

AJHL Defensive Player of the Week

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INAUGURAL EDITION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Member of Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association

Grande Prairie Press

Grande Prairie's Independent Local News

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Fire-ravaged building demolished, rubble remains

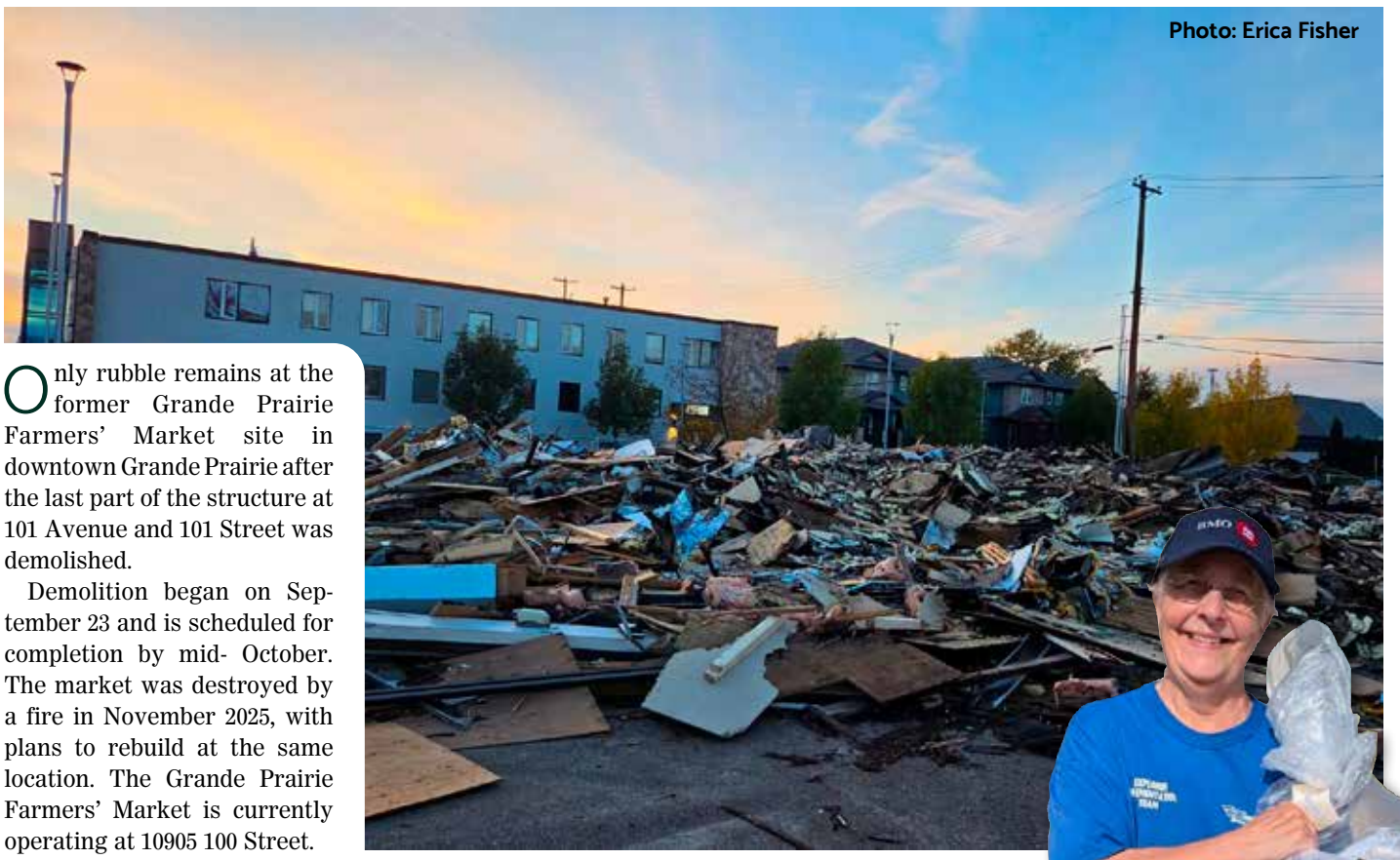


Photo: Erica Fisher

Only rubble remains at the former Grande Prairie Farmers' Market site in downtown Grande Prairie after the last part of the structure at 101 Avenue and 101 Street was demolished.

Demolition began on September 23 and is scheduled for completion by mid- October. The market was destroyed by a fire in November 2025, with plans to rebuild at the same location. The Grande Prairie Farmers' Market is currently operating at 10905 100 Street.

Chairs tell stories at annual Grande Prairie fundraiser



Guests enjoyed an evening of food, conversation and storytelling around their tables during the 16th annual Chair Extraordinaire at the TARA Centre at Evergreen Park on September 26. The event brought the community together in support of the Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention. **Anjenette Timblique photo**



By Haylee Winger

Handcrafted chairs took centre stage at this year's Chair Extraordinaire, with community members, families, local businesses and artists creating pieces that represented stories of resilience, remembrance, hope and transformation.

The Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention's 16th annual Chair Extraordinaire was held September 26 at the TARA Centre Evergreen Park.

The custom-designed chairs served as visual vessels for the stories they represented and as conversation starters for those attending the event.

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Photo: Tiny Hands of Hope

The Grande Prairie Stitch Club handmade angel pockets for the maternity ward, where they will be given to families experiencing pregnancy or infant loss. The thoughtful gifts were made by club members as a small way to offer comfort and support during a difficult time.

County provides information on approved Data Centre Development Permit

County of Grande Prairie release

There are questions and concerns in the community regarding the recently approved development permit for a proposed data centre. The County recognizes the significant public interest in this project and understands that residents want more information about the approval and what it means.

The permit was approved in accordance with the existing Land Use Bylaw (LUB), adopted in 2003. While the requirements of the Bylaw process were met, we recognize that this application has prompted important discussions about transparency, public input and how projects of this type are considered under the current process.

The County is committed to providing information about the development process, the decision made and any future regulatory steps. The latest information is available at www.countygp.

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Photos: Anjenette Timblique

Grande Prairie Friendship Centre hosts 5 KM Orange Shirt Day Walk/Run at Muskoseepi Park

By Anjenette Timblique

Community members gathered at Muskoseepi Park on September 30 for the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre's annual 5 KM Orange Shirt Day Walk/Run. The event marked National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, bringing people together to stand in solidarity, support reconciliation and affirm that every child mattered. Registration began at 4 p.m., with the walk/run getting underway at 5 p.m. The first 100 registered participants received participation medals, with registration costing $10.

Rotary Club host event at Sandman Hotel celebrating Indian culture and community support

By Anjenette Timblique

The Rotary Club of Grande Prairie After Five gathered members and guests at the Sandman Hotel Grande Prairie for a special evening featuring authentic Indian cuisine, project presentations, and cultural celebration.

The event highlighted ongoing Rotary-supported educational developments in Takarla, Punjab, India. Attendees enjoyed Indian dishes, custom Taj Mahal themed treats, and a ceremony recognizing Rotarian Donna Koch Lehners for her dedicated international service.

The project provides menstrual hygiene products, education, and improved school facilities to students at Govt. Smart Schools in Takarla, Punjab. Rotarian Donna Koch Lehners was recognized at the event by the Khwahish Sewa Society and local school leaders for her leadership in delivering these vital resources that allow young women to stay in class with dignity.





Photos: Anjenette Timblique



Welcome to the Grande Prairie Press

Your community. Your stories. Your paper

A community paper for the people of Grande Prairie

Hello, Grande Prairie!

Welcome to the very first edition of the Grande Prairie Press. I'm Valerie Winger, and I've owned and published newspapers for over 15 years. Along the way I've seen how much a community paper can mean to a place: the local stories, the neighbours you recognize, and the businesses that keep a town moving. I felt Grande Prairie could use one more paper that is focused on community, and so here we are.

