



# BROOKS BULLETIN

*Serving Brooks & County of Newell since 1910!*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

## Tariffs are unjustified and breach free trade, says premier

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Despite another month long tariff reprieve on Canadian and Mexican goods by US president Donald Trump, Canada's tariffs will remain in place.

"These tariffs are unjustified and a clear breach of the North American Free Trade Agreement or CUSMA (Canada United States Mexico Agreement) that was signed by president Trump during his first term" said Alberta premier Danielle Smith.

"This economic attack on our country combined with Mr. Trump's continued talk of using economic force to facilitate the annexation of our country has broken trust between our two nations in a profound way."

It's still not completely clear what Trump's endgame is. He has been saying the tariffs are because of the amount of fentanyl entering the US from Canada.

Canada has said that less than one per cent of fentanyl is leaving Canada, however, billions of dollars have been spent to appease Trump.

Canada and Alberta have beefed up security at their border, Alberta's \$29 million border security includes officers, inspectors, sniffer dogs and drones who are part of the interdiction team

to target drug smuggling, gun and human trafficking and illegal border crossings.

The province also has a two kilometre border zone to give police greater authority to arrest people who are trespassing or interfering with border security questions and Volker Stevin road workers at the border will be trained to look for suspicious activities.

Trump announced that a 25 per cent tariff, with the exception of energy products at 10 per cent, would begin on March 4.

Canada retaliated with \$30 billion in counter-tariffs also to begin and March 4 and \$125 billion in a second wave which was to have started 21-days later if the US hasn't pulled back.

On March 6 Trump backed off on most tariffs including giving a month exemption for vehicles coming through the CUSMA.

He announced that there would be additional tariffs from all countries on products entering the US on April 2, the same day that Canada's second wave of tariffs is now set to begin.

It's unclear what Trump is planning in his new tariffs.

"The repeated pausing and unpausing of U.S. tariffs is causing great investment uncertainty and market volatility right across North America and continues



This anti-American graffiti was painted on the side of a bridge in Calgary. | TWITTER

to confuse Canadians and Americans alike," Smith said.

Last week Smith presented her retaliation plan, one that she will keep in place regardless of the current pause.

All levels of government and school boards should buy goods from Alberta,

Canada or countries with a free trade agreement, retailers will be asked to identify Canadian products and to purchase stock from Alberta or Canada, a Canadian goods advertising campaign will be launched and no additional US alcohol will be purchased by retailers.

"We just have to drink a bit more BC wine and Alberta craft beer and spirits and that's just fine with us," said Smith.

The government will also enter into free trade and labour mobility agreements with any province.

"The goal is to have no exceptions just free trade and free movement of Canadian workers right across our province."

She said Alberta has a "trump card:" oil and gas.

"Whether the US president wishes to admit it or not the United States not only needs our oil and gas today they are also going to need it more and more with each passing year once they notice their declining domestic reserves and production are wholly insufficient to keep up with the energy demands of US consumers and industry let alone having anything leftover to export as they do today," she said.

The Canadian Cattle Association is analyzing the tariff impact on producers and is predicting that cattle prices will drop in the range of 15 to 16 per cent with some offset by the tariffs.

"That's a huge impact on both producers and processors," said Dennis Laycraft, executive vice president of the association.

About 40 per cent or \$6 billion worth of beef and live cattle is sold to the U.S. while \$1 billion is sold to the rest of the world.

"You just don't move \$6 billion into another market."

On Friday, the federal government announced the \$5 billion Trade Impact Program to help exporters reach new markets and to help companies that are facing economic challenges imposed by the tariffs.

There is also \$500 million available in loans through the Business Development Bank of Canada and \$1 billion in new financing to Farm Credit Canada.

"The considerations for workers, businesses and agriculture are strong first steps to mitigating the damage caused by the US-provoked trade war,"

said Matthew Holmes, executive vice president and chief of public policy at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber is urging the federal government to reduce red tape, lower taxes, build trade infrastructure and address internal trade irritants.

This week Trump is expected to impose a 25 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium and there are reports that it will be on top of the other tariffs which means there would be a 50 per cent tax.

"Our tariffs will remain in place until the US tariffs are withdrawn and not a moment sooner," said prime minister Justin Trudeau, just days before he left office, having stepped down in early January.



Canadians are being urged to purchase Canadian made products. In many retailers, such as Safeway, look for Canadian flags near products. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO



DONATION | Justin Bussence of Davis Chevrolet presents a cheque for \$500 to Debbie Kowal of Brooks Toy Library. | SUBMITTED PHOTO



## THE COUNTY OF NEWELL IS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS-AT-LARGE



### COUNCILLOR COMPENSATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The County of Newell is seeking **three** public members to serve on the Councillor Compensation Advisory Committee. This committee reviews and recommends appropriate honorariums, per diems, and other compensation items for elected officials to ensure fairness and transparency.

Committee members must be **County residents over 18 years old** and will be selected through a random draw if more than three applications are received. Meetings are not open to the public, and recommendations will be presented to Council by September 1.

**DEADLINE** to apply →  Scan the code to access application form & read Terms of Reference 



**DEADLINE** to register is → 

March 25, 2025  
10am - 3pm



 CROP DIVERSIFICATION CENTRE SOUTH

## TREE HEALTH & MAINTENANCE

 **WORKSHOP** 

Join the County of Newell for an informative and **FREE** workshop on **Tree Health & Maintenance!**

Come learn more about tree care and maintenance, pests & environmental damages, pruning & care for fruit trees, and the EID Shelterbelt & Habitat Programs. There will even be a hands on demonstration of tree pruning, species selection, and planting.

- GUEST SPEAKERS**
-  TOSO BOZIC - ATTS GROUP INC.
  -  DANIEL BUELL - EASTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**REGISTER NOW** →



 LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

**OR, CALL OR EMAIL**

403-363-1483

WIEBEAU@NEWELLMAIL.CA



## STOP THE SPREAD OF DOWNY BROME CLEAN YOUR EQUIPMENT!


**Downy Brome** spreads **FAST**. Every time you move equipment, vehicles, or even your boots from an infested area, you could be carrying seeds to a new location.

### Top Ways It Spreads:

- ▲ Dirty cultivation & mowing equipment
- ▲ Contaminated hay & feed
- ▲ Soil movement from construction or roadwork
- ▲ Unclean vehicles & boots

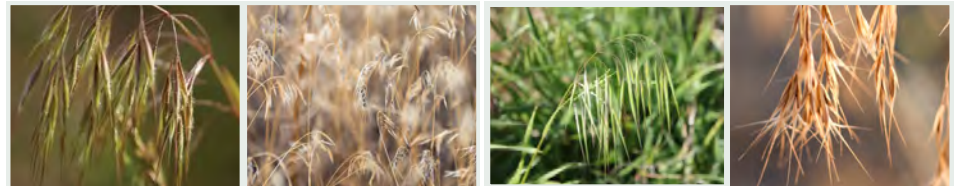
### Prevention Tips:

- ✓ Always clean equipment before moving to a new field
- ✓ Inspect hay before bringing it onto your property
- ✓ Control patches before they go to seed

 Stopping Downy Brome starts with **YOU!** Take action today to protect your land and keep this invasive species under control.

### Get Help Managing Downy Brome

The County's Agricultural Service Board is here to help in identification and prevention. Let's work together to keep our lands healthy! Call 403-362-3266 for expert advice on tackling Downy Brome > <https://countyofnewell.ab.ca/weed-control>



**SECURE** a 2.5%  on the **municipal portion** of your taxes if paid on or before

**DISCOUNT**

**4:30 PM**



Sign into Virtual County Hall and pay today. What is Virtual County Hall?

SCAN THE CODE →



The **BlueBook**



for pre-order



or go to [albertabluebook.com](http://albertabluebook.com)

## Alberta's Crop Protection Guide

Valuable crop protection information for Alberta farmers and agronomists.



## AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY FIRE BYLAW

## WHAT CAN & CANNOT BE BURNED

The **County of Newell Council** is considering amendments to the County's **Fire Bylaw** which has received First Reading. Public input is requested before it's given additional consideration by Council.

### AMENDMENTS INCLUDE



#### BURN BARRELS:

- Use of Burn Barrels in County Hamlets is specifically **PROHIBITED**
- Updated standards for the use of Burn Barrels in rural areas outside of Hamlets have been incorporated into **Schedule 'C'**, attached to the Bylaw
- **No longer required** to obtain or renew two-year incinerator permits



#### FIREWORKS:

- Use of Fireworks in County Hamlets is specifically **PROHIBITED**
- A permit will be **REQUIRED** for the use of fireworks in all other areas of the County
- Limitations and preplanning requirements for the use of permitted fireworks outside of Hamlets have been incorporated into **Schedule 'C'**, attached to the Bylaw



#### PLANNING AND PREPARATIONS REQUIRED PRIOR TO CONTROLLED BURNS:

- Specific standards and conditions that apply to various types of controlled burn fires are outlined in **Schedule 'C'**, attached to the Bylaw



You can find the **Bylaw** and its attachments for review by going to **12.4 on the March 6 Council agenda** found here > <https://bit.ly/newell-fire-bylaw>



✉ **Email:** [fergusona@newellmail.ca](mailto:fergusona@newellmail.ca)

✉ **Mail or drop-off:**  
**County Administration Office**  
183037 Rge. Rd 145  
Brooks, AB  
T1R 1B2

OR SCAN THE CODE for the online form →



#### APPROVED DEBRIS:

- Straw & stubble
- Grass & weeds
- Dead & dried leaves and tree pruning's
- Brush & fallen trees on newly cleared land or associated logging operations
- Used power & telephone poles that do not contain preservatives
- Wood material from the constructions or demolition of building which does not contain wood preservatives
- Household waste materials (excluding PROHIBITED DEBRIS)



**PROHIBITED DEBRIS** means any material that, when burned, will result in the release to the atmosphere of dense smoke, offensive odours or toxic air contaminants in accordance with Federal or Provincial Legislation, statutes and Municipal Bylaws written to protect and enhance the environment, and shall include but is not limited to materials described as:

- preserved wood
- material from automobile bodies and tires
- rubber
- plastic (i.e. ABS, PVC piping)
- used oil and other petroleum-based products (i.e., Styrofoam)
- manure
- pathological waste
- asphalt shingles
- any other materials described as prohibited from burning or incineration under any Legislation, act or regulation, including the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, RSA 2000, c. E-12 and amendments thereto

**DEADLINE**



12:00 PM (NOON)

With the introduction of Prohibited Debris, penalties have been introduced for its unauthorized burning.



Fishing friends Cole Altwasser and Micah Fontaine caught six pike in a few hours while ice fishing on Lake Stafford last week. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

**CLARIFICATION**

A story on the front page of last week's Bulletin may have given readers the impression that the termination of the deputy CAO after 17 years of service and the investigation of several complaints of harassment at the city were connected. These were two separate issues and the article could have been more specific in this regard. We regret any confusion this may have caused.--editor

# Brooks Asphalt wins tender to improve city

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The city has awarded Brooks Asphalt the 2025 street improvement project with one area removed from the original list due to the cost and scope of work. Last week council approved Brooks Asphalt's low bid of just over \$1.090 million. Two bids were received for the project, however, the city did not publicize the second company nor the bid. The local company will focus on overlay

replacement with road base and concrete work where required on 1st Avenue from 3rd Street East to 7th Street East, 4th Street West from 2nd Avenue to 3rd Ave, 4th Street W from Cassils Road to 3rd Avenue and Young Road from Veiner. The original plan included 4th Avenue from 3rd Street to 10 Street, however, the estimates had the portion of the project pegged at over \$611,000. Before the city does begin work in the area they also want to

check the underground infrastructure. "It was quite an extensive project," Bryce Mackan, the city's engineering manager told council. "Upon some initial investigation there was quite an extensive amount of sidewalk and concrete work that needed to be done." He said the city also wants to investigate the water and sewer lines to determine their condition before an overlay is applied.

