



MLA REPORT

from The Office of MLA Mark Smith, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Drayton Valley - Devon

This month is a time to celebrate the history and diversity that make our province, and country, a great place to live. I take great pride in being Canadian and I wish everyone a very happy Canada Day! I hope you will get a chance to enjoy the great attributes of our province and country by getting out in the beautiful sunshine we have been blessed with recently.

After a difficult beginning of the year, our province has been gradually reopening businesses and facilities. Our province's relaunch strategy puts the health and safety of our community first. Our province has expanded its testing capacity and contact tracing ability, and put a rapid response plan in place for possible outbreaks to ensure that our province can continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19. General workplace and industry-specific guidelines, which can be found at alberta.ca/bizconnect, are in place to protect employees and customers of businesses across the province. Our wonderful local businesses are at the heart of our community, and I encourage you to shop local and show them your support!

I am happy to share that the hard work and sacrifices of Albertans has paid off, and our province was able to begin Phase 1 of the Alberta Relaunch Strategy in May. With strict guidelines in place, our community can and should confidently support Alberta businesses as our economy begins to reopen. Alberta's relaunch strategy puts safety first as restrictions are gradually lifted. Our province is prepared to gradually allow some businesses and facilities to reopen, including retail, hairstylists and barber shops, and cafes and restaurants in the first stage. General workplace and industry-specific guidelines, available at alberta.ca/bizconnect, must be implemented to keep patrons and employees safe in this stage.

This week our province launched the Human Trafficking Task Force, which will find ways to prevent human trafficking, and protect and empower survivors. Anti-human trafficking advocate Paul Brandt will lead the seven-member task force that will provide guidance and recommendations on how to best implement the government's strategy to combat human trafficking in Alberta. This task force will also help shed a light on an often overlooked and under-reported crime that causes serious harm. The task force will provide recommendations on how to support survivors, enhance collaboration between organizations working on this issue, engage experts on how to bring sustainable change, and lobby other levels of government to take coordinated action against human trafficking. Alberta should be a place where people can live free from exploitation and coercion. The new Human Trafficking Task Force will help shine a light on an important issue in our province and make change.

As always, it is my honour to serve as your MLA.



HELP WANTED

Housekeeping contract job required for a small business at Pigeon Lake to start July 15. Please send resumes and qualifications to sseidel1949@gmail.com or call 780.913.3368. (1-2)

FOR SALE

2005 Kia - 4 door sedan, high mileage, still runs good & gets good gas mileage. 4 winter tires on rims included. \$800 OBO. Please leave message w/ telephone number.

780.977.4925 (1-2)

1998 Mercury Villager Van \$1200 & **1990 Dodge** Caravan Voyager – offers.

780.966.2045 (1-2)

F150 Lariat Fully Loaded - fiberglass step side box w/ rolltop cover. 200 lt tidy tank wired to main tank. NEW brakes, starter, shift cable, battery. 2nd set of chrome rims. Asking \$2000 OBO.

Text 780.293.2825 (1-2)

Craftsman Special Edition 19.5 HP Lawn Tractor. Needs new starter gear & put back together. Asking \$200.

Text 780.293.2825 (1-2)

Breton West Herefords has both horned and polled bulls for sale, including "Surefire Heifer Bulls". Call or text Leonard. 780.898.9590 (8-10)

Premium Firewood for sale. For details and pricing call James. 780.405.0826 (4-4kr)

HOMES/APTS FOR RENT

FOR RENT in Thorsby - 3 bed, 2 bath, half duplex. \$1200 per month plus utilities. 780-619-2564 (4-4kr)

2 Bedroom Apartment for rent in Thorsby. Available immediately on Hankin Street, next to the Village Office. All utilites except power included. No smoking or pets allowed. Please call: 780-789-2210 or 780-446-1596 (4-4kr)

Rental Unit - 2 bedrooms upstairs + 1 small room downstairs, finished basement, incl. 4 major appliances. Small pets ok. \$825 + utilities / month, (Negotiable on 1 Year Lease) \$825 damage deposit. Phone Maria 403.606.6977 or 403.249.2708 (3-3kr)

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

Building for rent in Breton - \$500/mth plus utilities. Call 780.696.3551 (4-4kr)

ENTERTAINMENT/PARTY SERVICES

Reliable DJ for your party or special event. We also offer Karaoke, Music Bingo, Minute to Win It games and have local references.