A new paper, and a work in progress

This is our first edition, and I'll be honest: we're just getting started. We want to grow, improve and learn as we go, and we'd love for you to help shape what this paper becomes. What would you like to see more of? What would make it more useful to you? Every edition will be a little better because of your ideas.

How it works

For now, we're publishing every second week, in print and online. We hope to grow into a weekly paper, but we're taking it one step at a time and seeing how the community responds.

Print copies are mailed through Canada Post to select mailboxes, and each edition alternates routes. That means not every household will receive a printed copy every time.

Never miss an issue

If the paper doesn't show up in your mailbox, you can still read every edition digitally. Sign up for our free e-edition in any of these ways:

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- Scan the QR code on the front page of this paper
- Visit the website grandeprairiepress.ca.
- Please also like our Facebook page so you can follow along and see updates between editions.


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This is your paper

A community paper is only as good as the community behind it. I welcome your comments, suggestions, photos and story ideas. If something is happening in your neighbourhood, club, school, business or family that you think Grande Prairie should know about, please tell me. Send it to admin@grandeprairiepress.ca.

Supporting the paper

Advertising is what pays for the costs of producing this paper. If you own a business, run a service or have something to promote, I'd love to talk about how we can help you reach your neighbours. Every ad helps keep local news going. If you're a reader, please let our advertisers know you saw them in the Grande Prairie Press.

Thank you for picking up this first edition and for giving us a chance. I'm excited to get to know you, and I hope you'll enjoy reading as much as I'm enjoying putting it together.

Warmly,
Valerie Winger
Owner & Publisher,
Grande Prairie Press
admin@grandeprairiepress.ca



Grande Prairie rig welders push for higher rates amid rising costs



By Haylee Winger

Approximately 150 welding trucks took part in a Grande Prairie stand-down on October 1, according to Fort St. John, B.C.-based rig welder Vahid Aghdasi, as rig-welding businesses pushed for higher contract rates and changes to how some of their operating costs are covered. Aghdasi helped organize the stand-down in Fort St. John and said he also pushed to get organizers involved in Grande Prairie and other Alberta communities.

The effort began in northern British Columbia, where participating rig welders stood down on September 1 after seeking a new minimum contract rate of $150 per hour. The revised terms also included provisions for contractors to supply fuel for field and out-of-town work.

The B.C. welders said they were prepared to return to work once agreements reflecting the revised rate and conditions were in place. The same push then moved into Alberta, with Grande Prairie among the communities involved in the October 1 stand-down. The stand-down is part of what participants have called the "Welder Wobble," an effort by mobile rig welders to address rates they say have not kept pace with the cost of operating their businesses.

Aghdasi said rates have remained stagnant for more than two decades while the cost of operating a welding truck has continued to rise.

"What led us to wobble today was our rates staying stagnant for over 20 years, which makes operating a welding truck impossible," he said. "We also got tired of rate cuts, and with inflation being drastically high, it's not feasible to operate."

"The cost of welding equipment has doubled to tripled in the past 15 to 20 years. Our rates have stayed the same."

Aghdasi said the goal is to establish a $150-per-hour minimum rate across Alberta.

Alberta welders are also seeking changes to how supplies and other operating costs are covered.

"We are going to get full supply just like every contractor, which is going to be called welding supply now," Aghdasi said. "That means we are going to charge for everything that we burn, that we wreck and that we have to use to get the job done."

Aghdasi said some companies have been cooperative so far, while welders continue working to establish the new rates and terms across Alberta.

"We are going to get $150 an hour across all of Alberta as a base minimum," he said.



Photo: Heather King

Continued from **Page 1**

ab.ca/datacentres and will be updated as new information becomes available. The County is committed to responsible economic development and investment while ensuring development happens in appropriate locations. Both the benefits and potential impacts of development must be carefully considered and residents' perspectives should help inform decisions that shape the future of the County.

Council will review the process that led to this development permit, as well as the current Land Use Bylaw as it relates to data centres. Public input will play an important role in strengthening future planning and development processes.

In the interim, any new development permit applications for data processing establishments or data centres will be referred to the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) for review and circulated to surrounding residents for input.

In 2025, the County received a development permit application for three pieces of land in the Emerson Trail Area Structure Plan (ASP), adopted in 2009. The ASP was developed through technical studies and public consultation and identified the area for industrial development. The three properties were later rezoned to an industrial district through a separate process that also included public consultation. As a result, the land was rezoned to industrial.

Following the rezoning approval, a development permit for a 'data processing establishment' was issued by County staff on September 4, 2026. The County's Land use Bylaw (LUB) has included data processing establishments as a permitted use since 2003, so public consultation was not required. However, the bylaw was developed before the emergence of the large-scale AI data centres now being proposed across Alberta.

While the development permit has been issued, this does not guarantee that a data centre will be constructed or become operational.

A development permit simply confirms that a proposed development complies with the property's zoning and land use regulations, including permitted uses, building location, size and setbacks. It is one step in the overall development process and is required before construction can begin.

There are additional rules and regulations from different orders of government that apply to data centres and their development including the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA), and Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO). Additional information regarding the levels of provincial approvals and regulatory bodies is available on the Government of Alberta's website at www.alberta.ca/datacentres.

More information is available at www.countygp.ab.ca/datacentres.

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Catholic Women's League Celebrates 9th Annual Women, Wine & the World



Women gathered at tables during the Catholic Women's League's ninth annual Women, Wine & the World evening at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Grande Prairie on September 25. The evening brought women together for fellowship, faith and community. **Anjenette Timblique photo**

By Anjenette Timblique

The Catholic Women's League at St. Joseph Catholic Church hosted its ninth annual Women, Wine & the Word evening on September 25, bringing women together in celebration of National Daughters Day.

This year's theme, "Belonging," centred on the message that every woman is a daughter of God and has a place within her faith and community.

The evening featured fellowship, food catered by Ruby's Charcuterie, door prizes and a silent auction, while also raising awareness and support for a meaningful local cause.

This year, the event selected Grandparents Raising Grandchildren as its nonprofit beneficiary, recognizing grandparents who take on the important role of raising and caring for their grandchildren.

Now in its ninth year, Women, Wine & the World continues to provide an opportunity for women to connect, celebrate their faith and support members of the community.



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Coy Robbins of Camrose, Alberta, celebrated his first PBR Canada Cup Series victory after going 2-for-2 at the PBR Peace Country Invitational in Grande Prairie on September 26. Robbins scored 87.5 points aboard Burnt Ends and 87.3 points on Snoopy to finish with 174.8 points and earn 136 national points. **Photo: PBR Canada.**



PUZZLES & FUN

See Solutions page 15

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

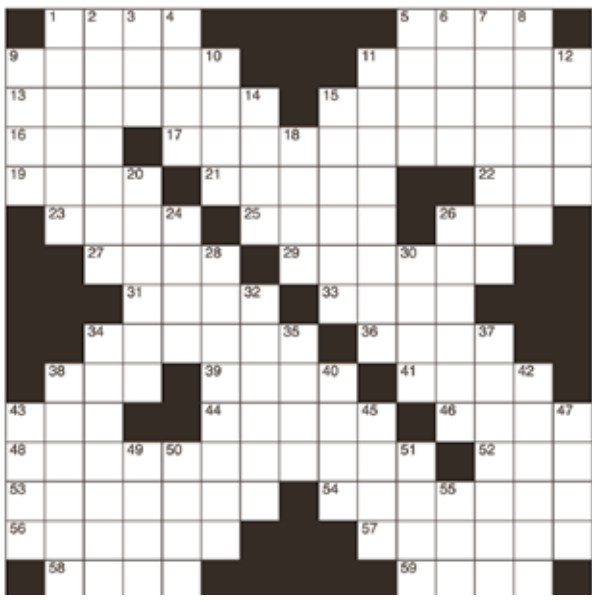
Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