## LETTERS

### Shop local if you can afford it

Editor, The Bulletin;  
As a small business owner, both myself and my partner do our utmost to support others in our community. Unfortunately, our resolve was recently severely strained by a particular business. I had lost the ignition

key for my vehicle so I went to the local dealer for a replacement. It turned out that an appointment was necessary since it would take an hour to program a new key. That was fine with me, unfortunately, while the service was good the cost

was quite questionable. I have since contacted others dealers for price quotes: Medicine Hat, \$135; Taber, \$160; Brooks \$280. As I said, shop local if you can afford to. INGE HOEKSTRA, Brooks, AB



Brooks.ca | 403-362-3333 |

### What's Happening

**Sign Up For Utility E-Billing**

1. Go to ico.brooks.ca:9191.
2. Click "Link and Register" > "Show Me How" > Select "Utility Billing".
3. Add your accounts. All you need is your Account Number and Access Code! Both can be found on your utility invoice.
4. Select "Please notify me by email" and enter your email address.
5. You're all set! After completing the process, you're ready to start receiving your utility bill by email!

If you have questions, please call 403-362-3333 or email utilities@brooks.ca.

**Sign Up for Pre-Authorized Utility Payment**

Tired of worrying about late utility bills? Sign up for pre-authorized payment! With pre-authorized payment, your utility bills will be automatically deducted from your bank account. No more late fees or missed payments!

**Benefits:**

- Convenience: No more writing cheques or remembering due dates.
- Peace of mind: Avoid late fees and potential service interruptions.
- Time-saving: Spend less time on bill payments.

Sign up today and experience the ease of pre-authorized payments.

Visit [brooks.ca/432/Utility-Accounts-Billing](https://brooks.ca/432/Utility-Accounts-Billing) to get started!

### Current Job Opportunities

Looking for a rewarding career? Check out the latest job opportunities with the City of Brooks!

- Human Resources Advisor
- Economic Development - Summer Student
- Safety Officer
- Temporary Utility Operator
- Recreation Casual Labourer
- Recreation Casual Operator
- Recreation Operator I, II or III
- Water & Wastewater Operator
- Water and Wastewater Technician Co-op Practicum

Apply today: [Brooks.ca/313/Careers](https://brooks.ca/313/Careers)

**We're Hiring Parks Summer Staff!**

Looking for a great summer job? The City of Brooks is hiring Summer Parks Students to help maintain parks and green spaces in the community!

- Work outdoors all summer
- Be part of a great team

Apply today! Send your resume or request full job details by emailing [mstewart@brooks.ca](mailto:mstewart@brooks.ca).

Don't miss this opportunity—apply now!

### Public Notices

**Next Council Meeting**

- Monday, March 17 at 4:30 PM
- Brooks City Hall - Council Chambers (201 1 Ave W)
- Open to the public
- Streaming live on the City of Brooks Facebook and YouTube
- The agenda will be available on the Friday before the meeting at [Brooks.ca/agendacentre](https://brooks.ca/agendacentre)

**Next Council Committee Meeting**

- Tuesday, March 25 at 4:30 PM
- Brooks City Hall - Hayes Room (201 1 Ave W)
- Open to the public
- The agenda will be available on the Friday before the meeting at [Brooks.ca/agendacentre](https://brooks.ca/agendacentre)

**Join the EcoBrooks Committee!**

We're looking for one Citizen-at-Large, one Youth Member, and one Grasslands Public Schools representative to join our committee and help shape environmental initiatives in Brooks!

As a member, you'll be involved in:

- EcoBrooks Water Conservation Rebate Program
- Brooks Solar II Community Benefit Grant Program
- Community Events: Earth Day, Family Day, Farmers' Market & more!
- Initiatives: Edible Garden at Lake Stafford, Community Clean-Ups & Pollinator Week
- Workshops & exciting activities

If you're passionate about protecting and preserving the environment, this is your chance to make a difference!

Apply today! Contact Jenny Wallace at [jwallace@brooks.ca](mailto:jwallace@brooks.ca) for more info.



**Stay Connected with the City of Brooks!**  
Everything you need, all in one place! Stay up to date with city news, programs, services, and events.

# One Tree World

IRMA MERKL



ONE TREE - Well what a week we have had with the good weather and now on Sunday as I writing my news the wind has been howling all day. Hopefully it doesn't blow in some storm. This almost feels like Spring, but I think it's a ways off yet. Hopefully it doesn't do like last year, when it was quite nice in the winter months and then when it should have warmed up in May and June it was cold, especially at nights.

Karl and Linda Slomp returned on Thursday after spending a couple of weeks in Florida, touring around Orlando, Florida, then up the panhandle over to Mobile, Alabama. They toured a couple of Museums there-One of which was Africaville, which was about former slaves -and the other was about

how the Spaniards and the Native Tribes lived together and got along. They then went over to the east coast to Titusville, where they walked many miles on the beautiful white sandy beaches. They said very few people were around on the beaches, I guess it's too cool for the locals and the only ones in the water were Canadians, they stayed in that area a couple of nights before flying home out of Orlando with Direct flight to Calgary. They report having a good time. I'm glad you arrived home safely. You just happened to miss all the cold weather we had while you were away.

The Prairie Rose Hospice Palliative Care Society, the Newell Christian Community, and Newbrook Lodge are presenting the Spring Memorial Service "In Loving Memory" of the loss of your family and friend who passed away in the last half of 2024. This is a non-denominational service.

Everyone is welcome on THIS Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 2:00pm at Newbrook Lodge. 500 3rd St E, Brooks, Alberta.

Well the Brooks and District Social Club dance on last Saturday evening didn't have a very good turnout. What a disappointment for the members, as well as to the band "Sleepless Nights." Those that came out had fun and a great time to good music. Thanks to all that came we appreciated it very much. I guess a lot of young folks would rather stay home and play on their phones, it's sad. There's a difference in today's youth, from when we grew up, as then the whole family would go to the dances and everyone danced or learned to dance, young and old alike. One thing it is good exercise and can be lots of fun. So come on out you young folks and try it, you might like it. The next dance will be on Saturday, April 26th, with the band "Time

after Time" from Brooks. Come on out, let's see you all there having fun!! I went in to support the club, as I can't dance for the time being, but I enjoyed the music.

Birthday greetings this coming week go out to Victoria (Patterson) Weston of Calgary on Mar. 13th; to Brandon Kristianson on Mar.15th; to Kalem Schoneck on Mar. 16th: to Willy Dyck of Calgary and to Charlotte Noronha, both on Mar. 18th. We wish each of you a great day and a "Very Happy Birthday" to each of you and to everyone else that is celebrating a birthday this week. We wish everyone all the best in the years ahead.

There aren't any anniversaries again this week that I know of.

I didn't get much for news this week. If you have any news or announcements you'd like in my column, Please give me a call at 403-362-3023 or email me at the following -simerkl@eidnet.org by Sunday evening no later than 8pm. If I need more information I'll contact you. It would sure help a lot if folks would call me. So! Folks till next week.

I hope everyone will have a great week!

"The Lighter Side" Marriage is like a deck of cards; in the beginning, all you need are two hearts and a diamond. By the end, you'll wish you had a club and a spade.



DUCHESS - Old Man inter is trying to make a return while I write this. Whatever he throws at us, won't amount to much as the warmth of spring has begun. I had forgotten the daylight savings time this past weekend, but sure enough it happened, and life carried on.

Congrats to Brad Jacobs who took the Brier in curling this past weekend. The team fought hard and are now representing as Team Canada for the upcoming year.

Our community sends kind thoughts and warm condolences to the family of Warren Fukuda who recently passed on. There was a lovely service for friends and family to get together and reminisce.

Duchess School is offering archery to its students. This is such a great addition to the school. As well, junior and senior high badminton is getting under way.

Have a great week and please call me at 403 793 1630 or email me at louie63\_@hotmail.com.

Quote: "To live a life that most people don't, you must be willing to do what most people won't."

**lifetalk**  
COUNSELLING SERVICES

**Annual Meeting Notice**  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 7:00 pm  
Lifetalk Counselling Services Office  
Room 216, 327 - 3rd St. West  
Brooks, AB  
To RSVP call 403-362-2210 or email  
exec.director@lifetalkcounselling.ca

**AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
The BROOKS COMMUNITY ADULT LEARNING COUNCIL (BCALC)

**Thursday, March 27, 2025**  
**9:00 am**  
303 - 8th Street E., Brooks, AB.  
PUBLIC WELCOME  
Attend in person or by Zoom

To attend, email:  
**bcalc@brooksllearning.ca**  
A Zoom link will be forwarded the week of the meeting

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Take care of your neck and associated aches & pains.

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560 Aquaduct Drive, Brooks

**NEWELL CONCERT ASSOCIATION**

**Jeff Newman**

**WED., MARCH 19, 2025**  
**7:30 PM**

**Griffin Park Theatre**  
805 - 4th Ave. W.

Limited Rush Seats Available at the Door.  
Adults \$25.00  
Children 12 & Under \$10.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
JANET AT 403.363.5104



**Know a Volunteer Hero?**



**Now's your chance to nominate them for Alberta Volunteer Citizen of the Year!**



They could win one of three \$5,000 donations to their nonprofit of choice.

Submit by March 31, 2025 at [www.directenergy.ca/nominate](http://www.directenergy.ca/nominate) or scan the QR code!

No purchase necessary. Nominees must be over the age of eighteen (18), legal Canadian residents, and reside or work in Alberta. To nominate an individual or group of individuals, a nomination form must be completed. For complete details and eligibility, see the Official Rules and Regulations at [directenergy.ca/vcoy\\_rules](http://directenergy.ca/vcoy_rules) Information provided will be processed in accordance with our Privacy Policy. All provincial, local and municipal laws and regulations apply. Void where prohibited. ©2025 Direct Energy. All rights reserved.

**March Madness MEMBERSHIPS**

Get your membership in March and we will **eat the GST.**

**MEADOWS PAR 3 GOLF COURSE**  
Corner of Cassils Road and Hwy #36  
Ph. 403-362-6477

# More funding to defend province from mussel invasion

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN  
The provincial government will invest about \$18 million over five

years in defence against aquatic invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels. The funds would be

about \$18.1 million for operating over three years and \$2.1 million for capital funding over five years. Just ahead of the opening

of the inspection stations this month, Rebecca Schulz, minister of environment and protected areas, said that while the province is free of mussels there are increasing reports of them in provinces and states.

“These species can wreak havoc on waterways and ruin infrastructure, destroy habitats and cause hundreds of millions in damages,” she said.

The funds would see the expansion of inspection, detection and rapid response programs. The number of inspection stations will increase to 11, three K9 sniffer dogs and handlers will help

with inspections and the province will fund a dip tank decontamination pilot project as well as 14 mobile decontamination systems.

Watercraft are backed into a dip tank filled with water at such a temperature that mussels are killed.

“Our province is doing more to fight these invasive species than anywhere else in Canada. These additional inspection stations and K-9 inspection dogs will help us step up protections across Alberta, and we will be announcing even more right before boating season,” said Schulz.

As of Oct. 31, 2024, there were 13,408 watercraft

inspections completed with 15 confirmed positive for invasive mussels. About 20 per cent of drivers transporting watercraft attempted to bypass watercraft inspection stations in Alberta in 2024.

As for water bombers, which land on Alberta’s lakes especially during fire season, the risk of an aquatic invasive species, like quagga and zebra mussels, being picked up in open water is low.

“Wildfire follows protocol to decontaminate equipment upon entering and exiting the province,” said Ryan Fournier, Schulz’s press secretary.



Hilo, a conservation sniffer dog who is part of the K9 team, helps protect the province from invasive species. | GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA PHOTO

## BJHS construction bid awarded

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN  
Brooks Junior High School will be constructed by Lear Construction Management Ltd.

The new school, which will be constructed on the current football field, will replace the current school that was built in 1953.

It will have an opening capacity of 720 students, with the ability to expand to 820 students to accommodate future growth.

The school will be designed with bright, open gathering areas, updated CTS labs and flexible learning spaces.