587-991-4977 or www.carrielevins.com (2-4)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Accutrax Cat and Trackhoe Ed Neumann 780.789.2547 (26-26)

BUILDERS / RENOVATIONS

Custom Built Epoxy Countertops and Interior Renovations - are you looking to update your countertops, renovate your home or need home repairs - call Greg Sharman @ 780.898.3866 or visit www.gregsharman.com or www.counter.gregsharman.com (4-4kr)

REAL ESTATE

Darcy Powlik - Remax Real Estate - Top Seller in the Thorsby area for the last 5 years. Fast & Friendly - Honest & Reliable - Get your top dollar or find your best deal! Call Direct 780.446.9700 Leduc Office - 780-986-2900

Royal Lepage Gateway Realty Inc. - #1 in the Thorsby, Warburg, Pigeon Lake Area for a reason. No one sells more real estate in the area, and no one knows the area better. Let your local realtor get you the results you want. Rob MacRae - Business- 780-986-8407 Cell - 780-991-9939

Dawn Heisler-Re/Max Real Estate - Your local Realtor for all your Real Estate needs. Cell: 780-619-2564 Office: 780-986-2900





Ralph Halladay Memorial July 5th, 2020 2:00 p.m. Halladay home firepit in the backyard

If you need more info call 780.789.3089







Town of Thorsby
Upcoming Council Meetings

JULY 2020

Tuesday 14 | Committee of the Whole Meeting Tuesday 21 | Regular Council Meeting

AUGUST 2020

Tuesday 11 | Committee of the Whole Meeting Tuesday 18 | Regular Council Meeting

All meetings start at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers unless otherwise stated.





michaelj@mikeshomesltd.com mikep@mikeshomesltd.com

MICHAEL JACOB 780-991-1008 MIKE PETRACEK 780-699-3700

Community Events Page

Custom Built Homes

Reliable Service – Affordable PricingQuality Workmanship

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Canada Day at Centreloge Community Hall is unfortunately CANCELLED due to COVID-19. We hope to see you next year!

Night In Italy - Event postponed until further notice. Raffle Draw new date is July 1, 2020. Tickets are still available. Contact Rhonda at 780.514.5200 or Trent at 780.202.0140

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH - GRAVE BLESSINGS. Saturday, July 5, 2020. St. John's Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. St. Nicholas Cemetery at 11: 30 a.m. Social distancing and on-site registration is required as per Covid-19 regulations. PLEASE NOTE there will be no service at the church. Should further information be required please contact Dan @ 780-789-3698

Our Lady of Victory Mass Time is 9:00 am. and anyone wishing to attend Mass must register first with Guy Giroux at 780-940-2751. There will also be Wednesday morning Mass at 11:00 a.m. Again registration is recommended by calling Guy Giroux.

Thorsby Bingo HAS RESUMED- Bingo is held every Thursday evening at the Senior's Centre. Regular Bingo starts at 7:15 p.m. Early Bird is at 7:00 p.m. Loonie Pots and Progressive Bingos.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION #246 MULHURST. WEEKLY BINGO'S HELD EVERY TUES. AT 7PM.. (.PER A.H. GUIDELINES OF COURSE!!) NO SOCIAL THIS MONTH. ALL: 780-935-6281

Thorsby Senior's Thrift Store is OPEN! Thursdays and Fridays from 10 am - 3 pm. Share our Bounty Sale - Clearance 50% off. Conditions apply.

Follow Thorsby Library on Facebook to learn the latest news. Visit us to renew your library card at https://thorsbymunicipallibrary.ab.ca/copy-of-form

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) at Thorsby Seniors Cente - Mondays, weigh in at 9:00 to 9:15 am, meetings 9:15 - 9:45 am, for more info call Jane 780-789-37891 or Elaine 780-221-3939

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church weekly service can be found online at You Tube, search for St. Mat-

thew Thorsby where you can watch a message from Pastor Ron, music and prayers. All activities at the church remain suspended until further notice.

Treasures Thrift Shop –IS NOW OPEN! (With restrictions) Please see signs at the store for everyone's safety. Wednesdays from 10 am - 4 pm. Donations will only be accepted during store hours, please ensure your donations are clean. 5112 - 53 Street Warburg.

Community United Church – all worship services, meetings and gatherings are suspended until further notice. For updates contact the church office at 780-848-2227.