CROSSWORDS



Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

1. *Difficult*
5. *Coarsely ground corn*
9. *A group of similar things ordered one after another*
11. *Loved Romeo*
13. *Something to solve*
15. *Pelvic areas*
16. *Informal debt instrument*
17. *Ineffective*
19. *A device attached to a workbench*
21. *Related on the mother's side*
22. *"Fresh Prince of __ Air"*
23. *Astronomer Sagan*
25. *C. Utah city*
26. *Turkey*
27. *Informal terms for money*
29. *Awakens*
31. *Those who favored Prohibition*
33. *Blabbed*
34. *Looked through*
36. *Rhode Island rebellion*
38. *A type of "cast"*
39. *One's duty*
41. *Where golfers begin*
43. *Make a mistake*
44. *Semitic Sun god*
46. *Ancient Greek City*
48. *Removed someone's head*
52. *A place to stay*
53. *Unwise*
54. *Most unnatural*
56. *"Dennis" is a notable one*
57. *Ointments*
58. *Examination*
59. *Leaked fluid*

CLUES DOWN

1. *Brave*
2. *A state of excitement*
3. *Jest at*
4. *Sandwich store*
5. *Chapter of the Koran*
6. *Dismounted from a horse*
7. *Small vehicle*
8. *Irked*
9. *A disreputable man*
10. *Monetary unit of Samoa*
11. *A list of woes*
12. *Weight unit*
14. *Alone, single*
15. *Broadway legend Bernadette*
18. *Monetary unit of Serbia*
20. *Worn by exposure to the weather*
24. *A body of traditions*
26. *Students seek one*
28. *Hydrophilic amino acid*
30. *Nasal mucus*
32. *Branch of U.S. Congress*
34. *Swinish*
35. *Russian assembly*
37. *Grant an exemption to*
38. *Set up in advance*
40. *Satisfy*
42. *Felt*
43. *Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls*
45. *Witnesses*
47. *Strong insects*
49. *Gasteyer and de Armas are two*
50. *One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland*
51. *Cheerless*
55. *Unhealthy*

CONTACTS CARE WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

ASTIGMATISM
AXIS
CASE
CORNEA
CURVE
CYLINDER
DAILY
DIAMETER
DIOPTER
DISINFECTANT
DRYNESS
EXTENDED
HYDRATION
HYDROGEL
HYPOXIA
MULTIFOCAL
PERMEABILITY
PRESBYOPIA
RIGID
SALINE
SCLERAL
SOLUTION
TORIC
WETTABILITY

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Aries, some free time opens up this week. Focus on social outings and keeping things light. Use the time to relax and recharge.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Tact may be required in the days ahead, Taurus. You have strong opinions about how to approach a situation, but present your views with kindness and express a willingness to be flexible.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Gemini, save up your energy for something fun instead of getting swept up in someone else's drama. Patience is your best friend this week, even if it doesn't always come easy.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

You tend to be very careful with money, Cancer. Financial discipline is a great asset that will pay dividends for you in the days ahead.

LEO (July 23 - August 23)

You may find yourself in a highly visible position this week, Leo. That means you will need to be on your best behavior at all times . People will notice your every move.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 22)

Virgo, steer clear of any controversial subjects this week because they may escalate into something that can be off-putting for all involved. Try to keep your opinions to yourself.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 23)

Embrace a challenge for all it has to offer, Libra. A unique situation arises this week, and you can learn something about yourself and feel a strong sense of accomplishment.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Harsh words can be hard to forget, Scorpio. Be careful about how you communicate with others. Your intentions are good, so take a thoughtful approach to how to express them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

This week you are juggling many things, including work, appointments and family obligations. Optimism and patience will be key for the time being, Sagittarius.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Concerns about money may be on your mind, Capricorn. If you can get a handle on your finances, you will feel more secure about spending money.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 18)

There is no winning if you enter a fray between family members right now, Aquarius. It is best if you keep your distance and do your own thing this week.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20)

Your input will be sought this week, Pisces. Carefully consider an emerging situation, and then use your critical thinking skills to come up with the right advice.

ACFA Annual General Meeting:
A Solid Record and Sights Set on the Centennial





Photos: Sam William

By Sam William

The Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA) held its annual general meeting on Tuesday, September 22, at its local headquarters. Between the election of new board members, the presentation of student scholarships, and positive financial reports, the community is now preparing to celebrate a century of Francophone engagement.

The energy was palpable at ACFA headquarters during this statutory gathering, which provided an opportunity to highlight a pivotal year for the local Francophonie.

The outgoing board opened the meeting by presenting an annual report marked by invigorated services and community gatherings. Shortly after, the 2025–2026 financial report was submitted and approved by attending members, confirming the organization's financial health and rigorous management over the past fiscal year.

Support for Youth and Board Renewal

One of the evening's highlights was the recognition of local academic excellence. ACFA awarded two full scholarships to the city's top two students, reaffirming its commitment to the success of French-speaking youth. The meeting also served to refresh the leadership team, with the official election of new members to the board of directors. They will be responsible for supporting the association's governance over the coming term.

Looking Ahead to the 100th Anniversary

Beyond daily operations, the assembly turned its focus to the future. The staff and newly elected board have begun preparations for the festivities surrounding ACFA's centennial—a major historical milestone that will honor 100 years of advocacy, action, and cultural influence in Alberta.





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Erica Fisher hosted the evening, which began with registration and a welcome at 5:30 p.m. Opening remarks and an Elder blessing followed at 6:30 p.m., with dinner served at 6:45 p.m. The keynote and storytelling program began at 8 p.m. A dance followed at 9:30 p.m., when the raffle closed, with raffle draws taking place at 10 p.m. A silent auction was also held during the evening.

Funds raised through the event supported the Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention and its programs.

More than a bottle depot

For more than four decades, Recycle Plus has combined recycling, employment opportunities and community support in Grande Prairie







By Haylee Winger

For more than four decades, Recycle Plus has been part of Grande Prairie's recycling system while also providing employment opportunities and supporting the local community.

Recycle Plus operates two bottle depots, Plus I and Plus II, and is owned by Signature Support Services, a local not-for-profit organization serving people with developmental disabilities in Grande Prairie and the surrounding area.

Signature Support Services purchased its first bottle depot in 1980 as an initiative to provide employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

"As the city of Grande Prairie continued to grow, so did its recycling needs," said Nikki Arsenault, Operations Manager for Recycle Plus.

In 2004, Signature applied for and was granted a licence to operate a second bottle depot. Arsenault said it took nearly two years to site and develop the new facility.

The organization continued to modernize its operations. In 2019, Plus I moved to a much larger building and began using automated counting technology.

Plus II also introduced automated sorting and counting technology to its front and back-end operations.

"Plus II was the first depot in North America to implement automated sorting and counting technology in its front and back-end operations," Arsenault said.

Arsenault began working at Plus II in 2016 as an assistant manager before becoming Operations Manager of both depots in early 2017.

Employee retention has also been an important part of the operation. Arsenault said many employees have been with Recycle Plus for six years or more, with the longest-serving employee having been there for 24 years. She also noted that one client has worked at the depot since 2007 and another since 2009.

"My employees are what make this place special. They really are fantastic people."

Recycle Plus' connection to Signature Support Services remains central to its operation.

Signature Support Services was established in 1956 and is a not-for-profit organization that provides residential services, day programs and employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Revenue from the two depots goes back into supporting clients and providing employment opportunities.

"Every dollar that both depots make, goes back to the clients to support them in their daily living. We also provide employment for some of the individuals," Arsenault said.

The depots also play a role in supporting the wider community. Bottle refunds can provide extra income for residents and families, while bottle drives help sports teams, charities and other community organizations raise money.

"For many people in the community, Recycle Plus means putting food on the table when people are going through a hard time. It means paying off an unexpected bill that they didn't have the budget for. It means fundraising for their child's sports team. It means raising money for dozens, if not hundreds, of local non-profits and charities," Arsenault said.

Recycle Plus also partners with Aquatera through its Bottle Donation Program. Each month, one organization within Aquatera's service area receives proceeds from donated bottles and cans. The program currently prioritizes local non-profit organizations supporting youth under 18.