It is expected to be ready for the 2026-2027 school year.

Equipment is being moved to the site and it is

expected that the top soil will begin to be removed this week.

Rhian Schroeder, associate superintendent at Grasslands, said she

doesn’t believe there will be a ground breaking since the education minister and premier were in Brooks for the official announcement last year.

**Corben Tours**  
GROUP TOUR SPECIALISTS

**Explore Winnipeg Aug. 09 – 15**  
All Canadian, Grotto Gardens, Wpg. Tour, Forks, MB Museum, RC Mint, Grand Beach with Picnic, Leaf Conservatory, Assiniboine Park Zoo, Temple Gardens, Moose Jaw Tunnels

**Alaska – Yukon June 08-27, 2025**  
12 days Canada – 8 days Alaska

**Carolina’s – Nashville Sept. 06 – 26, 2025**  
Featuring Grand Ole Opry

**Branson & the Black Hills Oct. 18 – 29, 2025**  
7 Branson Shows

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[www.corbentours.ca](http://www.corbentours.ca)

09c

**ONLINE TIMED AUCTION**

REGISTER AT: [live.tdown.ca](http://live.tdown.ca) REGISTER AT: [live.tdown.ca](http://live.tdown.ca)

## MARCH OPEN CONSIGNMENT TIMED ONLINE AUCTION

**Bidding Begins:**  
Monday, March, 17, 2025 @ 8 am

**Bidding Ends: Lots begin to close @**  
Noon on Wed., March 19, 2025



**BOBCAT 3600 DIESEL SIDE BY SIDE**



**1990 SUZUKI 600, 4X4**



**KING CANADA 7500W, 110/200 GENERATOR**




**MILLER MILLERMATIC 140 WELDER**

**FOR INFO CALL ANNETT AUCTIONS 403-362-5252**

# ANNETT AUCTION SERVICES

Box 1952 - Brooks, AB. T1R 1C7 - License #331406  
ROSS W. ANNETT • OFFICE: 403-362-5252 • FAX: 403-362-5254 • CELLULAR: 403-793-4715  
[www.tdown.ca](http://www.tdown.ca) - Email: [ross@tdown.ca](mailto:ross@tdown.ca)

11c



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL AREAS LAND USE ORDER

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**A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025 BEGINNING AT 1:00 PM**

**PLACE: SPECIAL AREAS YOUNGSTOWN SERVICE CENTRE, MAIN BOARDROOM, 404-2ND AVE NE, YOUNGSTOWN, AB**

Pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*, the Special Areas Board intends to consider a proposed amendment to Land Use Order (MSD: 064/24) (LUO).

An application has been submitted to the Board that proposed to amend the LUO by introducing definitions, uses and regulations for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) within the Special Areas.

The proposed amendments aim to regulate future BESS developments, including a planned 10 MW Off-Site Battery Energy Storage System in Special Area No. 2, located southwest of Hanna and southeast of Delia (SW 18-30-16-W4M), which is currently under review by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC).

The proposed amendments include the following:

- Adding definitions for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), distinguishing between Off-Site BESS, On-Site BESS (Small) and On-Site BESS (Large)
- Updating relevant Land Use Districts for BESS developments, including discretionary and permitted uses
- Establishing specific regulations for Off-Site and On-Site BESS, including AUC approval requirements, setbacks, and Emergency Response Plans
- Adding On-Site BESS (Small) to the list of uses not requiring a development permit as required

All BESS projects 1 MW or greater require an application process and approval through the AUC.

Copies of the proposed amendments to the LUO are available at Special Areas district offices during regular business hours and online at [www.specialareas.ab.ca](http://www.specialareas.ab.ca).

Any person adversely or otherwise affected by this action, and wishing to address the Board relating to this matter, may attend the public hearing at 1:00 PM on March 25, 2025. Time limit of oral presentations is subject to the Chair’s discretion.

Written comments and suggestions are invited and should be addressed to “Proposed Amendment - Special Areas Board Land Use Order”. Submissions may be mailed to:

Maeghan Chostner, Communications Officer  
Special Areas Board  
Box 820, 212-2nd Ave. W.  
Hanna, AB T0J 1P0

Submissions may be emailed to: [public.input@specialareas.ab.ca](mailto:public.input@specialareas.ab.ca)

**Written submissions must be received by 4:30 pm on Thursday, March 20, 2025.** Written comments will be presented publicly to the Board at the above hearing date.

This notice is given pursuant to Sections 606 and 692 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

**Publication: March 10 & 17, 2025**

11-12c

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11,13,15c

# COMMENT

## Canada might just bloody Trump's nose before this trade war is over

JOHN IVISON  
NATIONAL POST

Buy Sprague Prince Edward County Baked Beans!  
Ontario-based Sprague Cannery posted an appeal to Canadians on social media on Tuesday, saying that tariffs will torpedo their soup and beans business in the U.S.

This is a fifth-generation Canadian company founded in 1925 to preserve locally grown vegetables in the Bay of Quinte region.

The response online from eager supporters was heartening. Canadian hearts are glowing again.

The natural reaction to Donald Trump's tariffs is fear and trepidation across Canada. But there is also courage and resolve.

This is not a country that is going to be bullied into submission.

By Tuesday afternoon, Trump was threatening to add reciprocal tariffs to the 25-per-cent already in place. Meanwhile, his commerce secretary, Howard Lutnick, was telling Fox News that the "very fair, very reasonable" American president is ready "to work something out" and meet Canada and Mexico "somewhere in the middle" on the tariffs he's imposed.

But this is not a reality TV show where you leave viewers in suspense with a cliffhanger that then resolves itself the next day.

This is real life, people's lives, and the great turning away from America will be irrevocable because Canadians no longer trust their former friends to the south.

Nobody can win a trade war and Trump has an escalatory advantage that could, if he is determined enough, collapse the Canadian economy and allow him to annex the country.

But Canadians have been shaken from their complacency. They are offended and angry in ways that have probably never been seen in peacetime.

They are united and determined not to be intimidated.

I don't recall Justin Trudeau saying anything as succinct and powerful as the opening sentences of his press conference on Tuesday.

"The U.S. launched a trade war against Canada, their closest partner and ally, their closest friend. At the same time, they're talking about working positively with Russia, appeasing Vladimir Putin, a lying, murdering dictator," he said.

The sense of betrayal on Tuesday was shocking, even though we knew it was coming.

It felt like war and Canadians are, by and large, ready to fight.

But are American voters ready for higher gas prices and job losses? Is corporate America going to be cowed while trillions of dollars of value are wiped away by constant chaos and destabilization?

It was once said by a former president of General Motors that what was good for his company was good for America and vice versa. Those days are gone: GM's stock has lost nearly seven per cent in the past month, as Trump has threatened and now imposed tariffs.

Trudeau was also correct to speak directly to Americans and point out that this "dumb" trade war is directly attributable to Trump's tax on everything.

The president will only reverse himself if the stench of a trade war sticks to him.

There is not a credible economist in the world who thinks tariffs on Canada and Mexico make sense.

The tariff revenue Trump hopes for will likely never materialize, as trade dwindles.

There are historians and geopolitical strategists who are rapidly losing their credibility but make the case that this is all about reviving America's manufacturing base to take on China.

On Sam Harris's Making Sense podcast, Sir Niall Ferguson suggested that Trump is taking a page from Richard Nixon's playbook: pursuing an ultra-realistic, ruthless foreign policy actuated by America's vulnerability.

Ferguson said Trump is inclined towards detente when it comes to relations with China and Russia, in order to reduce America's commitments.

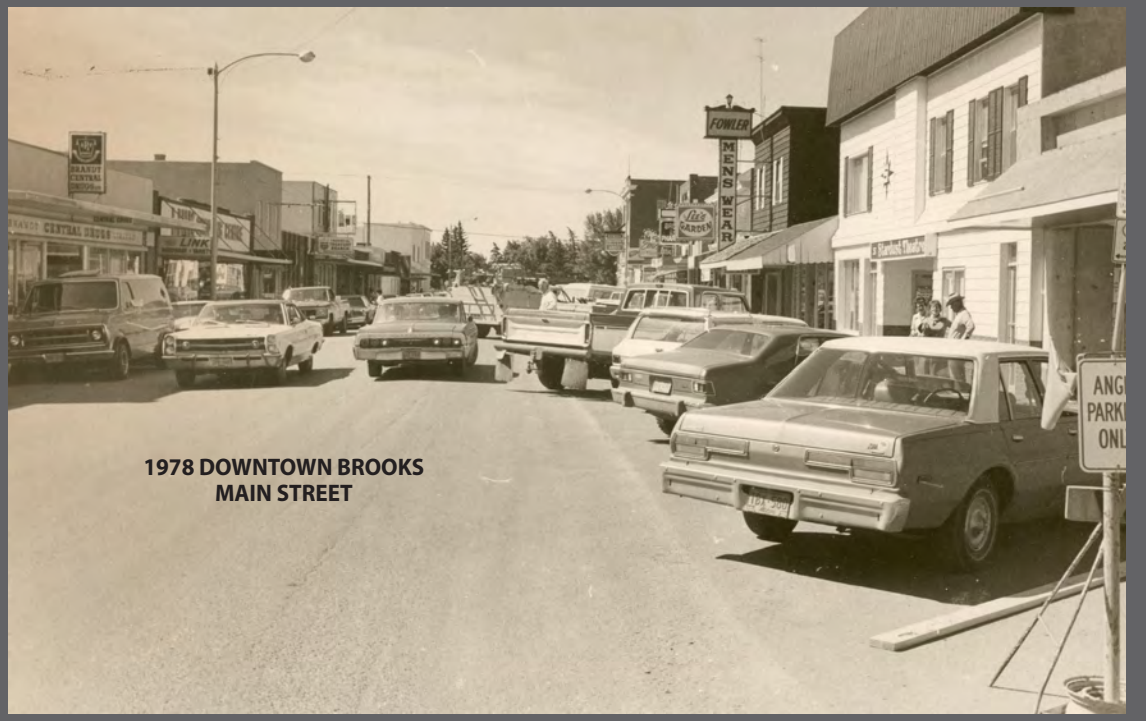
However, he projects American power by "talking a big game" and taking a very aggressive stance with minor and middle powers like Panama, Greenland and Canada.

Yet, as Harris responded quite correctly, that argument suggests the importance and value of allies has never been greater.

Trump wants Canada, just as he wants Greenland and the Panama Canal, but is he resolved to endure rising prices, job losses, tumbling stock markets and falling job approval ratings to get them? Probably not.

Elbows up, Canada. And buy Sprague Beans!

# TIME CAPSULE



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## Fortress North America?

COLUMNIST

GWYNNE DYER



"Today the United States launched a trade war against Canada, their closest partner and ally, their closest friend," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on 4 March. "At the same time, they're talking about working positively with Russia. Appeasing Vladimir Putin, a lying, murderous dictator."

"Make that make sense."

All right, let's try to make sense of it, starting with the obvious fact that the trade war cannot be about what Donald Trump says it's about: forcing Canada to stop a flood of the drug fentanyl that he claims is coming across the border into the United States.

Trump needed some legal excuse to declare an emergency and ignore American obligations under the US-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement, but less than one-thousandth of the fentanyl entering the United States comes in across the Canadian border. Trump abuses everybody, but the particular way he abuses Trudeau is a giveaway.

He habitually addresses Prime Minister Trudeau as 'Governor', the title given to the chief executive of one of America's fifty states – and he calls Canada 'the 51st state'. At first Canadians thought it was just another example of Trump's school-bully style banter, but

gradually they realised that there was something sinister behind it.

"This is not a joke any more," Canada's Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly said on Tuesday after Trump activated his threatened 25% tariff on Canadian exports to the US. She took his intention to annex Canada to the United States seriously, she said. She is quite right.

It's as bizarre as Britain annexing Ireland or Germany seizing Austria (both of which did happen in the Bad Old Days), but that's what the current US administration has in mind. For the moment, at least, it intends to do it non-violently, by crushing the Canadian economy in a trade war and picking up the pieces.