All Events have been cancelled at Warburg Alliance Church, until further notice email: WA-Church.Betty@gmail.com Betty Desjarlais (403) 418-5266

Philippian Christian Friendship Church of Canada Address 4721 48a Ave Thorsby. We are here for you. We want to see you Receive New Life. We are a church here to help you and your family, so you will be put in Christ, the Hope of Glory, so please stop by for pray or just to talk. We all need help when we come together. We help each other with each other testimonies. We all come from sin and unrighteousness and now we are born again and changed. We can help each other. So come and we can worship together and pray together. Learn together as the Lord leads. Rev. Warrick & Elaine Pollard Call 780 921 7790

POSTPONED - Thorsby Crib Nights - Need new players! Crib Nights at the Arctic Spas Rec Centre are held every Wednesday at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome!

POSTPONED - Friday Night Crib at the Thorsby Senior's Centre - Every Friday night at 7 p.m.
All ages welcome!!!

Mulhurst Bay Seniors - Our weekly Floor Curling started on Oct. 16/19 at 1:00 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Mulhurst. For more info please contact me: Eileen MacDonald (Secretary) at 780-389-3333.

Does drinking affect your personal life in

We're PROUD TO BE CANADIAN!

Let's Celebrate CANADA DAY

Show your Canadian pride and creativity by decorating your yard, house, fence, kid's bicycles, flower gardens, pets, etc. with any theme or no theme ... i.e. Christmas, Canada Day, Halloween, favorite movie, or anything.

Have lights, music, blow-ups, mannequins, wear costumes, hang banners, sing "O' Canada", dance, and of course display CANADIAN FLAGS.

We are encouraging every home and business to show community spirit and Canadian pride by participating in this year's



WARBURG CANADA DAY DRIVE-BY COVID-19 PARADE



We invite all our Warburg community and surrounding communities to **DRIVE-BY** all the residences and businesses to view their creative displays.

THIS COULD BE A LOT OF FUN! Decorate your vehicle for the Drive-By Covid-19 Parade in Warburg on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 1st.

Cruise on over to Breton afterward for the "Breton Reverse Parade".

Remember to practice social distancing and make this a safe and fun day.



PIONEER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY



any way? Have friends or family expressed concerns towards your drinking habits? Have you ever tried to quit drinking, but could not manage to do so? AA can help! 5203 -54th Avenue Thorsby New Life Christian Church (every) Monday 8:00pm 780-270-7903

CANCELLED - Thorsby Senior's Soup & Sandwich Day at the Senior's Centre is on the second Wednesday of every month. Five dollars will buy you a bowl of soup, a sandwich, a coffee, tea, or juice. Enjoy all this between 11:30-1:30 pm. Birthday Party follows at 1:30 pm. Everyone Welcome!

Thorsby Bylaw Enforcement - For concerns or inquires email bylaw@thorsby.ca or call 780.789.3935 Ext. 21

Thorsby Community Centre - For bookings call Marlene at 780-789-3734 or text 780-217-9394 or email thorsbyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Visit our website ttcahs.yolasite.com .

Centrelodge Community Centre - For bookings call Caroline 780-789-3089.

Morrowdale Community Hall - For bookings call Elaine at 780-789-2104.

Mulhurst Legion #246 Hall Rentals - Call: Marie 780-361-7350

Genesee Community Hall - Rentals call Joanne Liba at 780-940-7229.

Glen Park Hall - For bookings call Mike at 780-919-1250.

Sandholm Community Hall - For hall bookings call Doris 780-389-2381.

Sunnybrook Community Hall Rentals: Contact Name: Mikayla, Phone Number: 306-307-2599, Email Address: sunnybrookcommunityhall@gmail.com

Telfordville Hall - For bookings call Tracy at 780-718-9549 after 5:00 pm.

Thorsby Senior's Centre rentals. Call Cathy Kuzio 780-719-7124.

Rundle's Mission - For hall bookings call 780-389-2422 or www.rundlesmission.org .

Strawberry Community Hall - Call Ollie at 780-789-2180.

Warburg Senior's Centre rentals. Call Nancy/ Allan Gruninger 780-848-7756. \$75 per rental, \$50.00 damage deposit refundable after inspection.

Wilton Park Community Centre - For Hall Bookings or Information call Aileen at 780.850.9607.

