

TH^{RSBY} TARGET

Open Letter to Residents

From Thorsby Mayor and Council

We were disappointed to see the comments put forward last weekend on Facebook. We want to remind everyone that we will screen shot any defamatory, discriminatory, fact less based rumors, perpetuated as truth, and we will decide if in any case, we need a legal opinion for damages.

I can assure everyone NO ONE has been fired and we do not have plans to fire anyone! Our Recreation Centre is, and will remain, the heart of this community! SO, for the second time, our Recreation Centre IS NOT CLOSING PERMANENTLY!

We are bound to follow Alberta Health Services guidelines. The county cost shares 60% of all cost. The ice is still in and no decisions will be made without consultation with the County and the Minor Hockey Association.

Laying off our Recreation Centre staff for a second time is very difficult. This very difficult decision was based on the financial burden of continuing to pay wages for staff in a building that we cannot open.

It is truly sad that these are the same employees who went above and beyond to get the facility open and enforce COVID-19 rules. It is so unfair! We would like to thank our employees for doing such an amazing job during these unprecedented times.

Five recreation employees were laid off due to COVID-19. Some were offered other roles, and we respect their decision not to take the job offered to

work at the municipal office.

The reference to Family Community Support Services (FCSS), to us, was the most disturbing.

During COVID-19, most services are provided by phone, email or digitally. I can assure FCSS clients that services that always were available, are still in place. There is no need to create a panic.

Continued on page 4



Town of Thorsby JOB OPPORTUNITY

Permanent Part-time **Municipal Clerk**

Please submit your resume including a cover letter to cao@thorsby.ca by January 31, 2021. This position offers an hourly rate as per the CUPE Local 30 Collective Agreement. The hours offered are up to 15 hrs/week. You must be able to multi-task, have the ability to work unsupervised and cooperatively as a team member and should have strong public relation skills. The successful applicant must possess solid computer skills. Municipal Government experience is considered a strong asset. The applicant should be bondable and be able to maintain accurate, concise information and perform various duties as required by the CAO and Office Manager.

Tamara Sloboda, C.A.O.
Email: cao@thorsby.ca

The CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

Pasture Land Wanted to Rent - for the 2021 season.
Call Kristen at 403.559.6863 (1-2)

FOR SALE

HAY HAY HAY - Winter's Here! 130 2nd cut alfalfa bales, large round, no rain - baled dry. Horse & dairy quality. Protein samples avail. \$85; **21 grass bales**, baled dry, horse quality. \$45; **38 1st cut alfalfa**, 70% alfalfa 30% timothy, large 1200lb-1400lb bales, good quality. \$60. All located in the Pigeon Lake area.
780.405.3260 (2-4)

Butcher ready pigs for sale. Must be picked up live.
Contact Tyler at (780) 621-7120 (2-2kr)

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Newly remodelled 2 bedroom, open concept kitchen with island. Appliances supplied. Small pet could be considered. Rental incentive with a signed 1 year lease. \$895. 780 848-2628 (2-12)

FOR RENT COMMERCIAL

Building for rent in Breton - \$500/mth plus utilities.
Call 780.696.3551 (2-2kr)

RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL PARCELS FOR SALE

Pre-Selling 1 to 10 acre parcels in the Village of Warburg. Available in the spring of 2021. Residential and or commercial. Approx 40 acres to be subdivided. \$25,000 per acre. Lot sizes will vary but will be approx 280' X 775' (5 Acre) or 220' X 220' (1 acre). All services are at curb side on the newly constructed & paved 56th Avenue. Currently used for agricultures purposes. Visit the Village of Warburg for details on the services and amenities the Village offers. Land is located west of Martin John Deer and Buck Mountain Gas on 56th Avenue. See signs at location.
Call or text Bill at 780-218-5024. (2-4)

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 (2-2kr)

The Thorsby Target can be viewed
online and in color
at www.community39.com



Helen Louise Solberg

Helen passed away suddenly on January 2nd, 2021
at the University of Alberta Hospital in
Edmonton, Alberta at the age of 79 years.

She was born on October 24th, 1941 in Lacombe
to Henry & Nellie Johnson. Helen was predeceased
by her long time friend & companion Albert
Letendre in March of 2010, her mother in 1979,
father 1987, brother Lawrence, sister Lorraine,
and sister Florence. She is survived by her sister
Joyce & brother-in-law Heinz Schar of Grande
Prairie, nephews Lawrance Landry of Saskatoon, SK,
Joe Landry of Grande Prairie AB, Jim Lawrence
of Lethbridge, AB & niece Gwen Mohtar
of Edmonton, AB. Helen is also survived by
many cousins and relatives in Norway and Sweden.

