4 Bedrooms, office and 4 bathrooms</li> <li>Well kept, quiet neighborhood &amp; backs onto a park</li> <li>Wood burning fireplace, large kitchen, great views</li> <li>Backyard oasis with nice landscaping &amp; hot tub</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>
<p><b>31 Blue Heron Bay, Lake Newell Resort</b></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impressive 2 Storey home close to beach</li> <li>5 Bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms</li> <li>Clean, bright, and well cared for home</li> <li>Breathtaking views and walkout basement</li> <li>Great location without the lakefront price</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>	<p><b>121 - 2nd St, Rolling Hills</b></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgraded home right across from a green space</li> <li>Features a custom kitchen and wide hallways</li> <li>Upgraded shingles and windows</li> <li>Newer hot water tank and vinyl plank flooring</li> <li>3 Bedrooms and 1 bathroom</li> </ul> <p><b>CYRSTAL HANCOCK 403.501.8341</b></p>	<p><b>9 Meadowplace Green, Brooks</b></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently relevelled Mobile home</li> <li>Bright white kitchen and vaulted ceilings</li> <li>Large primary bedroom with 4 piece ensuite</li> <li>Many updates including new paint, hot water tank, furnace and deck</li> </ul> <p><b>CYRSTAL HANCOCK 403.501.8341</b></p>
<p><b>104 Greenbrook Dr, Brooks</b></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spacious and cozy 4 level split home</li> <li>4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms</li> <li>Home theatre and huge games room</li> <li>Wood fireplace in living room</li> <li>Well finished, great condition home</li> </ul> <p><b>CYRSTAL HANCOCK 403.501.8341</b></p>	<p><b>3 Elm St W, Brooks</b></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lovely Sunnylea family home on a corner lot</li> <li>Underground sprinklers and concrete parking pad</li> <li>4 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms</li> <li>Large kitchenette area downstairs</li> <li>Brick fireplace in basement family room</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>	<p><b>32 Upland Cres W, Brooks</b></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceptionally cared for 4-Level Split home</li> <li>5 large bedrooms, 3 baths, and high ceilings</li> <li>Newly updated kitchen &amp; east facing sunroom</li> <li>Family room with gas fireplace &amp; garden doors</li> <li>Large heated garage and paved RV parking</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>
<p><b>104 Ingram Park Dr, Brooks</b></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated family home in a mature neighborhood</li> <li>Bright and open concept kitchen, living &amp; dining</li> <li>Finished basement w/tons of storage</li> <li>5 bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms</li> <li>Large deck, double detached garage &amp; fenced yard</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>	<p><b>623 Parkland Dr, Brooks</b></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stunning corner lot home in a desirable neighborhood</li> <li>Dream kitchen with plenty of storage</li> <li>Sunken living room with wood burning fireplace</li> <li>5 bedroom and 3 full bathrooms</li> <li>Low maintenance yard and double garage</li> </ul> <p><b>CYRSTAL HANCOCK 403.501.8341</b></p>	<p><b>519 - 4 Ave, Bassano</b></p>  <p>VT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charming, quaint and clean home</li> <li>Perfect starter or retirement home</li> <li>Garage and plenty of room for RV parking</li> <li>Extra large yard</li> <li>Invest and use as a rental property</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>
<p><b>BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME</b>              ID#1102017 • DUCHESS, AB</p>  <p>1.17 ACRES \$39,500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vacant property, only 1 min drive to Duchess</li> <li>Room to build home, shop and some animals</li> <li>Close to several amenities including a school, store, gas station, bank &amp; more</li> <li>Country living with town conveniences</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>	<p><b>LUXURY IN THE COUNTRY</b>              ID#1100882 • NEWELL COUNTY, AB</p>  <p>13.87 ACRES \$839,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2010 custom built home with grand entry</li> <li>Chefs kitchen, hardwood floors and fireplace</li> <li>Huge laundry room and office on main floor</li> <li>Oasis master retreat with spa-like ensuite</li> <li>60' x 40' heated shop with loft and double bay</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>	<p><b>LAND TO MAKE YOUR OWN</b>              ID#1102034 • CASSILS, AB</p>  <p>6.91 ACRES \$130,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully fenced acreage near Cassils</li> <li>Just 10 minutes west of Brooks</li> <li>Trees already planted</li> <li>Buy the land, make it your own</li> </ul> <p><b>JULIE JENKINS 403.793.5045</b></p>