Winfield Legion is available to rent. Keep eyes open for a list of upcoming social events. Rental Inquiries - Call Gordon 780-542-1243 Or Mona 780-682-3905

Warburg Cultural Centre - For rentals of facility, wine glasses and/or tablecloths, phone Linda McLaughlin at 780.848.2916. Meetings held quarterly.

Thorsby Agricultural Society Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm upstairs in the meeting room at the Haymaker Centre.

Warburg Legion Hall is available for rent at \$75.00/full day and \$50.00/half day with a deposit of \$50.00 that is refundable upon inspection. For Hall rental, please contact Deb/Max 780 848 2923 or (780) 264 9217 or Nancy/Allan 780 848 7756.

Leduc Public Market runs every Thursday 10-3 in the City Center Mall (Ken's Furniture) 5201 50 Street. Lots of vendors with a wide variety of items. For tables or info call Jenna 780-868-7616.

"Busy Brushes" meet every Wednesday from 10-2, at the Warburg Cultural Centre. Everyone welcome! Come join us for some relaxing fun and art. Call Linda Mayr @780 848 7782 for more info.

CANCELLED Thorsby Senior's Supper Meetings These monthly meetings will now be held in the Senior's Centre (4812-51st Street) and are on the last Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Members are requested to bring a potluck dish. Memberships are available for \$10 from Elaine Warnock at 780.221.3939.

Thorsby & District Lions' Club (non-profit organization serving Thorsby & District), Meeting the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at the Lions' Den in Community Hall Basement at 7:00 pm. For information or membership, call Frank @ 780-905-8019.

Foot Care Nurse will be at the Thorsby Recreation Centre on the 1st Wednesday of every month. Please call Irene at 780-789-3176 to make an appointment or for information.

Ashland Dam Park - For reservations call Bruce @ (780) 898-9636.

Breton Community Center- To rent the community center please visit our website www.bretonagsociety.com, call 780-696-3561 and leave a message or email us at bretonagsociety@gmail.com

Community Events are placed FREE of charge, thanks to the community commitment of









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NOW HIRING

Career Opportunities Benefits (Vision, Dental & Health Care) Bonus and RRSP Plans

Job Title: Production Team Member

Base Salary: Start @ \$18.00 hourly

Summary:

 Working in the production facility assembling Arctic Spa Hot Tubs @ Blue Falls Manufacturing in Thorsby, Alberta.

Required Skills:

- Physically fit and capable of performing repetitive tasks in a fast paced environment.
- Unskilled and Skilled positions available.
- Experience working with air tools, hand tools would be an asset.

Key responsibilities:

- Reporting daily to the Production Manager/ Supervisors to be informed of daily tasks.
- Meet the scheduled build demands as set by daily, weekly, monthly orders.

Physical Demands Required:

- · Able to be on your feet 8 hours per day.
- · Able to work in a warm environment.
- · Have no issues with adjusting personal schedule to work overtime hours when required.

Due to COVID-19, Mask, safety glasses & steel-toe boots required, any further PPE required will be provided.

This is not a complete statement of all duties and responsibilities of this position. The position holder may be required to carry out any other duties as directed by their Manager.

Please submit resume in person at Blue Falls Manufacturing, 4549-52 Street, Thorsby, Alberta T0C 2P0 or via email to hr@goarctic.com

Mulhurst Raises Money for Cancer Patient Comfort From Marion Wilson

MULHURST WALK-A-THON a success again this year!!!

\$3,000.00 has been raised for the Alberta Cancer Foundation's PATIENT COMFORT FUND by a dedicated local group.

A huge THANK YOU to all of those participants and donors from Mulhurst and surrounding area who have made this event a great success!

Special thanks to David and Kathy at the Mulhurst Book Store, Randal and David at the Mulhurst Legion #246, Richard Conrad, Bo and Bern Potzki.

The Walker's taking a much deserved break, pictured below.







You can still pick up the Thorsby Target at the following locations or read online at community39.com:

Petro Canada **Village Supermarket Thorsby Tire Shop Ranchland Meats Thorsby Bottle Depot** Bilar's Garage **Royal Care Guardian Drugstore Bumper to Bumper Dr. Hunter's Office Ruhr Valley Lumber Pet Necessities** Thorsby Hotel Bar & Grill Kollbrook Esso **Twisted Lime** AJ's Trading Post (Hwy. 778 & 616X) **Sunnybrook Post Office Sunnybrook Hotel** Valmart - Leduc

If you are picking up a paper, please take extra for your neighbours and leave at their door.