Helen lived in various places over the years
including Edmonton, Onoway, Warburg,
Breton, Thorsby & Grande Prairie. She liked her
new home in Grande Prairie and made many
friends here over the last four years. In Grande
Prairie she was welcomed with open arms by the
"Group of Eight" and enjoyed many outings
and events with this group of special friends.

Helen told us that of all the places she'd lived,
she liked Thorsby the best because of all the
nice people. She loved to play bingo and
volunteered quite often for the Thorsby bingos.

A Celebration Of Helen's Life will be held
in Thorsby during the summer.
(due to Covid-19)

Anyone wishing to make a donation on her behalf
may do so to the Heart & Stroke Foundation.



Our family is grateful to all family and friends for their prayers, flowers, cards and expressions of condolence extended to us following the loss of a remarkable husband, father and grandfather. We are also pleased to acknowledge numerous donations made in Art's memory to a variety of charities.

We sincerely thank Pastor Ron Flamand, Serenity Funeral Service, Nathan Samuelson, and Evan Will (Sharko Studios) for their services. Together their contributions helped us to create a truly special and memorable graveside ceremony to honour Art. We also acknowledge and appreciate the generosity of the St. Matthew's Lutheran Women.

Art was a friend to many and his presence will be missed. Thank you all for your caring and support.

In gratitude, Irma Schmidt & Family



Town of Thorsby Upcoming Council Meetings

JANUARY 2021

Tuesday 19 | Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday 26 | Regular Council Meeting

FEBRUARY 2021

Tuesday 2 | Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday 9 | Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday 16 | Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday 23 | Regular Council Meeting

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

IN LOVING Memory



In loving memory of
Bob Ostapchuk
who passed away January 7, 2020

Remember Me In Quiet Days

Remember me in quiet days,
while raindrops
whisper on your pane.
Remember in your memories
have no grief,
let the joy we knew remain.
Remember me if once you wake,
to catch a glimpse of red sunrise.
Remember when your thoughts
do turn to me,
know that I would not have you cry,
but live for me, and laugh for me.
When you are happy so am I.
Remember an old joke we shared.
And while you live, I shall not die!

Thinking of you every day and missing you.

From loving wife Beverly,
brothers, George (Elizabeth), Reg (Marilyn),
Marvin (Phyllis) and numerous nephews,
nieces, relatives and friends.

Open Letter to Residents, cont'd from front page

Slandering and defaming the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is counter productive, and those doing it will be held accountable. We can not go back to the **disruptive effect of having FIVE CAOs over a SIX-year period**. Out of the 32 applicants for the CAO position the Council felt she was the most qualified for the position.

In our comparative research, we were the only town of our size, in the province, that had the unnecessary cost both a CAO and a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and restructuring this position is part of Council's ongoing commitment to ensure we find efficiencies and cost savings for residents without jeopardizing services. Going down to one employee, from the previous two, will save taxpayers money.

The new CAO is a Certified Professional Accountant (CPA) registered with Canada, Alberta, and British Columbia Association. The new CAO started her services as the CFO on September 27, 2020, in order for us, (Town of Thorsby), to apply for the "Municipal Sustainability Plan" grant that was due September 30, 2020. The grant application was successful, and the Alberta Government released the funds during October of 2020. The funds received are available for infrastructure for the community's benefit, starting in Spring of 2021.

The CAO needs to manage, which includes staff. Anyone who runs a business, knows managing staff can be difficult. Employees do not manage, managers manage, and it's all employee's responsibility to achieve the common objectives laid out by Administration, through the direction of Council.

Being here less than a month in the new role as the CAO, and having to layoff staff, due to the Alberta Health Services restrictions, we know it was a difficult decision and was fully supported by Council. These are only temporary layoffs, forced upon us by the province in response to a global health crisis!

Once things settle down, and she does not have to work 50 to 60 hours a week to merge both CAO and CFO's job responsibilities into one job, she will meet with everyone.

To us, it is our responsibility to defend our employees and councillors, who have done nothing wrong. We find it a despicable and cowardly act to start a crisis and to create divisiveness, especially in an election year!

Council has only one employee, the CAO, who answers to all of Council. Direction to the CAO is done by a motion for direction, in a public meeting, and voted upon by all councillors. Under the Municipal Government Act (MGA), an elected official can not interfere with Administration, they can not give direction to any other employee and can not discuss anything regarding town employees due to privacy laws, (such as FOIP) and employment standards.