Justin Trudeau figured it out, and in his last week in office he felt free to say it out loud. He accused the US president of seeking to bring about "a total collapse of the Canadian economy. because that will make it easier to annex us. That is never going to happen. We will never be the 51st state."

Many people would say that Trump has whims, not actual plans, but some of the people around Trump certainly have plans that make an ugly kind of sense. It's the consolidation of the new American empire, in a world that suddenly starts to look like a cross between the late 19th century and Orwell's '1984'

There will be the spheres of influence of the three superpowers: Oceania (the Americas), run from Washington; Eurasia, run from

Moscow; and Eastasia, run from Beijing – all perpetually or at least periodically at war with one another. South Asia and Africa will be disputed colonies or borderlands, and that's where most of the wars are actually fought.

I'm not saying that this is the inevitable or even the likely future. However, it is where the behaviour of the three would-be hegemon, Trump, Putin and Xi, and their multifarious enablers, is leading us at the moment. (To be fair, Xi is less bellicose than the other two.)

Seen in this light, Trump's apparently random enthusiasms for taking over Canada, Greenland and Panama make a kind of sense. He just wants to nail down and fortify the (extended) boundaries of the Homeland. But wait a minute!

What about his plans to expel about two million Palestinians from Gaza and build Trumptown-on-the-Riviera on the ruins of their former homes? Maybe there is no grand plan at all – or at least none that makes sense to anybody beyond the 'base'?

There is certainly a domestic strategy for remaking the United States as an authoritarian 'illiberal' democracy on the Hungarian model. Trump is certainly okay with a 'Christian' republic as well. (Shades of Gilead.)

It's also enough to explain his attachment to Putin, even if the Russian dictator doesn't have anything on him. Birds of a feather, etc. But a coherent foreign strategy? Who knows?

I'm tired and my brain hurts. You have a go.



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# First five high school students have finished college program

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The first collegiate students from Grasslands School Division will graduate with a college certificate this spring.

"We'll be graduating our first five students this May. So those students will have a certificate in veterinary technical assistant from Olds College and they're not done high school," said Katie Graham, assistant superintendent at Grasslands.

With that certificate those high school students will be eligible to work in a vet's office or an animal shelter.

There are also two students who will be done their first year of health care aide and next year, while still in high school, they will be doing their college lab work with Medicine Hat College.

"This would be like going

to college to do trades while you're sitting in high school," Graham said.

The collegiate programs have become popular with about a dozen collegiates around the province and there are more to come.

Last year Alberta Education received over \$60 million for the development of new collegiates.

Grasslands, Lethbridge Polytechnic and Medicine Hat Public School Division hope to get some of those funds for Prairie Sky Collegiate.

The new collegiate would allow many high school students to access college classes in their own school, taught by journeyman and Red Seal staff in programs like plumbing/gasfitting, automotive service tech and heavy duty mechanic.

To help get students interested in the collegiate path Grasslands introduces broad opportunities that are related to the curriculum

like science, engineering, technology and agriculture, to students beginning in Grade 5. As they reach junior high the options become more narrowed with career and technology foundations.

"We want our kids to have that well-rounded focus on things outside the classroom. That real world connection," Graham said.

The idea of the collegiate is relatively new and continues to be developed but the goal, locally, is that all students will have a definite direction.

"I know for Grasslands, the dream Cam (Bernhard) and I both have is that every student in high school is on a clear cut, career pathway so we know where every kid is, where they're headed and that those pathways are flexible for teenagers. They can make decisions and that when they leave our high schools, they're leaving with confidence," said Graham.

# Breaking Limitations

DEVOTIONAL  
THOUGHT OF  
THE WEEK



**KOLA AYENI**  
**The Redeemed**  
**Christian Church of God,**  
**HOG Brooks**

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?" Jeremiah 32:27

It is interesting to note how a particular scripture passage, or a famous saying can make an entirely new meaning when pondering on it critically. Such is this passage in Jeremiah. It came alive in a new way and got me thinking about how many of us are operating under limitations when we claim to have an unlimited Father. Isn't this true for most of us?

Your ability to perform well will depend mainly on your power or resources. Every human being will be faced with the reality of insufficient resources in the face of

a pressing need at one point or the other. Hence, economists advise us to forgo specific alternatives and draw a scale of preference on our needs. Man's limitations have caused the introduction of certain words and phrases into our vocabulary, such as: impossible, cannot, too late, irreversible, etc. All these reflect our state of human limitation and incapacity. Even God recognizes man's limitations. Psalms 103:14 says, "For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust". It is therefore evident that if we are confined within our natural sphere, human beings remain seriously limited.

However, God is not limited since He owns the heavens and the earth and everything in them, and because He is all-powerful, He can do all things. Therefore, He does not accommodate limiting words in His vocabulary as men do. How, then, can we break the yoke of limitations in

our lives? It is by being connected to the only one who cannot be limited. When a such link is in place, whatever cannot limit God cannot limit you. Whatever cannot stop God, cannot stop you. This is because you have become a partaker of the divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4). But you must renew your mind to walk in this reality.

To this end, it is necessary to re-examine your vocabulary and delete all limiting words from it. You are what you think; your mindset determines your reality. Many people who had the potential to reach great heights in their lifetime were stopped by their belief systems and limited mindset. I admonish you to reorientate your mind and believe in the unlimited ability of God to grant you success in all your endeavours. Confess God's word over that impossible situation, and you will be amazed how that situation will conform to your confession.

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## Alberta food processing... not exactly locally owned



Ag  
Writer

WILL VERBOVEN

In previous columns, I commented on the notion that food products labelled Canada or with the Maple leaf may not be wholly Canadian. This was in response to the food patriotism frenzy that seems to be occupying much of the mindset of the Canadian public and media. In turn, that is the response to the impact of USA tariffs inflicted upon the Canadian economy by Trump. For most Canadians, such a visceral reaction is the only way to bite back at a situation we have little control over.

Recent anecdotal evidence shows that the "Buy Canadian" trend is having an impact – and that's a good thing for locally produced food products. But as admirable as that may be, in many cases, even

if the ingredients or produce are Canadian-grown, the folks processing the Canadian product in many cases are American-owned.

In an ironic way, in these situations, the US still wins even if the food product seems Canadian-made. It's all the result of many decades of consolidation and amalgamation of food processing in North America by companies expanding their businesses or creating better efficiencies. There is no problem with that as it keeps food products relatively inexpensive and widely available through economies of scale. That is until food patriotism enters the picture and food origin becomes the issue.

One notes that although food origin has become a mainstream media fascination, almost never is it mentioned that the processors, distributors, etc., are often not Canadian but American-owned. But it's not just American-

owned that is of interest; other large foreign entities are involved in food processing, often under different labels. It gets more interesting in Alberta, where we have not only foreign interests owning big chunks of our food processing industry but also large businesses from other provinces dominating the industry.

Most notably, businesses controlled by giant agriculture co-ops from Quebec. Many are financed by Quebec-based banks, insurance companies and Quebec pension funds. Alberta may pride itself on dominating the Canadian energy business, but Quebec is increasingly becoming a dominant player in food processing, particularly in the non-beef meat sector in Alberta.

Many citizens are aware that the two giant Alberta beef processors are foreign-owned, Cargill being American and JBS being Brazilian. But few would know that large companies,

conglomerates and co-ops from other provinces own other large sectors of Alberta food processing. For instance, Olymel, the largest pork processor in the province, is owned by the giant Quebec co-op – Sollio Cooperative Group. The Westfine Meats lamb plant in Innisfail, the largest processor of its kind in Canada, is owned by Preval Ag, a large meat processing conglomerate headquartered in Quebec. Agropur Co-op, a large dairy processor from Quebec, continues to expand in Alberta, buying up smaller processors. Sunrise Farms is a big player in the Alberta poultry business, but it's from BC, not Quebec.

The size of non-Alberta ownership of the meat, egg, and dairy processing industry is uncertain, as many of these out-of-province businesses operate under different names and labels, like in the yogurt business. I expect there are further business interlinks through partnerships and share-holding

relationships.

The ownership situation is diversified in the big Alberta potato business – global New Brunswick-owned processors, McCains and Cavendish Farms dominate the french fry business. However, the potato chip business is almost all-American, with Frito-Lay and Old Dutch controlling chip and snack-related processing under a plethora of different labels. In the scheme of it all, ownership isn't all that relevant in a North American free market. However, I suggest it might become more relevant as our national sovereignty and business relationship are being challenged by our largest trading partner.

The worst-case scenario is when US tariffs start to impact the efficiencies and profitability of American/foreign-owned food processing plants in Alberta. For many of these plants their production is integrated

with their other plants in the US. Political disruptions like tariffs could interfere with that integration and cause Canadian plants to decrease production or close.

What would help consumers in their quest for Canadian products would be a new label, something like "100% Canadian – In Every Way."

But that would probably muddy the Canadian label confusion even more. But how about a website with a formula that shows the percentage of Canadianess of a product that would include the source of ingredients and who owns the processing and distribution. Keen consumers could then compare how Canadian a product really is and buy accordingly.

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



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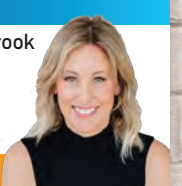


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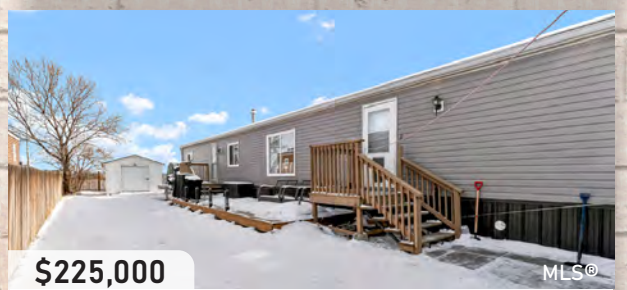
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# Councillors clash on whether or not Silver Sage is unique

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

A request to have a county councillor attend the Silver Sage Ag Society's annual general meeting and to be a member of the board turned into a heated discussion about elected officials being paid to attend their community ag society board meetings and the uniqueness of Silver Sage.

Councillor Lynette Kopp noted that there are many ag Societies in the county

and wondered if the county would send a member to every one.

"I don't know. They know that they are welcome to come and bring ideas or if they're looking for help to come and speak to us (council) at any time. I don't know that you need a rep there every meeting," she said.

But councillor Neil Johnson believes that Silver Sage Ag Society has been lobbying and they have big plans and they will be

doing some significant fundraising over the next few years including for the construction of a community hall.

"I feel that the Silver Sage is a little bit different than the other Ag societies because they really do encompass the whole county," he said.

Councillor Kelly Christman took offense to the comments stating that all Ag Societies in the county are active and councillors are involved without being

paid.

"I just I don't see it as being any different than any other Ag. Society in the County of Newell. We pay our membership at our Ag societies. We go there. We participate. We fundraise. We work (for) the greater

good of the community as volunteers so I question the reason for a member of council to be sent there as a paid delegate," she said.

"I didn't mean to offend anyone with anything I said. Actually, I did," said Johnson.

Reeve Arno Doerksen said the uniqueness of

Silver Sage is that the board is made up of members from throughout the region.

"Many of the other Ag Societies kind of act like community associations for certain activities."

Council decided not to send a member to the AGM.

## MPE wins Lake Stafford stormwater project bid

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The city awarded the design and construction contract for the Lake Stafford stormwater project to MPE Engineering.

Last summer the city received a provincial grant worth \$4.074 million to construct a storm main along 1st Street and 9th Avenue connecting to Stafford Lake, a new stormwater pond in Fairview Park, floating treatment wetlands to improve water quality in Stafford Lake and installation of a water quality monitoring system.

The city, which did not provide additional quotes to the public, noted that MPE's \$469,480 bid was

not the lowest but scored the highest.

When asked by councillor Ray Juska for the range of bids, Bryce Mackan, the city's engineering manager responded, "Although, I'm not going to share exact figures, I will say that three out of the four bids were within the range of the MPE bid. MPE was not the lowest bid. They were at least, technically, second lowest."