780.887.0077 media@community39.com www.community39.com

Darcy Powlik Office 780-986-2900 Direct 780-446-9700 www.darcypowlik.com

RESIDENTIAL

- Thorsby 1550 sq.ft. bungalow with detacking age and huge yard. 4 bedroom, backs onto green space. \$224,000.00
- Thorsby 2300 sq.ft. 2 Storey 4 bedrooms, attached garage & INDOOR SWIMMING POOL! \$226,000.00
- Thorsby Solid 3 bedroom on large corner lot, single garage, fenced yard \$199,000.00
- Thorsby Gorgeous, well maintained 3 become bungalow, open concept, finished basement, very modern. \$299,900.00

FARMS & ACREAGES

- **Thorsby Beautiful building spots** backing onto Strawberry Creek Ravine. Zoned Agricultural 7.36 acres \$132,900.00 & 142,900.00
- **St. Francis On Pavement** Secondary Highway 622 12 Acres+. 1400 sq.ft. bungalow, older shop, all services, some corrals. \$279,000.00
- Thorsby 12 Acres on Pavement Gorgeous yard, lots of good outbuildings with shop, solid, well maintained home. Excellent for horses. \$379,000.00
- **Sunnybrook 7.22 Private Acres** All services 3 bedroom 1379 sq.ft. home with double detached garage. \$224,900.00
- **Thorsby 14.7 Acres** with large, absolutely gorgeous home. 4 bedrooms, full developed basement, triple detached garage. \$629,900.00
- **Sunnybrook 22 acres** with a 2017, 1550 sq. ft. amazing bungalow built by Mikes Homes. Fully finished basement. Immaculate home. 40x60' shop, heated, power, insulated. \$799.000.00
- Warburg 13.66 acres with 2015 outstanding bungalow, fully finished basement, attached garage and set in storybook private setting. Tall evergreens and creek, on pavement. \$685,000.00
- Thorsby 27.11 acres Set up for horses or hoppy farm. 1488 sq.ft. modular home in excellent condition. Barn and many other Splaings, lots of pasture. \$399,000.00
- **Sunnybrook 3 bedroom modular** on 4.94 treed acres, excellent shape, close to pavement. \$169.900.00
- **Telfordville 1.87 acres** of tranquility beside a running creek, private, treed, on pavement. With power, well and small home. \$147,000.00

COMMERCIAL

- **Storage Business 16 Units.** Great revenue potential and easy to operate. Fenced yard. \$199,000.00
- 5800 sq.ft. finished shop with office space included. 7.98 acre fenced yard and serviced.
 \$995,000.00

Local Musicians Release Rock Album

From Ben Tobiasson

On May 11, 2020, my brother Clint and I released our first "rock" album and it's based on the music we used to play in the '70s.

Clint and I have been working on this for a few years and had to dust off some old recordings to help us 'remember' how some of it went.

We released it under the Tunecore Label and it's all over the world now. We are proud to say it was recorded entirely in the Warburg area. The new album is entitled "Fresh Tracks Tobiasson Brothers".

Many may remember Clint and I playing sockhops in the gym in Warburg School. In later years Clint and I (hiring and rehearsing a drummer) played all over Western Canada with our band "Equinox". We were mostly a smaller venue band.....the biggest bar we played was The St. Albert Inn before the bar was all chopped into pieces....would have seated about 500 people then. We BARELY had enough amplification on stage to play there. We have played some bigger venues (not a lot of them): Winstock 2016; Winstock 2019 and the reopening of the Sunnybrook Hall. Both the Winstock shows did have some amateur video done and we had some of them professionally produced.....unfortunately too late to replace the audio recording that we had released already.

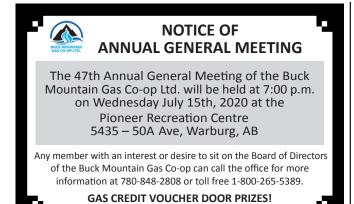
Our new album can be heard very easily on YouTube. Just search "Tobiasson Brothers" and find Fresh Tracks......play all. There are 12 tracks on the album and all of them Clint and I wrote and have performed live. This 70's rock album and the recording are available on all major retailers: iTunes, amazon, etc..



Album Cover pictured above.