We still have and will continue to have an open policy. We encourage everyone with concerns to come in front of Council in the proper format, as directed by the MGA and other policies and procedures approved by the Town's Council. We continue to follow previous council guidelines not to participate in social media activities.

We defend everyone's right to their opinion. We can only hope it is expressed in a respectful manner, so it can be dealt with in a respectful manner. We conduct town business in council, not on Facebook. Going forward, we will put our articles in the Thorsby Target. Also, we are in the process of having a simplified, interactive website created.

We invested in a Zoom licence and are now able to conduct digital council meetings for all residents, the information to log on will be provided through our website and the Municipal office. (see link at the end of the article). This will allow multiple residents to remotely attend a council meeting digitally.

Council meetings are still open to the public in-person, but with restrictions for the number of attendees.

We want to thank everyone who called to express concern and to find out what was really going on. This remains a great little community, with most residents being kind and honourable people.

Now back to the regular programming of dealing with town business.

Back in December we decided to craft articles for the Thorsby Target over the first six months of 2021.

1. FINANCIAL REPORTING:

As a small community, we do not have unlimited resources to spend for any non-strategic wants.

We will provide information for the last ten years of audited financial statements as reported on the Municipal Affairs website. This information will give us input on how our community got to where we are today.

We will provide budget numbers and comparative graphs of how we compare to other communities our size, including operations and capital expenditures.

While we continue making progress toward ensuring long term stability, we do remain in a difficult financial situation, so every decision must be strategic moving forward. All councillors and CAO salaries are made public every year, and are readily available to anyone.

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

A new strategic plan must be crafted, as a made in Thorsby based approach, written by us, not an

outside consultant.

We need to have an executable, usable, practical road map for this and next council to follow.

The current land use and community standards by-law are very well crafted. However, bylaws are useless unless they are enforced. Enforcing bylaws makes the community safe and prevents anyone who thinks they can do whatever they want, where they want, because no one will take them to task. Some upgrades and amendments are being done to bring it up to the new provincial standard.

We will explain how a high tax load, high water costs, present daily infrastructure issues, and lack of bylaw compliance, rants and raves, impact growth.

3. BUDGET 2021:

This document will be available online, in the new interactive website.

The budget provides the next council a realistic guideline of achievable objectives with improved operational costs. Once we get our operational costs inline, we can do more. Every road and undersurface infrastructure that has not been done in the last ten years, still needs to be done.

Town of Thorsby is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Council Meetings - Town of Thorsby

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Daily:

https://zoom.us/join/jvvdemsrzkpEtcvYbt1Bu3hPt0_o8HiAqzU/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCurDkqHtWXsxGERowAAIjoc-izmHpei7deiibnF3Fxd1D-BvYSDb0nONHx

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96220412383?pwd=N3NRMld1MkU4WGJQdEdQTXhmQ0Fmdz09>

Meeting ID: 962 2041 2383

Passcode: 250327

One tap mobile

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+12042727920,,96220412383#,,,,*250327# Canada

Dial by your location

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+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 962 2041 2383

Passcode: 250327

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/azx1Pnfnl>



COMMUNITY & info EVENTS

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michaelj@mikeshomesltd.com

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH RE-OPENING. Divine Liturgy will be held on SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 at 10:30 a.m. Masks are mandatory and all COVID rules apply. Should you require any further information please contact Dan @ 780-789-3698

Golden Spur Gymkhana Club Annual General Meeting on January 23, 2021 @ 1 pm, location TBA

Sunnybrook Community Hall yearly Membership Renewals are due. \$5 a person Or \$10 for a family. Payments can be done via etransfer to: sunnybrookcommunityhall@gmail.com

PROGRAMS & REGULAR EVENTS

Thorsby Bingo CANCELLED due to rise in COVID-19.

Royal Canadian Legion #246 Mulhurst Branch: Has **Cancelled** the General Meeting that was to be held Jan. 11, 2021. No Bingo's at this time. No Social's at this time either. All due to, you guessed it...Covid. Call: 780-935-6281

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 Centre - 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 780-934-2929

MARKETS / THRIFT SHOPS (NON PROFIT)

Thorsby Senior's Thrift Store will be OPEN again on January 14th - ALL COVID-19 regulations apply. Hours of operation: 10 am - 3 pm Thursdays and Fridays. We are accepting donations.

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.