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<p><b>VIEWS OF LAKE STAFFORD</b></p>  <p><i>Stunning Custom Home!</i>              212 Lake Stafford Dr. E.              Brooks</p> <p><b>\$639,000</b></p>	<p><b>AMAZING ACREAGE</b></p>  <p><i>1.66 Acres</i>              131 Mortensen Road              Newell County</p> <p><b>\$589,000</b></p>	<p><b>PENDING SALE</b></p>  <p>65 Parkland Way              Brooks</p> <p><b>\$279,000</b></p>
<p><b>NEW PRICE!</b></p>  <p><i>Affordable Townhome!</i>              232 - 17th St. E.              Brooks</p> <p><b>\$204,000</b></p>	<p><b>INTERIOR BUILDING LOT</b></p>  <p><i>Lake Newell Resort</i>              100 White Pelican View</p> <p><b>\$49,000</b></p>	<p><b>LAKE NEWELL</b></p>  <p><i>Kingfisher - Lakefront Lot!</i>              8 Kingfisher Estates              Lake Newell Resort</p> <p><b>\$179,900</b></p>

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<p><b>HEATED GARAGE</b></p>  <p>711 Cassils Rd. W.              MLS #SC0166231  <b>\$252,000</b></p>	<p><b>BASSANO</b></p>  <p>822 1 Street W Close              MLS #A1057008  <b>\$539,000</b></p>	<p><b>2884 SQ. FT.</b></p>  <p>311 14 Street              MLS #A1008983  <b>\$369,900</b></p>	<p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p>  <p>104 Upland Trail              MLS #A1053862  <b>\$129,900</b></p>	<p><b>5 BEDROOMS</b></p>  <p>24 Upland Drive              MLS #A1054211  <b>\$319,900</b></p>	<p><b>DUCHESS</b></p>  <p>27 Railway Avenue              MLS #SC0172491  <b>\$265,000</b></p>
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 to safely serve you

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# Rainier Record

JANE BELLWARD



**RAINIER** - Happy Birthday greetings for this coming week go out to Gerwin Van Den Hoek on January 19; Inge Hoekstra on January 21.

Celebrating their wedding anniversary this coming week are Robert and Arlene Smith, on January 21.

We have some openings available for the Paint Night with Rita Wildschut on Saturday, January 23, 2021, at the Hall. The fee includes all supplies. Space will be limited. Payment will be required to save your spot (e-transfers are available). Contact (text) Dana at 403-952-8604. Due to the most recent COVID-19 restrictions, we may be rescheduling both the Friday night and the Saturday night sessions to a later date.

As everyone is aware, new COVID-19 restrictions have been put into place for the next few weeks.

The Alcoma Community Library will be closed to the public, once again, during these restrictions.

Alcoma School News - Alberta Health and Safety protocols have been put into place. Please keep watch in the Alcoma School Happening's information on Facebook for information

on fun activities that are being planned for the school year. If you plan on visiting the school, please call ahead to arrange a time. There is a doorbell installed at the front door. It must be depressed until there is a red light.

The school is asking for donations of plastic bottle caps, of any colour, for an art project being planned for the school year. Please start a collection at home and it will be announced at a later date when it is a good time to bring them to the school. Thank you.

The school is continuing to accept bottle donations. These are much appreciated and can be dropped off beside the quonset.

Alcoma Community Library will continue with its touchless pick up. Please contact Janet Wagner at janet@shortgrass.ca or call the school at 403-36-3741 to leave a message. Once she receives your requests, she will contact you to arrange a pick up.