Editor's Note: (Ben has won two ARIA (Alberta Recording Industry Association) awards for previous classical releases. The awards he's won include "Best Classical Artist on Record" and "Best Classical Artist of the Year"....both from ARIA. You can check out the website for more info at www.bentobiasson.com









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Straight Out of Thorsby

From the County of Leduc, from Alberta and Canada, from Singapore to the U.K., from Australia to Holland, from the USA to Panama, Thorsby graduates are making a difference. This is the 66th installment in a series of profiles which indicate what a small school and community can produce.

The people who conduct the interviews are Audrey Brosseau and John Elson. If you have. suggestions please contact John at 780-789-3822 or Audrey at 780-886-0658.

JANET (RADOWITS) MEYER

- Thorsby High class of '76... Graduation was a huge highlight with two classes totaling 42 students (and a whole town celebrating)! Life then consisted of a close group of friends who always planned for Friday nights, to enjoy socializing (at bush parties, or just driving around the boulevard).
- In grade 12 we were offered a trip to Europe. Teacher chaperones, youth hostels, and a tour guide bus driver took us through a few countries. For a small-town Thorsby girl, with interests in Art and History, Europe had a huge impact on me! Since then, I have travelled and explored extensively (with Egypt, Pompeii, Rome, and Portugal being my top favourites). I love learning and exploring, and there's a whole lot of world to surprise you with things you have never seen or heard of before.
- I feel it's important to take breaks from work and create an adventure (near or far). Exploring, and learning leads to being influenced, (especially when young). This has had an impact my whole life. I believe that people are lucky... if they find their passion... then find their way to 'make a living from it'.
- To go back and remember where I have been "influenced" is interesting to me now. As a child, our family took camping vacations, yearly throughout Alberta and B.C., and now that I'm retired, I'm enjoying summers at our lake house in the Okanagan valley. I love the beauty of driv-

ing through the majestic Rocky Mountains, and can see the "painting" in every crevice and tree.

- My interest in Art/painting, stem from my artsy crafty mom (Shirley), and from watching artists in Banff and Lake Louise set up their easels (I'd watch for hours). I began painting when I was 18.
- The most art that I have done was in 1987... pregnant with twins...staying at home a lot, with my feet up and using my stomach as my easel... (worked very well). In fact last year, I received a call from my friend's son in law. He had gone to an estate sale in Edmonton, and had bid on a painting. He later examined the signature and checked out the info on the back of the canvas, and it was one of my paintings. I asked, "Was it painted in 1987, by chance?." "Yes".
- I married my high school sweetheart, Rod Meyer, in 1978. Engaged at 18 and married at 20 (almost an old maid)! We took our honeymoon in Disneyland! (Not even old enough to have a cocktail by the pool). Our kids can't believe that we were married so young, and asked if Rod's stag was at "Chuck-E-cheese"!?!
- Jobs were very easy to find in the late 70's. We lived in Edmonton and I thought that "downtown" could be an exciting place to work... a fun place to wear fashionable clothes from 'Fairweather'... so I put on my 70's boho attire of plazzo pants and vest, with my high platform shoes, and hopped on a bus to go downtown. The bus stopped at Jasper Ave and 108 street and the nearest building was Alberta Blue Cross. I went inside, had an interview, and was hired that day, for data entry. Data went into a primitive computer system, which filled the entire one floor. I was interested in the computer department, so took NAIT night courses and began writing programs for the computer department, until 1984.
- When living in Edmonton, we still had every opportunity to unwind and spent almost every weekend in Thorsby, continuing with community activities and sports. Eventually people have families of their own and move away, but we were able to "wean" from Thorsby slowly.
- Rod received his gas-fitting ticket through NAIT and worked for Northwestern Utilities

(Atco Gas). In order to move up the ranks, as an Agent, he had to move around Alberta. We moved from Edmonton, to Ponoka, to Slave Lake, and finally to Tofield. Within these years, we raised our daughter, Tara, born in 1984, and Chad and Ryan, (identical twins), born in 1987.