Leduc Public Market runs every Thursday 10-3 in the City Center Mall. 201 50 Street. Lots of vendors with a wide variety of items. For tables or info call Jenna 780-868-7616.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Thorsby Family and Community Support Services - Patti Skarpinsky (Coordinator), PH. 780-789-4004 or email: fcsc@thorsby.ca

Does drinking affect your personal life in 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

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

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

Bus Transportation To Leduc - The 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. Departs from the Thorsby Rec Center. Approx. 9:30 am, cost of \$7, call to reserve a seat: 780-848-7717.

Community Events Sign is Free to Non-Profit Organizations on a first come, first served basis for a period of one week, or less. To have your event placed on the sign call, 780-789-4041.

WORSHIP

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Thorsby is holding in-Church Worship at 10:30 a.m. Following COVID protocols. Our weekly worship with Pastor Ron can still be found on YouTube.

Community United Church - 5112 - 53 St., Warburg. Join us for Sunday morning worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10:30 AM. For information please phone the church office 780-848-2227.

New Life Christian Fellowship - Worship Services Sunday - 10:30 am, Ladies Fellowship and Prayer Friday - 9:30 am. 780-789-3020.

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.



FREE Creative Connections activity kit for seniors and older adults

Do you know about all the services, supports and resources that are available to seniors and older adults who live in Leduc County, Calmar, Thorsby or Warburg? Are you looking for activities to keep you busy and connected to your family and friends while isolating at home?

Due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, there have been limited opportunities for seniors and older adults to access information on community resources. It can be difficult to get all of your needs met while you're staying home, and Leduc County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) want to help!

Our free Creative Connections activity kits contain information on available programs and resources, which will help keep you informed, up-to-date and connected to services. The kits also have books and activities to promote conversations with others on a deeper level, encouraging new connections and deepening relationships with others.

If you are a senior or older adult aged 50+ who lives in Leduc County, Calmar, Thorsby or Warburg, call us at **780-979-2385** to register for an activity kit. **The deadline to call and register is Feb. 5.**

Supplies are limited and available on a first call, first received basis! Once registered, you'll be informed of your closest pick-up location.



Breton Denture Centre

5012 - 50 Ave. Breton

780-696-9696

Our Services Include:

- Free Consultations
- Same Day Relines
- Complete & Partial Dentures
- 1 Hour Denture Repairs
- Dental Assistance for Seniors
- Referral to a Dentist or Surgeon



Join Us Again in Completing that Beautiful Smile!

Thorsby's Puppy Lovin Grooming

780-518-3943 Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 to 5:00

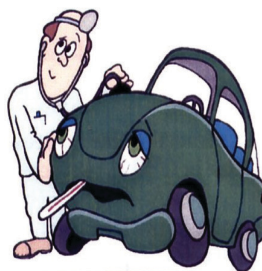


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780-789-3661



WORSHIP

Philippian Christian Friendship Church of Canada Thorsby - This is Rev. Pollard, if you need prayer or just to talk, please leave your number and we will get back to you. Have a blessed day! **587.930.7801**

Warburg Alliance Church is open. 11 a.m. worship service. For more information please phone 780-848-7577, check out our Facebook page or email us warburgalliance@gmail.com.

Warburg Seventh Day Adventist Church, Sat. Sabbath School 10 am, Main Service 11:30 am, Pastor Jason Williams 780-848-2271

COMMUNITY GROUP REGULAR MEETINGS

Thorsby Ag. Society Regular Meetings – First Wednesday of every Month, 7:00 pm, Haymaker's Arena. www.thorsbyhaymaker.com or call 780-789-3829.

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 Fish & Game Regular Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month @ 7:00 pm at Warburg Village Office Basement (entrance through the back). Please join us. Contact Bruce at 780-848-2242 for more information.

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 780-903-1695.

The Royal Canadian Legion, Pioneer Br. 144 Thorsby is wanting more members. Meetings are every third Wednesday of the month, except July and August, at the Thorsby Senior Club 4512-51 Street at 9:30 am.

FACILITY RENTALS

Thorsby Community Centre - For bookings call Marlene at 780-789-3734 or text 780-217-9394 or email thorsbyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Visit our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/ThorsbyHistoricalSociety

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

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

Camp Barvnok - For bookings, call Walter 7807172432, or Jason 7809904043, or email bookings@barvnok.com

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

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

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

FACILITY RENTALS

1250.

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

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

Rundle's Mission Retreat Centre: 780.389.2422 or rent@rundlesmission.org, you can also visit our website at www.rundlesmission.org

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

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

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.

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

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

Breton Golden Age Centre Rentals - \$10 / hour with \$25.00 for use of kitchen or \$15/day. Deposit of \$50 required. **Call Pat at 780.696.2056**

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

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.