One of Arsenault's favourite examples of the community coming together was the fundraising effort following the Jasper wildfire.

According to Arsenault, the Government of Alberta matched the funds raised, with Alberta depots collectively raising more than $2.2 million for Jasper. She said the two Grande Prairie depots raised more than $14,600 in a few days.

Arsenault said Recycle Plus also held a similar bottle drive for Slave Lake following wildfires, raising approximately $11,000. Along with its community involvement, Recycle Plus has focused on making the bottle-return process convenient for customers.

"Recycle Plus puts service, cleanliness and convenience above all else," Arsenault said.

The depots offer pickup and drop-off services through the Depot Express app, allowing customers to arrange their returns without waiting in line and receive an e-transfer once their order has been processed. Recycle Plus also offers Quick Drop and bottle-drive services.

Arsenault said cameras are positioned above the counting stations so orders can be reviewed if a customer believes there has been a counting error.

Recycle Plus has also expanded its reach through mobile drop-offs in Wembley. Customers can use the Depot Express app to arrange their drop-off and receive an e-transfer once their containers have been counted.

Arsenault said the organization is also looking at bringing mobile drop-offs to areas where residents may have difficulty reaching the depots without a vehicle, as well as potentially expanding into other nearby communities.

For customers visiting the depots, containers do not need to be sorted or pre-counted before arriving. Lids can remain on containers, and crushed cans and water bottles are accepted, although Arsenault recommends leaving them uncrushed because they can take longer to process.

Despite being a familiar part of Grande Prairie's recycling system, some residents may not realize Recycle Plus is locally operated.

"Most people do not realize that we are not run by the government, we are locally owned and operated."

The depots also undergo mystery shops and regular audits, according to Arsenault, with accurate counting important to maintaining their licensing.

Beverage containers accepted at the depots must be registered with the Beverage Container Management Board and Recycle Plus refunds the deposits paid on eligible beverage containers.

For Recycle Plus, the goal remains to provide accessible recycling services while continuing to support the people and organizations connected to the community.

"We are committed to providing the best service possible through state-of-the-art depots, seasoned personnel and an interest in innovation and new technologies."

Screen Test celebrates 35 years of mobile mammography

Primary Care Release

Primary Care Alberta's (PCA) Screen Test program celebrates a significant milestone this fall. The popular mobile mammography program has been travelling to rural and remote communities for 35 years, improving access to routine breast cancer screening for thousands of Albertans.

Screen Test began in 1990 with two offices in Calgary and Edmonton. The mobile mammography program launched the following year with the very first community visit in Hinton on September 18, 1991. In its first year, the program visited 26 different communities across the province. Screen Test now has two mobile mammography trailers travelling to 120 Alberta communities, seeing up to 15,000 clients each year.

"Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in Alberta, which is why making screening easier to access matters. For women in rural communities, mobile mammography means less time travelling, fewer added costs and better access to important screening closer to home. I want to thank the dedicated staff who keep this program running and help Albertans get the care they need."

- *Justin Wright*, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services

Between October 1990 and January 2025, Screen Test completed over 575,000 mammograms. Of these, 28,068 abnormalities were detected with additional testing recommended. Screen Test mammograms also identified more than 3,100 breast cancers in that time.

"I've been involved with the mobile mammography program on both sides. Coming from rural Alberta, I know firsthand the impact this program has had over the years. I am so grateful – for myself, my family, my community, and many other women just like me who have had their lives touched by the mobile mammography program."

- *Colleen Waters*, three- time breast cancer survivor and retired Screen Test staff member

A mammogram captures diagnostic images of the breasts, similar to an x-ray. It is estimated that about one in seven Alberta women will have breast cancer during their lifetime. Regular screening mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early when treatment may be most effective. Getting screened for breast cancer saves lives. Over the last 35 years, many of our mobile mammography clients have said they would not receive regular screening if not for the mobile units. It's an honour to be helping to improve access to this life saving service.

- *Kimberley Simmonds*, CEO of Primary Care Alberta New and returning clients can book mobile mammography appointments by calling 1-800-667-0604. Returning clients are notified six weeks beforehand with the dates and location of the mobile unit in their community. Screen Test schedules visits for when returning clients are typically due for their next mammogram.

Individuals between 40 and 74 years of age are encouraged to discuss their breast cancer risk with a healthcare provider to determine whether screening is right for them. If you notice any breast changes or have concerns about your breast health, please see a doctor right away. Do not wait for your routine mammogram. Screening results are available online by signing up for MyHealth Records or the MyChart app on your mobile device. For more information about Screen Test mobile mammography and other screening programs provided by Primary Care Alberta, visit screeningforlife.ca.

Care is a lifelong commitment for Primary Care Alberta. We plan, fund and support primary healthcare across the province, improving access to care providers and offering front-line services through Health Link 811 and public health teams. Throughout the health journey, we are by your side – managing, preventing and reducing illness. Along with our partners, we nurture the connections our communities need to thrive and strengthen the health of all Albertans.

Empower Energy brings solar experience to Northern Alberta



By Haylee Winger

When Ross and Shauna Thiessen started Empower Energy in Grande Prairie in 2015, they wanted to build a business that would have a positive impact on the people it served.

More than 10 years later, the locally owned company has installed more than eight million watts of solar through hundreds of projects across Alberta and Northeast British Columbia. Empower Energy works with homeowners, farms and businesses, designing solar systems around the individual property rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach.

For residential customers, factors such as the home's roof layout, energy use and the homeowner's goals are considered when designing a system.

The company has also developed experience working in Northern Alberta, where solar installations have to account for local conditions. Empower Energy says its systems are designed with factors such as snow loads, extreme temperature changes, utility requirements and permitting in mind.

Its services include the design, engineering and installation of both roof-mounted and ground-mounted solar systems, along with ongoing support. For the team at Empower Energy, the work doesn't stop once the panels are installed. The company places an emphasis on the details involved in a project, from the initial design through installation and long-term support.

"Every. Detail. Matters." is displayed at the company's office, reflecting that approach.

The company remains based in Grande Prairie and says customers work directly with its local team rather than through a call centre. Empower Energy also has in-house electricians and installation crews working on its projects.

Referrals have become an important part of the company's business, with Empower Energy pointing to its reputation and completed projects as part of how it has continued to grow.Community involvement is also part of the company's story. Along with supporting initiatives in the communities it serves, Empower Energy has contributed to solar projects in Malawi and Haiti.

Today, the company continues to work with property owners across Northern Alberta and beyond, providing solar systems designed around the needs and conditions of each individual project.

For Empower Energy, more than a decade in the industry has meant building its business close to home while helping customers explore another way to produce and manage their electricity.



Photo: Empower Energy

Grande Prairie community rallies to support Salvation Army Food Bank



By Haylee Winger

Grande Prairie residents, organizations, businesses and community groups came together to support The Salvation Army Food Bank during this year's Rotary Community Food Bank Drive.

Approximately 700 volunteers participated in the annual drive, including members of all four Rotary Clubs, the Interact Club, ANAVETS, Army and Air Force Cadets, sports teams, Scouts, Cubs, Girl Guides, radio stations, local companies, churches, city officials and other community members. The volunteers collected 68,750 pounds of food and 40 pallets of donations. The drive also brought in $8,490 through online donations and $4,680 in cash donations, bringing the total monetary donations to $13,170.

The food drive has been part of the Grande Prairie community for more than 30 years. It began as a brown bag campaign through a weekend newspaper and has since grown into a large annual community event supporting people experiencing food insecurity.

The donations come as the local need for food assistance continues to grow. In 2025, The Salvation Army Food Bank served 11,216 individuals from 4,458 households. Children accounted for 43 per cent of those assisted. During the year, the food bank distributed nearly 299,000 pounds of food through 5,979 hampers, with The Salvation Army expecting demand to increase further in 2026.