- While living in Ponoka (and Slave Lake), I was able to be a stay home mom, and took evening Admitting Clerk jobs at the General Hospitals. I also did commission art work for local Tea Houses, and started my part-time Mary Kay business.
- In the mornings, I homeschooled Tara from grade 2-12 (extensive in the Arts). She was able to study at home, study on-line, and travel...adding studies of dance and ballet; at the Alberta Ballet, Ecole Montreal, and Monaco, Monte Carlo at the Princess Grace Ballet School, and The Edge, L.A. She graduated from the Alberta Homeschool facility, The 'School Of Hope', Vermilion. I homeschooled Ryan and Chad starting in Kindergarten, and they then attended public school in Tofield grade 8-12. Homeschooling worked well for our gypsy family. We were very busy chauffeurs, with the kids in skating, dance, hockey, and golf.
- While in Tofield, I worked at the Tofield Community Health Center. I had a few long titles, but basically, I was a "receptionist" for Public Health.
- Fast forward a few years, and after 28 years with Atco, Rod opened up his own Propane business, "Heatseeker Propane", in Edmonton. Onward to moving to our tenth house, we moved to Edmonton. I worked for the company in the office. I retired early, and then in 2015 Rod sold the business and joined me in retirement.
- Being flexible and going with what feels right at the time, has made us have a few career changes we wouldn't have predicted. A lot of people work on 5 year plans... This would have never worked with our family. Yearly opportunities would come up, and we'd take them. Plus, a few things were out of our control, so we learned to adjust as a whole family. Good stress, bad stress, or just being excited and nervous with new things... it's all in how you put it in perspective! If you have your health, there's not too

- much that can stand in your way. My favourites (Manuka honey, oil of oregano, and yoga), cure all, with maybe a sip of nice wine.
- We still count Edmonton as home base and we now live in a condo on Edgemont Ravine. Edmonton area is home for many of our relatives/friends, Ryan and Chads' families and our 3 grandchildren (whom we love dearly and want to be with them as much as we are able to). Ryan (electrician), lives near Miquelon Lake / Tofield. Chad (gasfitter), lives near Stony Plain. Tara's been a travelling gypsy, working on cruise ships (dancing), a competitive athlete (pole art and Ariel sports), owns her own fitness studio, and solos with Cirque du Soleil's traveling company. (A lot of our travels have involved visiting where she is at).
- We have spent a few winters in Apache Junction, Arizona, where socializing with our "Sunrise Resort family" includes golfing, touring, road trips, hiking, biking, arts and crafts, and attending dances with live music (musicians from "our time", entertaining). (Keeps us stress free and thinking we are 18 again... Until we come back to Canada and deal with doctors, cortisone shots, and trying out all our ache and pain remedies from the Arizona Markets)!
- Summertime fun is spent at our lakehouse on Lake Okanagan. A lot of our family live there, and if not, then they visit us there. Family is the most precious thing to us. If we can share fun and important life moments with them, while they're busy making a living, then we've set our goals.
- When people ask me where I'm from, I feel that the answer is still "Thorsby", although I only lived there 19 years, it still seems like it's home. I am so happy that I was raised there.
- Advice to young grads: You know what your interests and strong points are... go with your gut, with your passion. Learn to relax, and to adjust. There is no cookie cutter lifestyle. Do what feels right to you. Cherish the moments you have lived in a small community.

Covenant Corner

from Pastor Jeff Gooderham

Nicolas Sarkozy, then President of France, proposed a decree that would ban anyone from wearing religious symbols of any kind. The decree was aimed particularly at forbidding Muslim women from wearing their traditional burqa with a full-faced veil. However, the decree was broad enough that it would ban any religious symbol.

President Sarkozy's contention was, that the French people were being divided by a myriad of diverse religious expressions and therefore could no longer focus on their common identity as the people of France. Homiletics Magazine puts it, "The emphasis should be on being French first, secular second and religious a distant third, at best (but probably not at all)." The idea is that the powers that be in France want the people of France to rally around the flag... the nation being the unifying factor rather than the divisiveness of individual religious preferences.

In the July 26, 2010 issue of Time magazine I stated that there was an estimated 5 million Muslims living in France and of those 5 million, 2,000 who wore the full-face Islamic burqa veil. In a country of 65, 447,324 people, 2,000 does not seem to be very many. However, on July 13, 2010 the National Assembly passed a law declaring that "no one can, in the public space, wear clothing intended to hide the face." The French are wondering what it means to be French.

The bible acknowledges the reality of the existence of our many and varied identities. The inference is that our varied identities can serve to define us and even divide us. So God's answer to our dissimilarities is to focus on our single similarity...our identity in Christ.

Paul wrote, "You are all Children of God through faith in Christ Jesus...there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26-28, while the world is busy dividing and tearing down, we need to be uniting around that which makes us one, Jesus, and begin building up!

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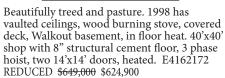




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