He said that one of the four bids was approximately double the price of the other three bids.

"Design and investigation will begin this year with construction next year," said Bryce Mackan,

the city's engineering manager.

He said in both the 2020 stormwater management plan and the 2019 raw water irrigation plan several vulnerabilities were identified in the current stormwater system.

In the irrigation water quality expansion plan at Lake Stafford that was completed by MPE in 2024, high amounts of e.coli and coliforms were found and a water quality monitoring program was recommended.

Although it was unconfirmed as of press time, it is believed that MPE will issue a construction tender for the project that has over \$4 million in grant funding.



### ALFALFA SEED COMMISSION OF ALBERTA

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**Andrea Sawatsky - Pesticide Handling**

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10-11c



**BOW SLOPE SHIPPING ASSOCIATION**

**MARCH**



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10	11	12	13	14 <b>Regular Sale 9:00 am</b>	15
1 <b>Fraser Total Performance - 2 Yr. Old Black Angus Hereford Sale 1:00 pm</b>	18 <b>Bulls Eye Select Angus Bull &amp; Heifer Sale 1:00 pm</b>	19 <b>Saddle Ridge Charolais Bull Sale 1:00 pm</b>	20	21 <b>Regular Sale 9:00 am</b>	22
24	25	26 <b>Count Ridge Bull Sale 1:00 pm</b>	27	28 <b>Regular Sale 9:00 am</b>	29

**APRIL**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3 <b>Acadia Ranching - 2 Yr. Black &amp; Charolais Bull Sale 2:00 pm</b>	4 <b>Regular Sale 9:00 am</b>	5
7 <b>Pre-book Yearling Sale 9:00 am</b>	8 <b>11th Annual Rebel Creek Red Angus Bull &amp; Heifer Sale 2:00 pm</b>	9 <b>Pre-book Yearling &amp; Replacement Heifer Sale 9:00 am</b>	10	11 <b>Regular Sale 9:00 am</b>	12
14	15	16 <b>66 Ranch 2 Yr. &amp; Yearling Black Angus Bull Sale 1:30 pm</b>	17 <b>Regular Sale 9:00 am</b>	18 <b>EASTER CLOSED</b>	19
21	22	23	24	25 <b>Regular Sale 9:00 am</b>	26
28	29	30			

For a list of all upcoming sales & pictures visit our website [www.bowslope.com](http://www.bowslope.com)

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11c



# Bassano and area RCMP report

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

## Vehicle drives wrong way on highway

Bassano RCMP responded to a pair of calls for a vehicle that was travelling the wrong way on Highway 1.

On Feb. 2 police located a silver pick-up that had been travelling east in the westbound lanes on Hwy. 1 near Range Road 183.

The Brooks driver was handed a violation ticket for driving the wrong direction on the highway.

Police said there were no signs of impairment; just poor driving and inexperience.

## Damage to loader in B&E

On Feb. 25 police responded for a break and enter and damage to a front-end loader that was in a gravel pit near Range Rd. 181 and Township Rd. 220.

Police found that the padlocks had been cut off the gate and the loader's

fuel door lock was broken and the radiator hose was cut.

The incident occurred sometime between Feb. 5 and 20.

Surveillance cameras did not catch a suspect and there was no evidence.

## Failure to comply

On Feb. 12 a warrant was issued for a 58-year-old Bassano resident for failing to comply with an undertaking by missing a court date which stemmed from an Oct. 11 incident at a hotel.

The man was arrested on Feb. 20 and later released for a new court appearance on April 4.

## Neighbour dispute

On Feb. 21 and Feb. 26 RCMP responded to an ongoing feud between neighbours involving a previously purchased vehicle between the two parties.

The dispute escalated to the point where threats were uttered.

A 62-year-old Bassano man was arrested and charged with one count of uttering threats. He was

released on an undertaking with conditions and is to attend court on April 9.

## Spring is near, review your home security system

Now that spring is in the air, Bassano RCMP is reminding residents that it's a good time to review your home security and overall awareness.

Residents should check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are functioning properly and replace the batteries if needed.

Drivers should be extra cautious on the roads as the changing daylight hours can make it more difficult to see pedestrians and cyclists, especially in the early morning and late afternoon. Pedestrians should ensure they are visible to traffic.

The warmer temperatures mean that more people are out and about so lock doors and secure outbuildings before leaving your home. As well, ensure that your vehicle is locked and no items are visible inside.

# Rainier Record

COLLEEN VAN DEN HOEK



**RAINIER** - Happy Birthday wishes to Tammy Hamilton & Tony Bellward on March 13, Willhem Friesen on March 14, Ed & Colleen Piper wedding anniversary & Logan Piper Birthday on March 15, Charlee Sandau on March 16, Deja on March 19.

Alcoma School News- Alcoma JH girls basketball team attended zones in Three Hills, having 2 competitive games placing 4th. This wrapped up the 2025 basketball season. The team and parents would like to thank Mason and Delaney Douglass, Vienna Dahl and Evangeline for all their hard work. JH boys basketball finished their season on Thursday with a wind up league at Alcoma. All teams played well. Thanks to everyone for coming out and supporting the team. Mini basketball begins this month for Alcoma students grade 3 to 6. There will be a mini tournament March 26th at Alcoma. Along with a cash concession. Junior High students have begun their badminton season.

Alcoma has started a school wide Jump Rope for heart fundraiser. Goal is \$1,000. Our kick-off assembly starts on Friday, Feb. 28th with our jumpathon on March 27th. That gives us 30 days to fundraise. Our goal is not necessarily monetary, but a sticky goal. For every ten dollars brought to the school or collected online, the students will get 1 foot of tape to tape a teacher to the wall. Students can put their money in the teacher's jar they wish to tape to the wall.

Our jumpathon will run as stations with a talent show/skill competition

afterward. All parents/siblings/community members are welcome to join on March 27th. This is where we will try to successfully tape the teacher to the wall as well.

Here is a link to donate: <https://jumpropeforheart.crowdfunder.ca/80376>

Alcoma Home and School Association will be doing the casino fundraiser at the Lethbridge Casino June 16 and 17 2025. Still looking to fill June 17th 8pm - 4am shift. People can contact the school to sign up 403-362-3741 or text Danielle 403-363-9938.

Alcoma School has an updated website with lots of easy accessible information. Please take a look. <https://alcoma.grasslands.ab.ca>

Alcoma Community Library will be open to the public during school hours and Thursday evenings 6:30pm to 8pm.

Newell Cattle Grazing AGM, March 13 at 7:30pm at the Rainier Hall. Any questions email or call Barb at 403 363 7457, benny@eidnet.org

Join us for an exciting evening of Bingo, Chicken Bingo (the chicken poop game), and more. At The Rainier Hall March 15th at 7pm.

There will be plenty of laughs, great company, and chances to win some prizes! The bar will be open, so you can enjoy your favorite drinks while you play, or just have a soft drink and visit! More details to come - we can't wait to see you there! Mark your calendars and bring your friends for a night of Irish luck and good times!

Rainier Hall community monthly meeting will be on March 18th at 7pm, all are

welcome.

Stay in the loop with the Rainier Community Facebook Page for more Alcoma & Community Events! Have an upcoming event in the County? We are happy to include it in our emails and promote it in our community! Send us an email @ [rainiercommunityclub@gmail.com](mailto:rainiercommunityclub@gmail.com) with your information.

I welcome any emails of information you would like included in this column.

Please contact Colleen by Sunday @ [colleenvandendoek@gmail.com](mailto:colleenvandendoek@gmail.com)

# Brooks man charged with kidnapping, sexual assault

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

A 39-year-old Brooks man was charged with kidnapping and sexual assault after a woman was held against her will.

In the early morning hours of March 2 in Medicine Hat a woman was approached by an unknown man who was later identified as Solomon Weldemichael, of Brooks, who offered her a ride home.

After repeatedly declining his advances, the

woman accepted the ride.

The allegations are that once she was inside the vehicle, Weldemichael made unwanted sexual advances toward her and instead of following the woman's directions, he drove onto the Trans-Canada Highway.

The woman made several attempts to convince him to stop, eventually trying to physically force him to let her out. The man ignored her pleas and continued driving on the highway before turning into a

residential area at a high rate of speed.

The victim was later picked up by family, who contacted police.

Acting staff sgt. Darren Lole of the Medicine Hat Police Service said Weldemichael was arrested and charged "within hours of the incident."

Weldemichael was held for a bail hearing and released with conditions. He is schedule to appear in Medicine Hat court on March 18th.

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# Duchess Ag Society to renovate Duchess Arena

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The Duchess Ag Society and the county have agreed to pay their share of the cost for a new ice plant at the Duchess Arena and it is expected that the Village of Duchess will review the request at their next meeting.

Last Thursday county council gave their approval to pay their portion of the \$1.3 million plant and agreed, if approved by the other groups, to lend the Ag Society the full amount needed to complete the entire Duchess Arena upgrade at the cost of about \$2 million.

Under the recreation agreement the three groups each contribute up

to \$60,000 annually which is a far cry from the amount required for the entire project.

Following her presentation of the upgrade project Vicki Alberts of the Duchess Ag Society, told council the society board will have to discuss the borrowing before anything else.

Should they be in agreement, the arena will have a full upgrade including additional seating, tables and chairs, a dryland area, relocation of the bar area upstairs to alleviate congestion to accommodate more people, improvements to the kitchen and lobby including new counters and floors, improvements to the wheelchair access,

purchase of an energy efficient Zamboni and expanding the parking lot with permission from Grasslands.

Over the next few weeks, if the Ag Society agrees, county administration will finalize the amount required for the project, write a borrowing bylaw and determine the repayment schedule.

However, the society would still like some time to seek grants instead of having to repay the debt.

"I don't feel comfortable taking on a huge amount of debt but if that is the only way I guess that's what we do. It's not my decision. We still have to take it back to our Ag Society," said Alberts.



'Donald Trump' couldn't buck Hayden Mulvey off at the Intermountain Icebreaker Rodeo held in Ogden, Utah this past weekend. Mulvey won the short-go with an 82.5 and placed second overall. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

# County to help with costs for chiller at Rolling Hills Arena

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The chiller associated with the Rolling Hills arena's ice plant is done.

"We cannot proceed any further with the chiller. The chiller's done. We've already spent almost as much money as it is to buy a new one today," Darcy Hemsing of the Rolling Hills Ag Society, told county council last week.

The organization has

started fundraising for the \$92,000 chiller and as of last week they have raised just over \$42,000 as well as in kind donations to remove and replace the chiller. Grants have included an application into Hockeyville.

Hemsing said the condenser has another couple of years of life but if it was done with the chiller, the project would be about \$236,000.

The arena hosts between eight and 10 tournaments

a year with teams from Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Fort McMurray and Saskatoon.

"They keep coming back. We want these people to keep coming," said Hemsing.

Council approved funding the Ag Society \$160,290 for the project under the Rec Facility Improvement Funding Policy.

# County bolsters restricted surplus accounts

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Last week county council approved the annual routine transfer of funds to its restricted surplus which was followed by a policy amendment permitting administration to transfer funds without waiting for approval.

"This change will expedite the process

for preparing financial statements on a timely basis for the year end audit," CAO Matt Fenske reported.


"Every year council approves the transfer," he said.

Last week council approved the transfer of \$11,470,396 including \$8,670,934 to the infrastructure fund, \$1,150 million to the future projects fund, \$499,362 to

stabilization fund, \$750,000 to the facilities fund and \$400,000 to the fire apparatus fund.

In her report to the county, Stephanie Hanson, controller, report that the funds are set up to be used for specific purpose and consist of cash and non-cash but doesn't represent 100 per cent liquid funds that could be used to support projects today.