Please contact me by Sunday if you have any news you would like included in this column. janebellward20@gmail.com or 403-793-0692.

# Tilley Telegram

ANITA CHAPPELL



**TILLEY** - The Tilley and District Public Library remains closed to the public until possibly January 21, but staff continue working behind closed doors to make items available for contactless pick-ups. Pick-ups can happen on Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Wednesdays 9:00 to 11:00 am and 7:00 to 9:00 pm, and on Saturdays, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Library membership is free for residents of Tilley. Holds are delivered weekly on Thursdays. The library board is seeking additional members. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Anita at 403-377-2259.

The Spike & Spur Mercantile welcomes back shoppers for regular hours of 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Worship services at Bethany Lutheran Church have been suspended indefinitely. Once services can resume, we will follow all relaunch guidelines. It is hoped that we will be able to host the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Bake Sale on February 16, 2021.

Tilley Community Centre events will resume

as the government allows and relaunch guidelines will be followed. For booking inquiries, please email tilleyhall@outlook.com or call 403-377-2406. The Community Centre Board AGM is scheduled for March 9, 2021.

Bob went to a judge to put forth an appeal for

a divorce. "I can't take it anymore," he complained, "Every night she is out until way past midnight, just going from bar to bar." The judge asked, "What is she doing?" Bob replied, "Looking for me!"

To submit news items, please PHONE Anita Chappell at 377-2259. You

may also EMAIL me at goombaw@eidnet.org with subject line Tilley Telegram. Please contact me by or before 8:00 am on Monday mornings to have your news included for the week. On long weekends, news is due Thursday morning before the holiday!

# Scandia Sketch

KARLYN TAKEDA



**SCANDIA** - Did you know Scandia's Salem Lutheran Church is continuing to hold Sunday services at 9am, following all protocols and guidelines.

Alcoma School News-kids re back at school this week with bingo beginning on Tuesday. Look for a bingo card to come home. There will be HOT BREAKFAST on Thursday morning for all students. Check out the Facebook page for more info and don't hesitate to contact the school if needed. 403-362-3741.

With the recent restrictions The Alcoma library will go back to contactless pickup. Order online via shortgrass or contact Janet.

Please save your bottle

caps as the school is still collecting these. The school is continuing to accept bottle donations. These are much appreciated and can be dropped off beside the quonset.

The Rolling Hills arena concession (sidelines cafe) will be open daily from 8-2.

Please Note- Masks are now mandatory inside the Post Office. Also due to the size of the reception area in the Scandia Post Office, the Area Superintendent has advised to limit the number of customers coming in to pick up their mail/parcels, to one at a time. Please respect this request and act accordingly. Thank you.

Have you checked

in with your senior neighbors? If you're going for groceries, maybe you can pick something up for them? Support seniors at home. Seniors can contact 211 if they need help finding resources in their community. 211 is a comprehensive referral system accessible to all Albertans. Call or text 2-1-1 or visit ab.211.ca

It's always great to hear about our neighbors and the exciting things happening in the community. If you have any news or interesting Scandia trivia you'd like submitted in the sketch, please contact me at Karlyn. takeda@hotmail.com or 403-362-5488.

## business announcements

### Positive Outcome Consultations

#### Bob Johnston (R.Psych. AB #1852)

is a local licensed Psychologist who has provided professional services to the Brooks and area community since 1988.

- Professional, confidential consultations are available specializing in adult services for:
- Stress and anxiety, including COVID concerns
- Grief, loss and depression
- Couple and family relation issues

**FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING** is available with weekday, evening and Saturday appointments.

**REDUCED RATES** are applicable for those without health insurance, EFAP or benefit plans. Non-covered Psychologist fees are considered a **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE MEDICAL EXPENSE** usable as an official tax receipt.