The Rotary Community Food Bank Drive provides food supplies each fall, while The Salvation Army also relies on its annual Christmas Kettle Campaign to help meet the needs of the community throughout the year.



Photo: Erica Fisher

Alberta RCMP shares online safety tips to help youth avoid grooming

The Alberta RCMP is providing information to youth about online safety. Youth today may encounter risks online, including grooming and luring. By understanding these risks and practicing safe online habits, fewer young people will become victims.

Grooming occurs when an individual builds trust with a young person online to manipulate, exploit, coerce, or abuse them. This may be for a sexual purpose, to facilitate criminal activity, financial exploitation, luring, or other forms of control. Offenders often use flattery, attention, gifts, or emotional manipulation to gain a young person's trust. Grooming can take place on social media apps, dating apps, online communities, text messages or online chats, online games, and livestreaming or video apps. Exploitation may take place online, in person, or both.



Youth today can avoid grooming by practicing the following:

- Avoid sharing personal information, including your full name, age, phone number, address, school, daily routines, usernames and passwords, and photos or videos.
- Block anyone who is making you uncomfortable. If someone makes you uncomfortable online—whether they're asking too many personal questions, sending sexual messages, or harassing you—you don't have to participate.
- Tell a trusted adult. If you ever feel unsure or unsafe about something online, talk to a trusted adult, parent, guardian, Elder, or another support person.

It is critical that parents and caregivers:

- Monitor online activities;
- Promote online safety practices;
- Maintain open communication about the dangers that exist online;
- Become familiar with the apps and platforms your children are using;
- Foster an open dialogue and empower your child to approach you in the event they or someone they know are being targeted or victimized;
- Never judge; approach situations calmly, with support and understanding;
- Be aware of signs indicating your child is possibly being exploited online, including emotional changes, social withdrawal, unexplained gifts, increased secrecy, as well as concerning relationships; and
- Use community resources if you suspect something is going on with your child, whether that be through school, family physicians, community groups, or your local police.

"Adults play a vital role in helping young people stay safe online," says Cst. Dustin Frick, St. Paul RCMP. "Offenders often rely on secrecy and manipulation to target youth. Parents, caregivers, and other trusted adults can help by talking openly about online risks, recognizing warning signs, and creating an environment where young people feel safe asking for help."

If you believe a young person is being groomed online, report concerns to your local police immediately.

Resources:

- Take it down
- Kids Help Phone
- Need Help Now
- Canadian Centre for Child Protection:
- Cyber Tip
- Project Arachnid
- Prevention and intervention programs

For more information on online safety, visit Public Safety Canada's Help for Youth, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta, Instagram @RCMPALBERTAGRC, X @RCMPAlberta, and on YouTube @RCMP-GRC Alberta.

Grande Prairie Enforcement Services issues 140 school-zone speeding tickets



By Haylee Winger

Grande Prairie Enforcement Services issued 140 speeding tickets in school zones during the first two weeks of the 2026-27 school year.

The tickets were issued between September 3 and September 18. During the same period, Automated Traffic Enforcement recorded another 109 speeding contraventions in school zones.

One driver was recorded travelling 63 km/h in a school zone where the posted speed limit was 30 km/h.

Peace Officer Sergeant Ryan Hoffman said enforcement will continue throughout the school year.

"School zones are designed to protect children during some of the busiest times of the day," Hoffman said. "We will continue our enforcement efforts, but safety ultimately depends on every driver making the choice to slow down."

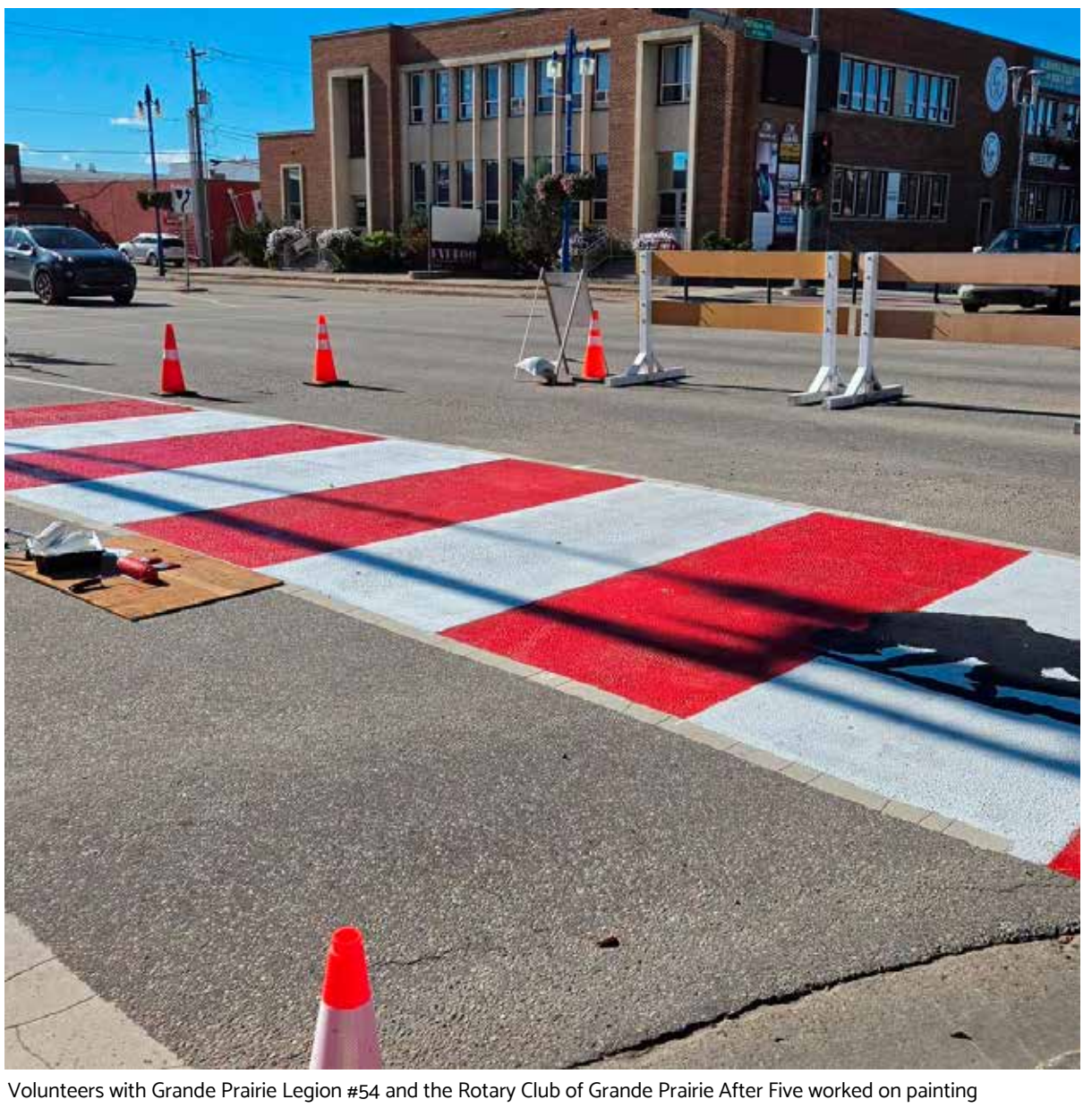
School zones are in effect from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on school days. Playground zones are in effect from 7:30 a.m. until one hour after sunset. The speed limit in both types of zones is 30 km/h. Grande Prairie Enforcement Services is reminding drivers to slow down and watch for students near schools, intersections and crosswalks. Drivers are also asked to follow the directions of school safety patrollers and use caution when backing out of driveways and parking areas.

Drivers cannot pass another moving vehicle within a school or playground zone during active hours. They are also reminded to watch for students travelling by bicycle or other wheeled devices.

Parking around schools is also being monitored. Violations include parking within five metres of a crosswalk or intersection, stopping or parking in designated no-stopping or no-parking areas, parking on sidewalks and parking against the flow of traffic.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to follow their school's drop-off and pick-up procedures.