10-11c



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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Pioneer Gas Co-op Limited (the Association) will hold their Annual Meeting of the Membership on

**Monday, March 17, 2025**

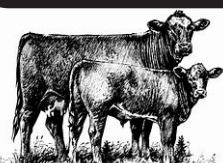
**Elk's Hall, Bassano, AB 7:00 p.m.**

- To present the annual reports of the Chair, on behalf of the Board
- To present the annual report of the Manager
- To present the Auditor's financial report of the Association for the year ended December 31, 2024.
- To appoint the auditor for the Association
- To (re)elect Directors of the Association:
  - one delegate from the franchise area of Bassano
  - one delegate from the franchise area of Rosemary
  - one delegate from the Hutterian Brethren Colonies
- To transact other business, if any, as may properly come before the meeting.

**There will be a roast beef dinner served at 6:00 p.m. (members and spouses only).**

**Members MUST register for dinner by March 10, 2025 by calling our office at 403-641-3632 or email at pioneer@eidnet.org**

**BROOKS BREEDER CO-OPERATIVE LTD.**

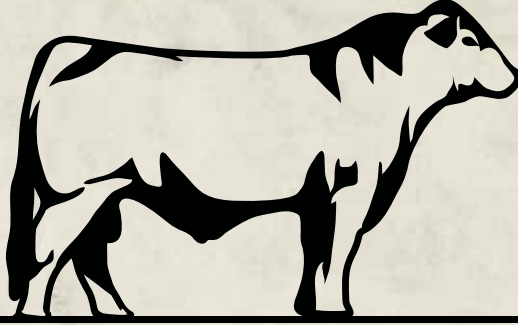


**AGM**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27th**  
LUNCH NOON | MEETING @ 1 PM

403 - 2nd Street West, Brooks  
RSVP 403-362-4955  
brksfdr@telus.net

11-12c




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# SADDLERIDGE

## CHAROLAIS

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# BULL SALE

WITH GUEST

## ROCKY CREEK CHAROLAIS

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025**

**BOW SLOPE SHIPPING • BROOKS, ALBERTA**

# 31 YEARLING CHAROLAIS BULLS

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Come and enjoy lunch on us followed by the sale at 1:00 P.M. MST

11c

# Brooks and area RCMP report

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

## Aggravated assault in industrial area

On March 4 at about 7:22 p.m. RCMP responded to a 911 call reporting a stabbing in the south industrial area. Officers arrived and located a male victim who was suffering from a stab wound to the chest.

The victim was transported to Brooks Health Centre and was later airlifted to Foothills Medical Centre in serious but non-life-threatening condition.

Police say the incident appears to have been isolated and there is no threat to the public as the preliminary information indicates that it was an altercation between individuals who are known to each other.

Sgt. Dave Searle of the Brooks detachment said the investigation is active.

"If charges are laid we will send an updated media release," he said.

## Travel trailer stolen from car dealer

A weekly inventory count led to the discovery that a travel trailer was stolen from the Honda Magic parking lot.

On Feb. 28 police were notified. They obtained statements and reviewed surveillance. The investigation is ongoing.

## In town crash

On Feb. 28 at 4:11 p.m. RCMP responded to a two-vehicle collision northbound on 2nd Street West at the Fairview Shopping Plaza where it was determined that a vehicle exiting the plaza collided with a northbound vehicle. While there were no injuries reported, both vehicles sustained significant damage.

The driver of the vehicle turning from the plaza was issued a ticket for entering the roadway unsafely.

## Shoe thrown at cop

On March 2 at 3:06 a.m. police received a 911 call from the Blue Nile and attended the scene. They spoke to a woman and asked her to identify herself when she started to yell and scream at them.

She was placed under arrest for obstruction and while she was being escorted to the police vehicle she resisted arrest and physically assaulted an officer.

During the altercation, another female threw a high-heeled shoe at the officers.

She was also placed under arrest.

Both women were issued tickets for public intoxication and warned about assaulting a police officer.

## Business B&E and an attempted theft

On March 6 Smith Trucking reported that a generator had been stolen from their gravel pit near Bow City and on the same day, an attempted theft was reported near Scandia.

At 11:13 a.m. RCMP responded to a break, enter and theft along Highway 36 just outside of Scandia.

Police reported that two suspects attempted to steal wire from the site.

When they were interrupted they fled in a grey Dodge half ton truck that had red tape obscuring the licence plate.

The suspects are described as Caucasian and wearing white masks. One of the suspects was wearing a black hat and a grey jacket.

Patrols were made for the vehicle but the investigation continues.

## Brooks man arrested on warrants

Yuol Bol of Brooks was arrested last week on 10 outstanding warrants.

On March 5 at about 6:50 p.m. police saw Bol in the Meadowbrook area but he attempted to run when he saw police.

He was caught and remanded to custody. He will face additional charges.

Bol had been on warrants for five counts of failing to comply with orders, three counts of possession of stolen property and one count each of a controlled substance and failing to attend court.

## Vehicle hit and run

A parked vehicle near 1st Street West and 4th Avenue was struck in a hit and run on March 5 at about 1:25 p.m. The driver of the suspect vehicle was identified. An investigation is ongoing and charges are anticipated.

## Residential B&E

On March 5 police responded to a break and enter on Charlesworth Crescent which is believed to have taken place between March 3 and March 5.

## Firearm, drugs seized from convicted killer

Three people were arrested after a handgun and drugs were seized during a traffic stop by ALERT in Brooks on Feb. 28 on information that drugs were being carried into Medicine Hat.

Abdullah Mela, 28, who was convicted in 2021 of a 2016 manslaughter and has a lifetime firearms prohibition, was located

with just over one kilogram of methamphetamine and a loaded Glock handgun.

He was remanded to custody until March 7. He has been charged with possession of drugs for the purpose of trafficking and multiple firearms-related offences.

Also charged with multiple drug-related offences were Omar Farhat, 50 and Bonnie Mather, 64, both of Medicine Hat.

In total, ALERT seized an estimated \$185,000 worth of drugs, including 1,015 grams of methamphetamine, 493 grams of cocaine, 330 grams of fentanyl, 884

hydromorphone pills along with the handgun and \$34,730 in cash.

The handgun has been submitted to ALERT's firearms lab to determine if it was used in any other criminal offences.

"There exists an inherent violence within the drug trade and taking a firearm out of the hands of a drug dealer is a win for public safety," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Thorburn, ALERT.

## Gift card scam

RCMP reminds businesses and employees to contact police if a customer appears to be anxious, in a rush and doesn't want



to answer questions while purchasing a large number of gift cards especially in high denominations.

The gift card scam sees fraudsters pressuring victims into purchasing the cards as a form of payment through emotional manipulation or threat.

Fraudsters will tell their victim they owe taxes or fines, make a promise of romance or there is an emergency and payment is to be done immediately with the purchase of gift cards.

Anyone who receives a call, email or text that they owe money and must pay with gift cards do not respond. Disconnect, call police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.

If you have any information on any of these crimes contact Brooks RCMP at 403-362-5535 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

Anyone with information is asked to call the Brooks RCMP complaint line at 403-362-5535.



A loaded Glock, cash and drugs were among the items seized by ALERT on March 5. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Catholic school gets planning funds

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The provincial government is providing funds to nine school projects including planning funds for Christ the Redeemer in Brooks.

The school will be built on the old rodeo grounds site. The city gave the school board the entire 24 acre property although the school will require much less space.

## CTS spaces at BCHS will be updated

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Grasslands Public Schools announced last week that Brooks Composite High School has received design funding for the modernization of its Career and Technology Studies (CTS) spaces.

This investment, which is part of 2025's provincial school infrastructure plan budget, will ensure students have access to state-of-the-

art facilities designed to prepare them for careers in trades, technology and skilled professions," states a press release.

"These improvements will provide students with industry-relevant learning environments that support trades and career pathways, ensuring they have access to the best possible opportunities for their future," said Pat Connor, school board chair.

# Charmark Ranches

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bull Sale







### March 25, 2025

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 <p><b>FLM MR CHARMARK 14L</b> KEYS ZANDER 15G X ANJOU PURE POWER 184Y February 11, 2023 • BW 102 lb</p>	 <p><b>FLM MR CHARMARK 13L</b> KEYS HOOPER 24H X FLM MR CHARMARK 4B February 8, 2023 • BW 100 lb</p>	 <p><b>FLM MR CHARMARK 223L</b> KEYS HOOPER 24H X FLM MR CHARMARK 1A April 26, 2023 • BW 101 lb</p>

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Jon: 306-807-8424



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## Cassils Clarion & Antelope Creek

JODI NIZNIK



CASSILS/ANTELOPE CREEK - Springtime in Alberta! Temperatures up and down, dressing in layers to shed and redress during the day, I've heard the geese, smelled the wet soil, slipped on the ice, slopped in the mud, and embraced the time change for more sunlight ahead. My favourite time of the year!!

The Cassils Community Hall Annual General Meeting is going to be held Sunday March 23rd at 7pm @ the hall. All area residents are encouraged to come out and get involved in what's happening in the area, set dates for events to come

in 2025 and engage in conversation on what is or could be happening here.

"If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." - African Proverb

Brad and Kristen Niznik just returned from an enjoyable trip to Australia. They had a busy vacation catching up with daughter Brooklyn, touring many sites, visiting family of Kristen's, revisiting tourist locations Kristen saw 30 years back, and enjoying a weather break! It wasn't topical but it wasn't home either!

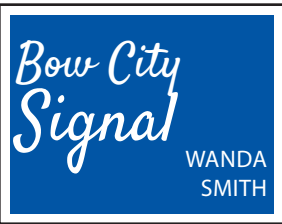
Bruce, Eva and I took

a little extended weekend trip out to Toronto this past one to visit Kate. She's busy focused on finishing her dental hygiene schooling and will wrap up this last semester in June.

There are a few area students who will be celebrating high school convocation this June as well. Brooks Composite High Grad ceremony is set for Saturday June 21st at the CRA @ 10am. Prom and Grand March at 5pm. An exciting time for graduates and their families too! It's truly hard for me to believe we are in the last few months of formal education days with our girls. Feels like just yesterday Mrs.T was stopping in the driveway to take the oldest to school! Next phase of life...

Congratulations to all the 4H public speakers who were competing at districts recently. We were sorry to miss as Eva had to choose between speaking and wrestling Rurals. It's always so impressive and inspiring to me to watch these young people challenge themselves, be bold & brave and put themselves in a place that many adults won't or can't. Best of luck to those moving forward to Regionals in Lethbridge.

Any one with news or information to share please contact Jodi at 403-501-1583. For hall rentals and inquiries please contact Heather at 403-793-3890. Have a great week!



BOW CITY - Boy that wind can fly away as it's been blowing for a couple days. Don't need all the moisture to dry up that fast.

Don't forget Bow City Community meeting March 16 at 5:00. In the hall. Everyone welcome.

This week's crazy ladies cards was won by the score keeper, Vickie and Helene. Mom and I need a turn soon. We do have a great afternoon.

Get a hold of me with some news to share. 403-363-7496. Have a great week.

## Man who left woman in ditch gets six years in prison

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

While the broken body of Crystal Bigstone lay in a ditch on the side of a road on Oct. 4, 2023, Kyle Potts attempted to burn the stolen vehicle and cover the evidence, Brooks justice Eric Brooks reiterated in Potts' sentencing last week.

The 39-year-old Potts was sentenced to six years in a federal prison which included five years for kidnapping, 18 months for assault with a weapon, one year for theft of a motor vehicle and 30 days each on his breaches. He will serve four years with two years pre-trial credit.

Justice Brooks said Potts kidnapped Bigstone while he assaulted her with a

chain. She was being driven at a high rate of speed towards a construction zone when she escaped from the stolen vehicle either by jumping or being pushed out. She was left in a ditch.

It was, "a very serious matter where the victim suffered serious and likely lifelong permanent injuries," said Brooks.

He said after Bigstone was out of the stolen vehicle Potts drove off to either hire someone to hide or burn the vehicle to cover evidence of the crime.

"The moral blameworthiness is very high. These offences and this offender are deserving of a lengthy term," he said.

During Potts' hearing last month the Crown read six victim impact statements.