*Thank you to my 2020 clients.  
All the best for a Healthy & Happy New Year!*

**For more information or to schedule an appointment call (403) 363-7737**

02&06p

## employment

# Grasslands

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT

Grasslands Public Schools is currently accepting applications for the following position:

- Temporary 0.5 FTE Educational Assistant at the Brooks Junior High School.
- Start date is as soon as possible to and end date to be determined.
- Duties may include lifting tasks and personal care.

The successful applicant will have a minimum of Grade 12. Post-secondary training is preferred and previous experience would be an asset. Please submit an updated resume including transcripts and contact information for at least three professional references if you would like to be considered. Successful applicants will be required to submit an original and current criminal record check including the vulnerable sector check. **Deadline for this position is as soon as there is a suitable applicant pool.**

Please send to:  
Katie Graham, Assistant Superintendent  
Grasslands Public Schools  
Fax: 403-362-8225  
Email: jobs@grasslands.ab.ca

02c

## BROOKS BULLETIN ONLINE READER POLL

Do you agree with government officials travelling internationally?



TOTAL VOTES CAST: 94

View our weekly polls @ www.brooksbulletin.com  
Online poll for the week of Jan 6 - Jan 12, 2021.

## employment

### EASTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT ACCOUNTING ADMINISTRATOR



The Eastern Irrigation District (EID), Brooks, Alberta, seeks a full-time temporary Accounting Administrator for a 15-month Maternity Leave position with the possibility of this leading to a permanent full-time position.

The Accounting Administrator performs a broad range of daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual accounting and administrative tasks including financial analysis, trouble shooting, correcting errors and/or systems, balancing, reconciling, preparing working papers, preparing financial reports and statements, and conducting internal audits. This position reports to the Financial Services Supervisor and works alongside five other team members, supervisors from all departments, and other departmental positions to provide back up and assistance as required.

An accounting or business degree or equivalent education or experience is required. Strong analytical skill, attention to detail, and a clean criminal records check is also required. Experience with Microsoft Dynamics GP is an asset.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume and cover letter to humanresources@eid.ca. A complete job description is available on the Company's website at eid.ca.

We thank all applicants for your interest in the EID; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. This competition will remain open until the end of the day Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

Human Resources  
Eastern Irrigation District  
Box 128, 550 Industrial Road West  
Brooks, AB  
T1R 1B2  
Fax: (403) 362-6206

02-03c

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### EASTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT FULL STACK WEB DEVELOPER



The Eastern Irrigation District (EID), Brooks, Alberta, seeks a permanent full time Web Developer to join our team.

The Web Developer will be responsible for developing and maintaining a company web application including secure login, back end API's, and information/document access to company documents through the Eastern Irrigation District's web portal. Integration with the District's ArcGIS web mapping application will also be developed along with other modernization projects. This position reports to the Information Services Supervisor and will work closely with other staff members.

The EID offers a competitive salary, a comprehensive benefits package including a defined benefit pension plan, along with learning and development opportunities. Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume and cover letter to humanresources@eid.ca.

A complete job description is available on the Company's website at eid.ca.

We thank all applicants for your interest in the EID; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. This competition will remain open until the end of the day Friday, January 29, 2021.

Human Resources  
Eastern Irrigation District  
Box 128, 550 Industrial Road West  
Brooks, AB  
T1R 1B2  
Fax: (403) 362-6206

02-03c

# WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

By Laurie Triefeldt

**Did you know?** Many owls have ear tufts on the top of their heads. These feathers are not part of the ears, but are used to communicate.

These mostly nocturnal birds of prey come in many sizes and colors. Owls are known for their silent flight and haunting calls. There are more than 200 species of owls found in a variety of habitats around the world.

**Snowy owls** live in the frozen tundra of North America, feeding on lemmings and hares. Unlike most other owl species, these large owls hunt in daylight.

Snowy owls feed on hares and small rodents, especially lemmings. Adults eat three to five lemmings each day (about 1,600 per year). Female snowy owls lay three to five eggs when food is scarce and up to 11 eggs when food is plentiful.