The figures provide an early look at school-zone enforcement in Grande Prairie as the school year gets underway, while reminding drivers that school and playground zones remain active throughout the year.



Volunteers with Grande Prairie Legion #54 and the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie After Five worked on painting commemorative crosswalks on Veterans Way (101 Avenue) at 99 Street and 100 Street. The crosswalks are being created to honour local Veterans and are expected to be completed soon. **Photo: Erica Fisher**











Meeting the moment: Alberta's economy heading into 2027

By Mark Parsons, ATB Economics

Meeting the moment: Alberta's economy heading into 2027

Key points

- Alberta's economy is forecast to grow faster than the national economy in 2026 and 2027.
- A revived energy sector is providing a boost to Alberta's growth.
- Higher inflation and borrowing costs will strain many households and businesses.

Our September Economic Outlook is out! Forecasting is never easy, but this is a particularly tough time to make a call.

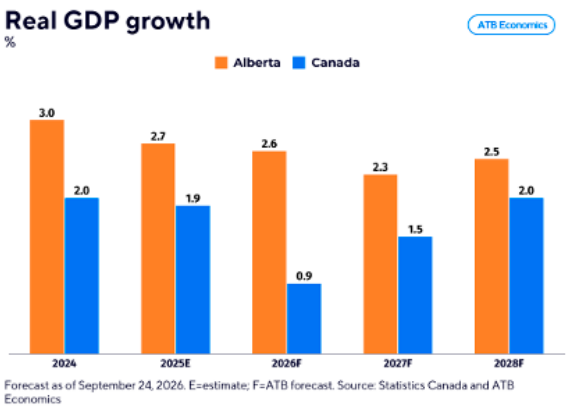
There are numerous challenges, like rising borrowing costs and affordability pressures, ongoing trade tensions with the U.S., and the war in Iran.

But there is also opportunity. The upside in our forecast comes from steps taken in Canada that could improve its growth prospects. There is deepening recognition that, in a time of geopolitical instability, Canada has the resources the world wants, and now a resolve to get projects built and expand overseas exports.

In our latest outlook, we're not taking all the upside or the downside. As always, we forecast down the middle. This translates into a forecast of 2.6% real GDP growth in 2026, well above the 0.9% projected nationally. Looking ahead to 2027, the provincial economy is expected to expand by 2.3%, outpacing national growth of 1.5%.

We anchor our forecast to the latest data, which shows that Alberta is far outpacing the rest of the country on a broad range of indicators this year—from growth in employment to population and retail sales.

There are numerous contributors to Alberta's current outperformance. Topping the list is a lighter overall U.S. tariff burden, rising oil prices and new market access for energy, and persistent inflows of interprovincial migrants. While there is further energy upside, ATB Economics maintains a cautious outlook on investment until final decisions are made on a new West Coast Pipeline and oil sands projects that would fill it. Despite stronger growth in Alberta, there are challenges like ongoing affordability pressures, expectations of higher interest rates and youth



Forecast as of September 24, 2026. E=estimate; F=ATB forecast. Source: Statistics Canada and ATB Economics

underemployment. Many businesses have also cited the uncertainty over the October referendum as having an impact. Further, despite a lower overall tariff burden in the province, some businesses dealing with sectoral tariffs of up to 50% face significant impacts.

I'll end on a positive note. If recent signals and policies turn into actual project approvals and investment, there is upside to our growth forecast for both Alberta and Canada.

New way for Albertans to receive cancer screening notifications



Primary Care Alberta's (PCA) Screening Programs is updating its communication methods to better serve Albertans. Cancer screening notifications are moving towards becoming paperless. Starting in the fall of 2026, mailed invitation and reminder notifications for cancer screening will be phased out when possible and patients will get notifications and information through MyHealthAlberta's MyChart online platform.

The Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program implemented this change first on September 15, 2026. The Alberta Colorectal Cancer Screening Program and Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program will follow in 2027.

"Albertans increasingly expect to access services and information digitally. Moving cancer screening notifications to MyChart is a practical step that improves access to personal health information, supports participation in life-saving screening programs, and ensures we are delivering services in a more efficient and sustainable way."*Justin Wright*, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services

Patients not enrolled in MyChart will continue to receive printed letters. Normal screening results will be available via MyChart or communicated through the patient's appropriate care provider. Abnormal test results will be mailed, available via MyChart or communicated through the patient's appropriate care provider.

"These changes are designed to make it easier to review messages, alerts and results, better keep track of your screenings and remind you when to book an appointment. Regular screening is the best way to find cancer early, before symptoms appear and when treatment is likely to be most effective."

Kimberley Simmonds, CEO of Primary Care Alberta

This shift ensures Albertans have improved access to their health information, when and where they want it. Albertans who are able and not already signed up are encouraged to set up a MyChart account by visiting myhealth.alberta.ca/help/KB/setting-up-myhealth-records.

If you still receive paper letters and are concerned your mailing address is incorrect, call Primary and Preventative Health Services at 310-0000 (toll free) then dial 780-427-1432.

If you'd prefer to make these changes by mail or in person, please visit Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan to find out how: alberta.ca/ahcip.

For additional information about screening, talk to your primary care provider or visit screeningforlife.ca.

Care is a lifelong commitment for Primary Care Alberta. We plan, fund and support primary healthcare across the province, improving access to care providers and offering front-line services through Health Link 811 and public health teams. Throughout the health journey, we are by your side – managing, preventing and reducing illness. Along with our partners, we nurture the connections our communities need to thrive and strengthen the health of all Albertans.

CLASSIFIEDS

Coming Events

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2026 AUCTION PROGRAM: Firearms, Ammunition, Accessories, or Militaria. Collections, Estates or single items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Contact us: 1-800-694-2609, Email: sales@switzersauction.com or Visit us @ www.switzersauction.com for Auction Dates & Details.

EDMONTON COIN SHOW - October 17 & 18, 2026. Saturday 10 am - 4:30 pm; Sunday 10 am - 3 pm. Lions Centre 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton. Family friendly! Displays * Auctions * Free market evaluations.* Dealers from across Canada. * Visit www.edmontoncoinclub.com/shows.

Employment Wanted

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; email classifieds@awna.com.

Services

CANADIAN PICKERS! Downsizing? Moving? Buying Silver Flatware & Jewelry. We buy all Mint sets, Gold Jewelry, Rings, Chains, etc. Ted or Joy 825-966-4373.

PRIVATE MORTGAGE LENDER. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. 403-543-0927; www.firstandsecond mortgages.ca.

Travel

OSOYOOS LAKESHORE VILLA: Executive lakeview villa in Osoyoos, BC, breathtaking lake and mountain views; just 3 minutes from town. Vacation in Canada's warmest destination. Or warmer weather, two luxurious 5-star resort units in Phoenix, Arizona. Doug 306-716-2671 or visit osoyooslakevilla.com.

Grande Prairie Storm defenceman earns AJHL Defensive Player of the Week honours



By Haylee Winger

Grande Prairie Storm defenceman Rydley Gerbrandt has been named the Alberta Ford Dealers AJHL Defensive Player of the Week for September 21 to 27, 2026.

The honour is Gerbrandt's second consecutive AJHL Defensive Player of the Week recognition. He recorded five points, including one goal and four assists, during a three-game road trip. The 2008-born defenceman scored his first AJHL goal on September 23 and added an assist in the Storm's 7-4 loss to the Whitecourt Wolverines.

Gerbrandt then recorded an assist in each of Grande Prairie's two consecutive wins in Camrose on September 26 and 27.

The latest recognition gives Gerbrandt two consecutive AJHL weekly awards after Grande Prairie Storm defenceman Quentin Flores received the same honour for September 18 to 20.