"It's a miracle that she has pulled through this," her sister Jasmine wrote.

She said she sat with her hospitalized "battered and bruised" sister for two weeks not knowing if she would make it.

In Bigstone's statement she wrote that the incident has left her with some good days but also overwhelming and exhausting days. She has lost the hearing in one ear, she can't taste or smell food, she can't work and she has been unable to get government assistance, noting that she is an Aboriginal woman.

Potts is required to provide his DNA, was handed a lifetime firearms prohibition, and there was a forfeiture order for all items seized.



The A event winners at the Brooks Curling Club's mixed bonspiel are Justin Brkich, Cindy Brkich, Sally Struthers and Dave Struthers. | SUBMITTED PHOTO



The Norma Douglass Team, representing the Brooks Curling Club, attended the Alberta Club Championship Women's Qualifier at the Cochrane Curling Club over the weekend. They qualified out of the A event and advance to the provincials on April 2-6 in Okotoks. Shown, left to right, Kevin Leahy, umpire, Karen Morrison, Heather Wilson, Katie Crump and Norma Douglass. The men's club team of Albert Gerdung, Joel Falkenberg, Josh Steinbach and Jason Wilson competed at the men's qualifier in Calgary, however, they failed to advance to provincials. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

## EID members acclaimed

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Eastern Irrigation District directors have been acclaimed which means there will be no election.

David Peltzer will serve

his third term for Division 2 Rosemary/Duchess and Tracy Hensing will serve his third term for Division 7 Rolling Hills.

Jeff Alberts will serve his first term for Division 4 Cassils/Brooks.

## Dave Bexte unofficially won Bow River nomination

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Unofficially, David Bexte won the Bow River riding's Conservative nomination race last week.

No official confirmation could be made by press time and calls to Bexte went unanswered.

Other contenders in the race were Graham Abela, JL DeCosta and Josh Senneker.

Ritesh Narayan did not run as he did not pass the vetting stage.

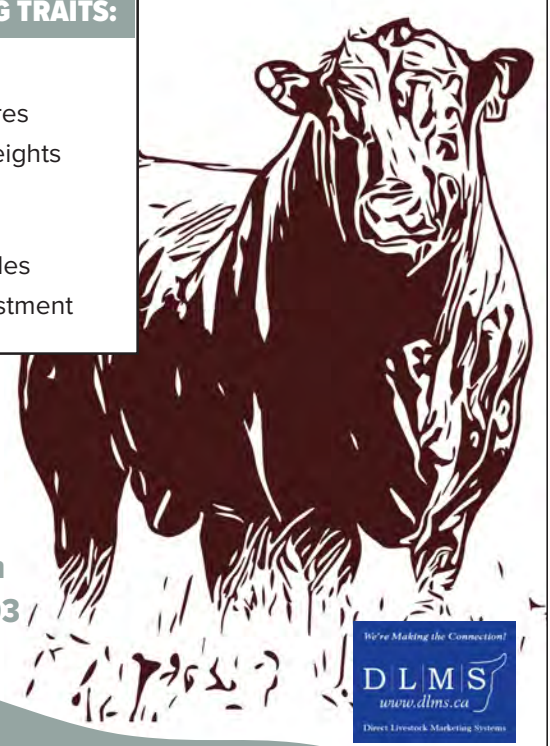
## 51st Annual Bull Sale



Wednesday 1PM  
MARCH 26, 2025  
BOW SLOPE SHIPPING

Featuring:  
50 TOP PERFORMING  
YEARLING BULLS AND  
SELECT FEMALES

- BRINGING THE FOLLOWING TRAITS:**
- ✓ EASE OF CALVING
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From Crooked Tree Ranch  
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Online: www.dlms.ca  
For Video/Catalogue countridgeredangus.ca or dlms.ca





Sponsored by the Southeastern Alberta Purebred Beef Breeders Association

# 67th Annual Medicine Hat

## SPRING BULL SHOW SALE

Show: March 18, 5:00 p.m. Sale: March 19, 1:00 p.m.  
Cypress Centre, Medicine Hat Exhibition Grounds

For more information or a catalogue, please call:  
President: MERLE WYATT (403) 485-8289 Secretary: MANDY HYLAND (403) 580-9846  
PO Box 23107, Medicine Hat Mall, Medicine Hat, AB T1B 4C7

HEREFORDS START THE SALE **BID ONLINE AT WWW.DLMS.CA**

# Police youth academy grad is now an RCMP constable

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

When Trystin Onda was in Grade 8 she had a pretty good idea that she wanted to be a member of the RCMP.

Last month the 20-year-old graduated from RCMP Depot in Regina, Saskatchewan and she is at her first detachment in B.C.

"I started looking into it and I like a lot of what they stood for," said Const. Onda, who graduated from Brooks Composite High in 2024.

As a youth Onda's serious interest in policing led her to volunteer with local RCMP members including Cpl. Sharon McCready and Sgt. Josh Argue.

In 2022 she graduated from the first Brooks Youth Academy, which can be likened to a mini-Depot with drills, training, fitness, forensics as well as presentations from major crimes officials.

Onda said she learned a lot at the youth camp and found it all similar to Depot.

"At Depot and youth camp you either win as a team or you fail as a team," she said.

"The camp really opens your eyes up to what Depot could give you and this what Depot is like," she said.

It solidified her dream and that led her to begin applying for the force in Grade 12.

In an unusual move the RCMP accepted her directly from high school.

"They're usually looking for life experience. I worked in a plumbing store and as a



Constable Trystin Onda of Brooks following last month's graduation from RCMP Depot. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

teacher's aide. Maybe that helped a little bit. Maybe being a young female helped a bit," she chuckled.

As an RCMP constable, Onda performs everyday policing duties with coaching and monitoring as part of her six month field coaching program.

She couldn't be happier.

"This is what you have to go through to get that career that is so rewarding and so awesome. You get to wake up and drive cars and help people every day. That's like dream job to me," she said.

Argue said, speaking on behalf of the Brooks RCMP detachment they are very excited and happy that Onda graduated and is now working.

"Trystin was very motivated and reached out every opportunity she could to volunteer with the Brooks Community Policing Unit and jumped at the chance to apply for the youth academy.

"From the very beginning you could tell she knew what she wanted to do and would work as hard as possible to get there," he said.

Argue said Onda is the perfect example of why the academy is hosted.

"It makes all the hard work worth it and motivates us to keep evolving the youth academy each year."

The fourth annual youth

camp was held last month.

Students are now in the program for five days, instead of three, and they earn high school credits if they graduate from the academy.

This year's program

involved 20 students from BCHS, St. Joe's, Bassano and Sunrise.

"Their dedication and engagement were truly commendable," states a press release.

## Former Brooks student is finalist for NHL's Most Valuable Teacher

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Former Brooks resident and hockey nut Lee Porath is a finalist in the NHL's Future Goals Most Valuable Teacher Program.

"I'm obsessed with the NHL and hockey," said Porath, who graduated from St. Joe's in 2002.

The high school teacher at École Secondaire Lacombe Composite High School was selected by a panel as one of 32 finalists (Winnipeg Jets is missing a nominee) for the competition is recognized as a teacher who incorporates hockey into education.

Each finalist has an NHL team banner based on the geographic area so Porath's banner is Edmonton Oilers.

"It's okay. My dad (Bill

Blackwell) raised me to be an Oilers fan," she said.

"I teach business studies and media studies. They're the main ones I incorporate hockey into so they just lend themselves to it," she said.

One of the most recent projects her students did was create small canvas bags for an U7 Ponoka tournament which held magnets with their name, number and teams and face tattoos.

The school also has a hockey academy so the students are learning to find a grant for a piece of equipment for the school.

She said when she got the call she was pretty shocked.

"I was kinda surprised. People don't think I'm cool. People think I'm just a lame teacher," she said.

To help Porath reach the next step to becoming a finalist, votes can be made daily until April 1 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time at nhl.com/mvt.

The top teacher, the one with the most votes, will be announced in May during teacher appreciation week with the winning teacher and their guest getting an invitation to the 2026 NHL All-Star Game.

The program recognizes teachers who use hockey to further educate their students in science, technology, engineering and math.

In addition to Porath reminding people daily to vote for her she said her mother (Betty Blackwell) is making it well known.

"She's my biggest champion," said Porath.

## Tilley Telegram

ANITA CHAPPELL



**TILLEY** - Bethany Lutheran Church offers regular worship services at 11:00 am each Sunday. All are welcome to attend! This year, Bethany will also celebrate 95 years of worship and praise in the Tilley community. Join us on Sunday, March 16 to mark the occasion.

The Tilley Community Centre will be working a Casino in Medicine Hat on September 24 and 25, 2025 and are looking for volunteers to help with all positions and shifts. Reimbursement for hotel and fuel costs is available. Improvements to the facility will be made with these funds. To volunteer, please contact Crystal French by phone or text at 403-793-3883.

Tilley & District Public Library hours are Mondays 9:00 am to 12:30

pm and 4:00 to 7:30 pm; Wednesdays 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and 4:00 to 7:30 pm; Saturdays 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Tilley Seniors Society luncheon is the last Thursday of each month at 12:00 pm for all members and invited guests.

Faith Lutheran Church in Rolling Hills will offer a worship service with Holy Communion on Sunday, March 16 at 10:00 am with Reverend John Theiss. All are welcome.

Prairie Rose Hospice Palliative Care Society, the Newell Christian Community, and Newbrook Lodge are presenting the Spring Memorial Service "In Loving Memory" on the loss of your family member and/or friend(s) who passed away in 2024. This is a non-denominational service. Everyone is welcome on

March 16, 2025, at 2:00 pm, at Newbrook Lodge, 500 - 3rd Street East, Brooks, Alberta.

Paddy and Murphy are havin' a pint in the pub, when some scuba divers come on the TV. Paddy says, "Murphy, why is it them deep sea divers always sit on the side of the boat with them air tanks on their backs, and fall backwards out of the boat?" Murphy thinks for a minute then his eyes light up as he says, "That's easy. It's 'cos if they fell forwards, they'd still be in the boat!"

To submit news items, please email goombaw@eidnet.org or phone 377-2259. Please contact me by or before 8:00 pm on Sunday evenings to have your news included for the week. On long weekends, news is due Thursday morning before the holiday.

## Bassano Banner

BASSANO/GEM/ROSEMARY

TOM McPHAIL



**BASSANO** - Thirteen enthusiastic members of the Bassano Historical Society met on March 4 to continue development of the latest mural, this one to be on the southwest end of the Elks Hall, facing south. The picture, size and colours have been sent to the local artisan, Tyler Wardrop. The project completion date is sometime in June. In addition, five more benches will be placed around town this summer, complete with historical information.

There will be further announcements in coming weeks.

Prairie Rose Hospice Palliative Care Society and the Newell Christian Community invite you to a non-denominational memorial service in memory of the loss of your loved one(s) who passed away between July 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. The service will be held at Newbrook Lodge on March 16 at 2:00 pm. The service is open to the public.

The Bassano Mixed

Curling Bonspiel continues through to this weekend.

The Banner extends birthday greetings this week to Paige Chapman, Eleanor Gillespie, Wanda Lepp, Walter Nasse, Larry Jensen and Logan Rose. Stay tuned next week for two special wedding anniversaries.

It is never too late on the weekend to send some local news from the Banner district. If there is a long weekend and a holiday Monday, I have to submit my news by Thursday evening.



## Mallard Hens nesting tunnels installed

*Mallard Hens Nesting Tunnels sponsored by Brooks & District Fish and Game Association and installed in the County of Newell by the volunteers of the BDFGA*

**SUBMITTED**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The Brooks & District Fish and Game Association has sponsored 35 Mallard Hen Nesting Tunnels for 2023,2024, 2025 in which 10 new ones were in 2025. Volunteers have done maintenance on 24 tunnels in January and February of 2025 in which we recorded a 43% success rate of nesting. Using Delta Water Fowl best practices keeping mallard hens eggs out reach of predator's

Research shown that hens using mallard hens house are up to 12 times likely to hatch than nest on the ground in nearby grass.