Scientists have recorded a snowy owl in the wild that lived to be 9 years and 5 months old. A captive snowy owl once lived for 28 years.

Many owls have special flight feathers adapted for silent flight.

A snowy owl's feet are covered with feathers. It is one of the largest North American owl species. As with most owl species, male snowy owls are smaller than females.

**Length:** 20-27 inches (51-69 cm)

**Wingspan:** Up to 5.5 feet (1.7 m)

**Weight:** Up to 6.6 pounds (3 kg)

A group of owls is called a parliament, wisdom or study.

**The great gray owl** is also known as the great gray ghost, phantom of the North, cinereous owl, spectral owl, Lapland owl, spruce owl, bearded owl and sooty owl. This owl is the official bird of Manitoba, Canada. It tends to fly close to the ground, and it can be aggressive if it thinks its nest is in danger.

Just 19 owl species are native to North America.

Snowy owl populations tend to reflect that of their favorite food, the lemming.

Owls have stout, upright bodies and short tails.



**Great horned owl** populations rise and fall along with that of its favorite prey, the snowshoe hare. (This tends to be a 10-year cycle.)

**Length:** 18-27 inches (46-68 cm)

**Wingspan:** 49 inches (1.24 m)

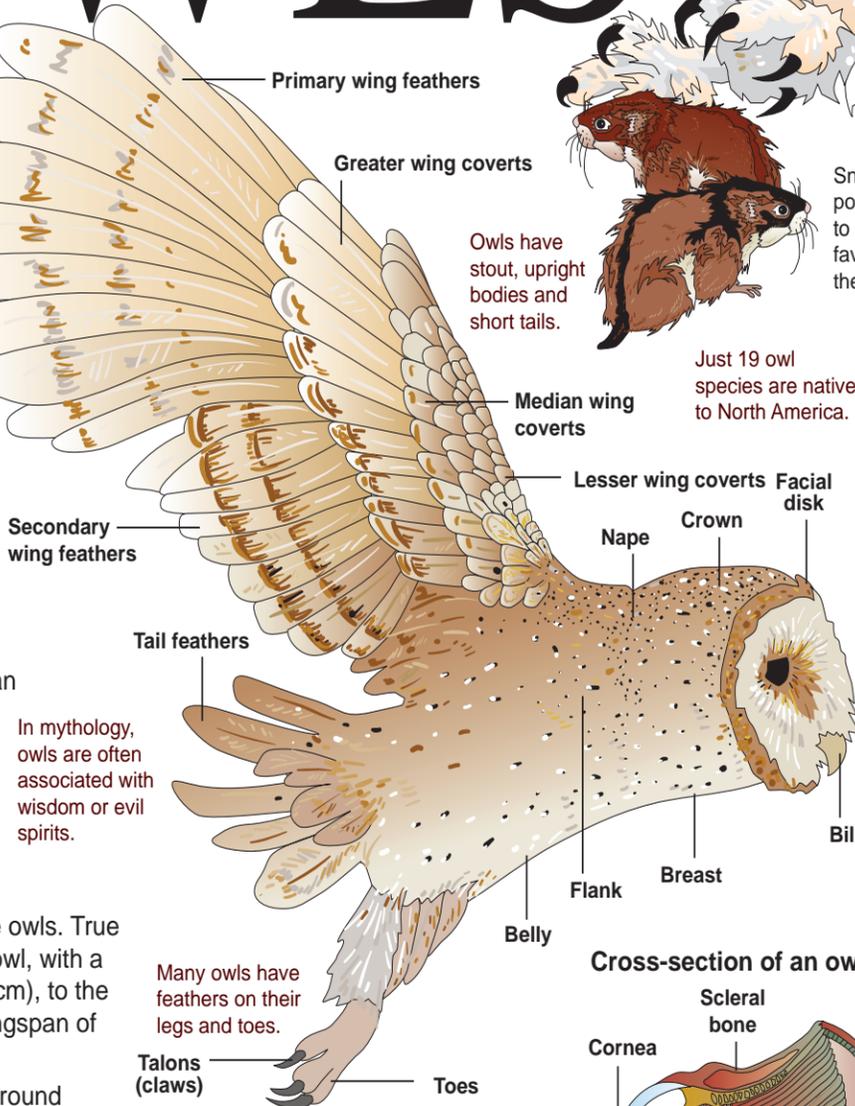
**Weight:** 3.1 pounds (1.4 kg)