On Tuesday, September 29, Grande Prairie hosted a job fair bringing together local businesses and job seekers looking to connect with new career opportunities. Exhibiting companies reported strong turnout, with most expressing high satisfaction with the event. Held at the Holiday Inn, the job fair was heavily dominated by the energy sector, oilfield services, and industrial infrastructure–a reflection of Western Canada and Alberta's industrial landscape. Key resource and direct well-service providers in attendance included Trican Well Service, Liberty Energy Canada, TOMCO, Status Energy, CSV Midstream, and PVT Energy Group. **Photos: Sam William**





Photos: Shamar Jambizz

Grande Prairie Live Theatre's story spans generations of local performers



By Haylee Winger

Grande Prairie Live Theatre has been part of the city's arts community for more than six decades, but the history of organized theatre in Grande Prairie stretches back much further.

According to Grande Prairie Live Theatre, its roots can be traced to 1932, when the Good Companion Players were formed.

At the time, Grande Prairie had a growing cultural community that included a 50-voice male choir and a symphony orchestra. The Little Theatre Group Orchestra emerged in 1935.

The Second World War interrupted theatre activity in the region. Local groups including St. Joseph's Dramatic Society and the United Church Players continued to present occasional productions during the period, keeping community theatre active.

Another chapter began in 1958 with the formation of the Grande Prairie Players.

In 1963, the Grande Prairie Players joined with the Operatic Society to form the Grande Prairie Little Theatre Society.

The organization was considerably smaller in its early years. According to Grande Prairie Live Theatre, it produced two shows a year and had approximately 35 volunteers in 1963.

Over the following decades, the number of people involved in the organization grew. The theatre says more than 4,100 volunteers have contributed to its history, working in roles ranging from acting, singing and dancing to directing, producing, designing, technical work and other responsibilities behind the scenes.

The organization also estimates that more than 270,000 audience members have attended its productions and events.

In 2001, the Grande Prairie Little Theatre Society adopted the name Grande Prairie Live Theatre.

Since then, the organization says it has staged more than 344 productions across multiple genres and hosted more than 100 concerts.

Its activities have also included supporting other community events. Grande Prairie Live Theatre helped launch the Reel Shorts Film Festival during its first 10 years and supported the Grande Prairie Children's Festival for two years.

The theatre has also hosted community groups. During the 2022-23 season, the organization reported that it delivered every scheduled performance while hosting more than 40 community groups that presented 110 events through the venue. The season included 68 unique performances and concerts presented to the public.

In 2023-24, Grande Prairie Live Theatre had 68 nights of entertainment and nearly 290 volunteers, according to the organization.

The COVID-19 shutdown brought live performances to a halt, but the organization used the period to renovate and modernize its theatre space.

The 2024-25 season featured six plays, six concerts and 23 school and community bookings, along with many sold-out shows, according to Grande Prairie Live Theatre.

The 2025-26 season marked the organization's 63rd season, continuing its long-standing schedule of live theatre and community programming.

Grande Prairie Live Theatre has now entered its 64th season for 2026-27. The current season includes plays, concerts, special events and other programming, continuing the organization's longstanding presence in Grande Prairie's arts community.

From its early years with a small group of volunteers and two productions a year, Grande Prairie Live Theatre has grown into a longstanding community arts organization supported by generations of performers, volunteers and audiences.



WWW.GRANDEPRAIRIEPRESS.CA

Minimum wage increases can't keep pace with rising cost of living

For low-wage workers, a few extra cents an hour won't close the growing affordability gap

By Simon Enoch



For low-wage workers, a few extra cents an hour won't close the growing affordability gap

On Oct. 1, five provinces will see their minimum wages increase. Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan will all see their respective minimum wages rise from a low of $0.25 per hour in Nova Scotia to a high of $0.40 per hour in Manitoba.

While any increase is no doubt welcome for the well over a million workers in Canada who receive the minimum wage, the brute fact is that these incremental wage bumps simply cannot keep pace with the acute affordability crisis that disproportionately impacts low-wage working families.

With very little room to manoeuvre, cost increases in non-negotiable expenses like shelter, groceries, or transportation may require families to make the difficult choice to cut expenses in other areas.

For working families, rent is often one of the most significant monthly expenses. We can see what kind of hourly wage is required to afford rent in Canada's cities by consulting the rental wage—the hourly wage needed to afford a one- or two-bedroom apartment while working a standard 40-hour week and spending 30 per cent of income on housing. Despite being based on 2024 rental costs, none of the Oct. 1 minimum wage increases will come close to matching the rental wage required to afford a rental unit in the major cities of these provinces. For example, Saskatchewan's newly minted minimum wage of $15.70 falls almost $7 per hour short of what is required to afford a one-bedroom in Regina or Saskatoon. Similarly, Nova Scotia's increased minimum wage of $17 falls almost $10 per hour shy of what it would cost to rent in Halifax. Of course, the gap between these minimum wages and rent for a two-bedroom apartment is even higher.

We can see the same gap between what the minimum wage delivers versus what is actually required to afford a decent living by viewing the discrepancy between the minimum wage and the living wage in these provinces. The living wage is the hourly rate that each of two parents working full-time must earn to support a family of four in a particular town or city. For working families in Hamilton, that hourly living wage rate is $22.60 per hour, $4.70 higher than Ontario's new minimum wage rate. Unsurprisingly, the gap in Toronto is even higher, with a living wage rate of $27.20 required—$9.30 per hour higher than the minimum wage.

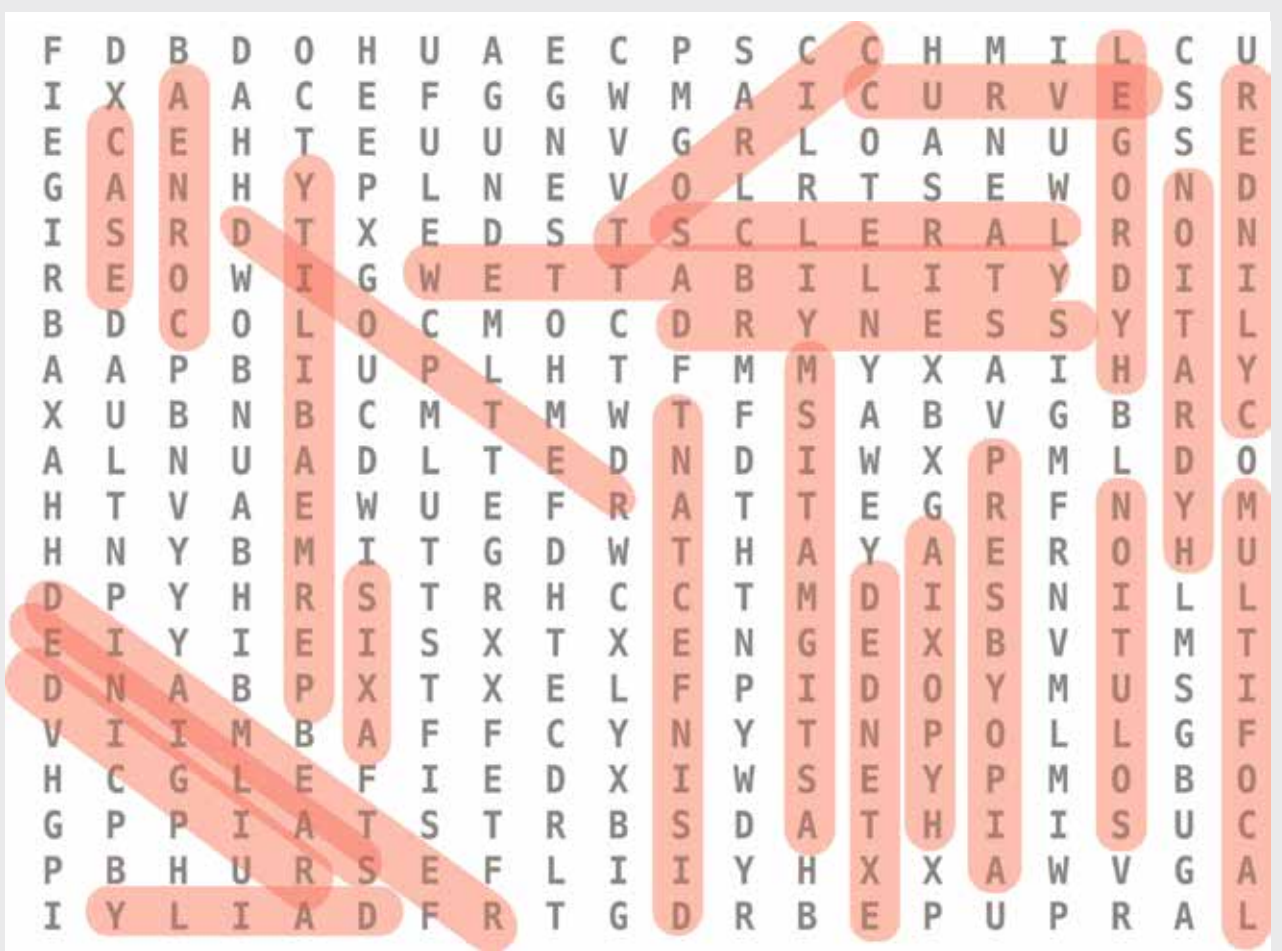
Increasing shelter costs and higher food prices have been the primary driver of higher living wage rates. In Saskatoon, rising rents and grocery bills saw that city's living wage increase from $18.50 per hour to $21.50 per hour in the space of two years.