We have some of these nesting tunnels in a few Conservation Sites and in the County of Newell. We have installed 2 at the Inter Lake Conservation Site which were installed in spring of 2024 in which one was used for nesting.

We have 5 at the Brooks Aqueduct Trout ponds Conservation Site 2 of are mallard hen nesting tunnels with one being used in 2024 and 3 wood duck boxes in which one was used in 2024. At the Vern Potiuk Memorial Conservation Site in which we have 6 in total 3 in 2024 in which two were used and 3 new ones added in 2025

The Sproule Conservation Site we installed 2 this year in 2025. We have 14 total

in the Bassano area with 2 new ones added in 2025.

We will be looking to adding to this # for 2026 if you have a good location or would like to involved in this project please let us know by emailing BDFGA at Membership.bfga@gmail.com

On behalf of the BDFGA we would like to thank all the volunteers that have commit their time and efforts to this great project.



# Classifieds

**Deadline for Classifieds word ads is Monday - 3 PM  
Call 403-362-5571**

## obituaries



**DOHERTY** – Guy William Doherty of Brooks, Alberta, passed away in Brooks on Wednesday, March 5th, 2025 at the age of 70 years. Guy was born in Vancouver, British Columbia on July 5th, 1954 to John and Doreen Doherty. He spent his youth in Vancouver, attending Gladstone Secondary High School and then moved to Brooks in 1980. Guy worked as a Journeyman Carpenter and then as a Journeyman Hairdresser, opening Headlines Hair Studio and then moving on to open Hair Tech, which he operated for over 30 years, until his retirement in 2021. He enjoyed rock music and worked at a record store in Vancouver in his youth and attended many concerts and shows in the Seattle and Vancouver area. Guy loved

restoring cars and built many project cars. He enjoyed building and creating things and spending times with his dogs. Guy's family and friends will fondly remember him for his kind heart, willingness to show up to help family and friends in need and his sense of humour, you would never know what he was going to say. He was predeceased by parents, Jack and Doreen Doherty, siblings Gary Doherty and Lyn Vanderlinde and nephew Dylan Denault. Guy is survived by his partner, Carol Jasman; sons, Jesse (Meghan) Doherty and Dallas (Chelsea) Doherty; stepdaughters, Angela and Kerrie; siblings, Zale Yardley, Shawn Doherty and Erin Denault; grandchildren, Tayin, Tye, Liam, Kaitlyn, Violet, Ethan, Declynn and Chloe; great granddaughter Florence and many nieces and nephews. A private family Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In memory of Guy, if friends desire, memorial tributes may be made directly to either Brooks Animal Protection Society, Box 36, Brooks, Alberta T1R 1B3 or Parkinsons Society, 1111 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T 2K 0L4.

Cremation entrusted to and conducted at Smith Funeral Home Ltd. and Crematorium, Brooks



Funeral arrangements entrusted to:  
**SMITH FUNERAL HOME LTD. AND  
CREMATORIUM  
BROOKS, ALBERTA**

Condolences may be forwarded through [www.sfh.ca](http://www.sfh.ca)  
Telephone 403-362-4636 or  
Toll Free (866) 362-4652

"Our Families Serving Your Family Since 1951"

## celebration of life

CELEBRATION OF LIFE:

*Rosemarie Anderson*

The family of Rose-Marie Anderson warmly invites you to join them in celebrating her remarkable life. We will gather at Nikko's Hall on Sat., March 15th, from 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM, to share memories, stories, and love for a woman who touched the lives of many. All who knew her are welcome.

10-11p

## crematorium

**SMITH FUNERAL HOME LTD. AND CREMATORIUM**

In November of 2015, Smith Funeral Home Ltd. purchased our own crematorium, conveniently located in the City of Brooks, alleviating the unnecessary need to transport your loved one out of the local area and allowing cremations to be conducted as soon as possible.

Our deep roots in the community are a source of pride, as we grow side by side with the families we serve. We hope you will consider us your source for compassionate care and exemplary service. Our pledge is to help you honor your loved one in a meaningful way, offering thoughtful guidance and personal attention to every detail.

**SMITH FUNERAL HOME LTD. is now "LIVE STREAMING" funeral services with family approval.**

Ph: 403.362.4636

## cards of thanks

*Thank You!*

The family of R. Warren Fukuda expresses their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped us say farewell. The staff of the Peter Lougheed Center, the Brooks Hospital staff, Brooks Palliative Care, Prairie Rose Hospice Palliative Care Society, Brooks Home Care, Smith Funeral Home, Brooks Hotel Catering, the Patricia Community and dear friends, you all went 'above and beyond' to help us through this difficult time.

THANK YOU ALL!

## business announcements

**LONGHORN  
TINNING**

JACOB REIMER 403-957-1231

TINNING ROOFS ★ SIDING BUILDING CUSTOM SHEDS

## lost & found

**FOUND** - Pair of sunglasses found by Catholic School. Can claim at Brooks Bulletin. Must identify. 33-35p

## employment

**CITY TAXI**  
Hiring Full Time/  
Part Time  
**DRIVERS**

Please call Jay  
403-501-4395

04-09p

**click on**

[www.brooksbulletin.com](http://www.brooksbulletin.com)

## livestock

**WANTED:  
FARM  
LAND TO  
RENT.**

Contact Gerwin  
403-654-8140

10-13P

## business announcements

**PRAIRIE HAVEN  
CONSTRUCTION**

ROOFING AND EXTERIOR RENOS

**METAL ROOFING**  
Exterior Renovations • Siding/Facia/Soffit  
ALEX SCHMITT 403-363-8631

11p

## social announcements

**50 years**

March 22, 1975 - March 22, 2025

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
FIFTY YEARS OF MARRIAGE FOR  
*Ray & Dixie Torkelson*

BY YOUR PRESENCE AT AN ANNIVERSARY DROP-IN  
FROM 2:00-5:00 ON MARCH 22, 2025 AT  
THE TILLEY COMMUNITY CENTER  
Light refreshments will be served

If you plan to join us, please call or text.  
Stan at (403) 427 2030

If you cannot attend, a card may be sent to their address:  
RR1 Tilley Alberta T0J 3K0

## feed & seed

**HAY FOR SALE** - Round Bales mesh wrap - 1st cut Grass, 1st cut Alfalfa, or 2nd cut Alfalfa. No Rain, Semi-loads, loading available. Tom Adams 403-633-0445, Duchess, Alberta. 03-18p

**FOR  
SALE  
Wrapped  
wheat green  
feed bales.**

CALL  
403-793-1508

10-12P

## coming events

**ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS  
MEETINGS**

Mon & Sat  
8:00 pm Brooks United Church, 507 - 3rd Ave. W., Brooks

Tues. & Thurs.  
8:00 pm Trinity Lutheran Church

Wednesday  
8:00 pm Bassano Health Centre  
608 - 5th Ave. Bassano

811 Cassils Rd. W., Brooks  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL  
403-793-4796

01-52p

## coming events

**BROOKS  
MOTOCROSS  
CLUB**

**AGM**  
March 21, 2025

7:00 pm  
at the Silver Sage Community Corral  
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Call 403-501-4895 for information.

11-12p

**BROOKS TOY LIBRARY  
ANNUAL MEETING**

Wed., March 19  
7:00 pm  
at Brooks Toy Library  
EVERYONE WELCOME!

11-12c

**CASSILS COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Sun., March 23  
7:00 pm  
at Cassils Hall

10-12P

**AGM NOTICE  
CHAMPION CENTRE  
March 20**  
at 7:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

09-11p

**DUCHESS GOLF CLUB**

**AGM**  
Wed., March 26  
7:00 pm  
at the CLUBHOUSE

11-12c

**CHAMPION CENTRE**

**AGM**  
Thurs., March 20  
7 pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church

11p

# Classifieds

**Deadline for Classifieds word ads is Monday - 3 PM**  
**Call 403-362-5571**

**Auctions**  
**MEIER GUN AUCTION**, Saturday, March 15 - 10am; Wetaskiwin - Selling over 200 Rifles, Shot Guns, Antique Firearms, Ammunition, Scopes. Consign Now. Free Pick Up. Call 780-440-1860 www.meierauction.com.

**GUNS WANTED: Firearms, Ammo, Entire Collections, Estates.** Next Auction March 22. Call 780-842-5666. Buy Outs considered: Will Pick Up. Scribner Auction, Wainwright, Alberta. Website: [www.scribner.net](http://www.scribner.net).  
**Coming Events**

**BLANKET THE PROVINCE** with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach 75 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903; [www.awna.com](http://www.awna.com); email [classifieds@awna.com](mailto:classifieds@awna.com).

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fer employment/licensing loss? Travel/business opportunities? Be embarrassed? Think: Criminal Pardon. US entry waiver. Record purge. File destruction. Free consultation. 1-800-347-2540. [www.accesslegalmf.com](http://www.accesslegalmf.com).

**PRIVATE MORTGAGE LENDER.** All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. Toll free 1-866-405-1228; [www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca](http://www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca).

## AWNA blanket ads

## employment

We are Hiring for the 2025 Golf Season



Positions Needed  
 Clubhouse Staff  
 Course Maintenance  
 Including Managers

Apply by Email to  
[Rhgold@telus.net](mailto:Rhgold@telus.net)  
 Deadline by March 15

11c

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**Services**  
**CRIMINAL RECORD?** Why suf-

## estate sale

### ESTATE SALE

239 - 2nd Street E, Brooks

Sat & Sun

March 15 & 16

10 am - 4 pm both days

Front door entrance  
 Furniture, household items  
 and lots more.  
 Everything Must Go!

11P

## employment

### Duchess Golf Course



**Now Hiring!**  
**INDOOR & OUTDOOR**  
 Indoor Must be 18+

PLEASE SPECIFY WHICH OF THE 2 POSITIONS YOU ARE APPLYING FOR

Email resume to:  
[duchessgolf@gmail.com](mailto:duchessgolf@gmail.com)

11-12c

# Business directory

To advertise your company call  
 403.362.5571

## AUTO WRECKERS

(403) 377-2484 Fax: (403) 377-2415  
 Toll Free: 1-888-377-2488

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05-52c

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- Free Consultations
- Sports Mouth Guards & Night Guards

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01-52p

## EVENT RENTALS

**BROOKS**  
 EVENT RENTALS

[WWW.BROOKSEVENTRENTALS.CA](http://WWW.BROOKSEVENTRENTALS.CA)

07-31p

## ACCOUNTING

**Bevan & Partners**  
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Bay 2, 320 - 8th Ave. W.  
 Brooks, Alberta

01-52c

**Ph: 403-362-3472**

**Murray & Associates**

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Diane Murray Don Murray

C212 - 3rd Ave. West  
 Box 759, Brooks, AB. T1R 1B7  
 Phone: 403-362-2285

03-52-10

**Brooks Denture Clinic Ltd.**  
 Alan Treiber, DD

Complete Dentures - Partial Dentures  
 Relines & Repairs

(403) 362-5803  
 103, 428 - 2nd Street West  
 Brooks, Alberta T1R 0E9

01-52p

## GOVERNMENT

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 MP | BOW RIVER

Toll free: 1-844-241-0020

Email: [martin.shields@parl.gc.ca](mailto:martin.shields@parl.gc.ca)

Website: [www.martinshieldsbowriver.ca](http://www.martinshieldsbowriver.ca)

40-52c

## EYECARE

**FOR SIGHT**  
 VISION CENTRE

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 Brooks, AB.

403-362-5063  
[www.forsightbrooks.ca](http://www.forsightbrooks.ca)

Dr. Dallas Wagner, OD  
 Dr. Darren Wagner, OD

01-52c

**LIBERTY TAX SERVICE**

**TAX**  
 Preparation

Address: 215 - 3rd St. W. • Brooks, AB. T1R 0N8  
 Phone: 403-793-2674 • Fax: 403-793-2884

01-52p

**click on**  
[www.brooksbulletin.com](http://www.brooksbulletin.com)