# OWLS



Snowshoe hare



Primary wing feathers

Greater wing coverts

Owls have stout, upright bodies and short tails.

Median wing coverts

Lesser wing coverts

Facial disk

Nape

Crown

Secondary wing feathers

Tail feathers

Bill

Flank

Breast

Belly

In mythology, owls are often associated with wisdom or evil spirits.

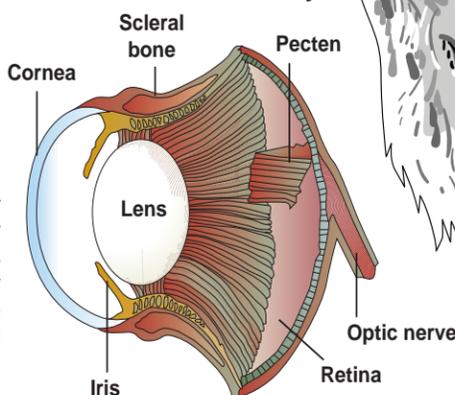
Many owls have feathers on their legs and toes.

Talons (claws)

Toes

Owls have forward facing eyes, giving them binocular vision similar to humans — this means that they can see an object with both eyes at the same time. Owls have very limited eye movement within the eye socket. The owl must turn its head to see in different directions.

### Cross-section of an owl eye



Scleral bone

Pecten

Cornea

Lens

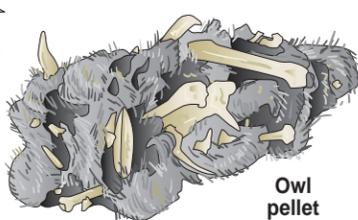
Iris

Optic nerve

Retina

**Did you know?** An owl has three eyelids: one for blinking, one for sleeping and one for keeping the eye clean and healthy.

Owls can swallow small prey whole. Ten to 16 hours after eating, owls throw up hard pellets (or castings) of bones, fur, teeth, feathers and other undigestible material.



Owl pellet

**Length:** 24-33 inches (61-84 cm)  
**Wingspan:** 60 inches (1.52 m)  
**Weight:** 2.6 pounds (1.2 kg)

## Barn owls

There are 16 species of barn owls. These owls are easily recognized by their heart-shaped faces. This distinct facial shape helps the owl collect and amplify sound, giving it a keen sense of hearing, which it uses to locate prey. These medium-sized birds have a wingspan of about 3.5 feet (1 m).

Like all owls, barn owls feed on a variety of small animals, including mice, moles, rabbits and squirrels.

## True owls

There are about 190 species of true owls. True owls range in size from the tiny elf owl, with a wingspan of about 10.5 inches (27 cm), to the large Eurasian eagle owl, with a wingspan of about 6 feet (1.8 m).

True owls have a large head with a round facial disc. Their feathers are usually a mottled brown or gray, which serves as a form of camouflage.

## Raising baby

All owls lay pure white, round eggs. They do not build nests, but will use ready-made sites like the abandoned nests of other birds or the holes in trees made by woodpeckers. Owlets sometimes leave the nest before they can fly. They stay in touch with their parents with peeps and calls. If you find a baby owl on the ground, resist the temptation to touch it, and let nature take its course. Owlets are quite good at looking after themselves.



Owl egg

A baby owl is called an owlet.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <http://birding.about.com>; <http://www.owlpages.com>; <http://aviary.owls.com>; <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca>; <https://www.allaboutbirds.org>