In addition to increased expenses, reduced government transfers are also burdening working families. In particular, the loss of the much-maligned Climate Action Incentive payment (CAIP), or carbon tax rebate, has meant the loss of over $1,500 in annual rebates for eligible families. As expenses grow and transfers are reduced, employment earnings become all the more important for making ends meet. Unfortunately, the meagre increase that minimum wage earners will receive on Oct. 1 is nowhere near what is required to keep up with the accelerating cost of living.

Governments that are serious about addressing the crisis of affordability must confront the gap between what the current minimum wage delivers versus what families actually require. That could include accelerating minimum wage increases, holding down shelter costs through rent regulation, improving and expanding $10 per day childcare access and increasing the size and scope of government income transfers. Tackling the affordability crisis will require a multi-pronged approach that increases income and stabilizes expenses. Incrementally raising the minimum wage by a few cents every year while non-negotiable expenses like rent rise unchecked will only leave working families further and further behind.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

WORD SEARCH



CROSSWORDS



SUDOKU

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

County of Grande Prairie September 21 council highlights

Council Accepts Recreation Roadmap — Council accepted the Recreation Strategic Plan as presented by RC Strategies, which included public engagement activities between January and February 2026 to help inform the development of the strategy. The proposed plan included:

- Guiding values and priorities for Recreation and Culture within the County.
- A decision-making framework to guide future recreation provision and investment.
- Consideration of current and future recreation and sport participation trends, population growth, and changing community needs.

Intersection Upgrades A-Go — Council awarded the Range Road 53 Intersection upgrade project contract to Knelsen Sand & Gravel Ltd. in the tender amount of $1,163,126. The estimated total cost for the contract is $1,415,293. Due to provincial requirements, the upgrade project is required before any additional development can happen in the area, to help improve traffic safety.

New Viewing Area Takes Flight — Council directed Administration to allocate $8,140 for the development of a 16'x16' viewing deck and boardwalk southeast of the Lake View Seniors Housing, across 113 Avenue. The proposed Clairmont Lake viewing site will provide residents with an accessible way to enjoy the scenic wetlands and lake area.

Renewing the Fleet for 2027 — Council approved the 2027 Equipment Replacement list, which includes the replacement, refurbishment, and disposal of pieces of equipment including: trucks, mowers, loaders, and trailers.

Cemetery Grant Program Receives Refresh — Council approved *Policy K7 — Cemetery Support Grant* as presented. The updated policy includes a name change, clearer language on the purpose of the funding, location requirements, updated application dates, and terminology.

Keeping Pace with Changing Media — Council gave first reading to *Bylaw #3283 — Advertising Bylaw* Including an amendment that two or more advertising methods are used to promote public hearings. The bylaw enables the County to adapt its current advertising to meet local needs and pursue alternative advertising options. The bylaw also removes references to media outlets that are no longer in operation.

Road Closure Amendment — Council amended *Bylaw #3284 — Road Closure of a Portion of Undeveloped Road Allowance Lying West of Pt. NW-19-70-10-W6* to revise the proposed description of the road closure area to reflect the final surveyed area, in place of the original estimated area.

Sewer Line Addition — Council approved adding the advancement of the replacement of an underground sanitary sewer line on 98th Avenue in Hythe to an existing construction contract for an additional $750,000.

Replacement Broiler Brings the Heat — Council approved the allocation of $206,599 (excluding GST) for an emergency replacement of the existing boiler located in the main County Administration Building. The new broiler will bring much-needed heat over the winter months.

Council To Serve a Warm Welcome — Council directed Administration to organize and host the 2027 Northern Alberta Medical Program (NAMP) barbecue in May 2027, helping new students feel welcome in the community. Northwestern Polytechnic runs the program, which aims to improve access to healthcare professionals across the region.

New Well Off the Table — Council directed Administration to take no action on a request to fund the creation of a private well source to serve the Hythe Carwash & Laundromat Ltd. and nearby buildings in the Hamlet of Hythe. The unlicensed water well is not an authorized municipal service, and the nearby old Hythe firehall has its own cistern that water could be drawn from if needed.

No Action on Water North Request — Administration received a request from the Water North Coalition (WNC) to continue to provide administrative support for the upcoming Spring meeting. Council directed Administration to take no action on the WNC request.

Request for Snow Removal — Council directed Administration to take no action on a request for snow removal by the Stonegate Condominium Corporation. The corporation wanted snow removal services on the private roads within the two cul-de-sacs in the gated Stonegate Condominium within the Wedgewood subdivision.

Public Hearings:

- Council gave second reading to Bylaw #2680-26-037 to redesignate land located west of Range Road 111 and south of Highway 43, within the Hamlet of Hythe from a Rural Medium Industrial (RM-2) District to a Rural Heavy Industrial (RM-3) District.
- Council gave second reading to Bylaw #2680-26-038 to redesignate land located approximately east of Highway 43 and south of Highway 672, immediately south of the Hamlet of Hythe from a Rural Light Industrial (RM-1) District to a Rural Industrial - Direct Control (RM-DC) District.
- Council gave second reading to Bylaw #2680-26-039 to redesignate land located approximately east of Range Road 63 and 0.5 miles south of Highway 672, four miles southwest of the Town of Sexsmith within the Emerson Trail Industrial Area from an Agriculture (AG) District to a Rural Medium Industrial (RM-2) District as amended.
- Council gave second reading to Bylaw #2680-26-040 to redesignate land located approximately southwest of Highway 43 (100 Avenue) within the Hamlet of Hythe from a Comprehensive Commercial (CC) District to a Rural Medium Industrial (RM-2) District.
- Council gave final reading to Bylaw #2680-26-041 to redesignate land located approximately south of Highway 674, west of Highway 733, and by the east boundary of Teepee Creek from an Agricultural (AG) District to a Country Residential (CR-5) District as amended.

Sponsorship Requests — Council approved the following sponsorship requests:

- $5,000 (Gold Sponsorship) to the Northwestern Polytechnic for the President's Black & White Ball on October 17, 2026.
- Silent auction item valued up to $150 for the Alberta Northwest Palliative Care Society for the Sports and Skorts Bingo fundraiser on October 15, 2026.
- Council to purchase tickets at a cost of $125 per person for the Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (PARDS) Beyond the Saddle 2026 Dine & Dance on November 7, 2026.
- Council to purchase tickets at a cost of $65 per person for the Sexsmith & District Museum Harvest Fall Supper on Oct. 24, 2026.

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