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. Rental Inquiries - Gordon 780-542-1243 or Mona 780-361-9558

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780-986-2900 (office) www.dawnheisler.remax.ca
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WARBURG

Lot with double garage.
E4194826 \$35,000



BRETON ACREAGE



6 bdrm, 3 bath large home, wood burning stove, attached garage, hip roof barn, paved driveway, 5.68 acres, fenced. E4200555 \$459,000

WARBURG VACANT LOTS

Residential Lot 12 \$24,000

Lots 23-25

Your choice \$45,000

Commercial Lots 19 & 20

\$27,000 ea.

Pie Lot In Cul de sac \$35,000

REDUCED \$29,000

OWNED LOT

2009 modular, 3 bedroom,

2 bath, paved driveway

E4042452 \$180,000

REDUCED \$140,000



WARBURG



Own the lot, many upgrades, 2 bed, 1 bath, open concept, 2 sheds, apple tree. E4011044 \$99,000 REDUCED \$95,000

LOG HOME WITH 80 ACRES

Beautifully treed w/ pasture. 1998 - vaulted ceilings, wood burning stove, covered deck, walkout bsmt, in floor heat. 40'x40' shop with 8" structural cement floor, 3 phase hoist, two 14'x14' doors. E4162172 REDUCED \$649,000 \$624,900



BRETON



Family home, almost 2000 sq.ft. of developed space, plus basement, 4 bed, 3 bath, double garage - all on a large pie lot! E4222769 \$260,000

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5 minutes to Calmar in Buford on half acre. 2 bed bungalow with attached garage built in 1950. E4215566 \$140,000 REDUCED NOW ONLY \$120,000



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Call, email or visit
our website
to make an appointment.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Happy New Year Everyone!!!

Dear Editor: To Thorsby Community

I want to start off by saying 2020 was a harsh year filled with many challenges. I'm glad its behind us.

I want to have a conversation of awareness. If we have to deal with provincially mandated closures of our recreation facility, shouldn't there be discussion on other avenues to provide programming and what we might be able to do? Many communities are providing something and this supports community healthiness overall. I'm disappointed when the decision is made harshly to layoff staff, as it always leaves a gaping hole in the community with everyone wondering, now what? Are we truly looking at the big picture on providing service and programming, because the impact of it will have long lasting effects if we don't? Staff are a vital piece in our community that we need in order to keep moving forward on in a positive way. I am struggling with these recent decisions that I'm hearing about.

Our New CAO has taken her place in the community and under Councils direction she has to make operational decisions that undoubtedly will impact us all. Some will be supported, some will not be. Council will need to diligently work through it with the community's best interest always in mind. I look forward to seeing details of the budget before it is passed, to get community feedback. Budgets require feedback as it's the community's budget that Council and Administration create.

Another area that troubles me is that in a time of crisis we do not have our FCSS Coordinator or have any indication on how long she will be away. Where do we go to get the answers to the questions we have, and why should we have to speak to Leduc County FCSS when it could be handled by a very competent Thorsby FCSS Coordinator? Do we go without?

In a time where it should be all staff on deck to give qualified confidence to the community, is it realistic to have and accept this void? These decisions worry me to my core, and makes me question what service delivery means to Council, because it means something completely different to me, and many will agree.

I continue to advocate for transparency, and it's again disappointing to not see it very easily. Our CAO may be very busy, that I can understand, but you should never refuse to speak to the community when they come calling. One month into this position and already we are questioning all because a call wasn't taken. I want a welcoming CAO, one that builds relationships with the community and buys into our community. Those relationships can go a long way in forging the strength of volunteers to rally together to build and create. They will work tirelessly to serve, because that's what volunteers do if you treat them right. Build a team so that the community continues to see great success. You will fail if you think you can do it on your own and so will Council. The ethical approach of respect and communication is the most powerful tool you can have.

I want to see good decisions made by all so we can enjoy a flourishing community. One that works together and respects differences, that's the only way. My service to my community is a personal one. One that I do because I want to, not because I need to. I love to create and innovate, and I hope that at some point I will have left my mark, one that another will pick up and continue on with. I have my expectations not only of myself but of Council, that I hold close with my years of service and volunteerism. I'm human, and I to have made mistakes that I regret, but I will say, I always try to improve upon to do better. One thing is for certain, my passion will never cease to build community.

Barry Rasch

All "Letters To The Editor" must be printed with the name of it's author. Letters To The Editor are the opinions of those who wrote them, not necessarily those of Community 39 Enterprises.

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- **Warburg Area - 80 acres** with huge modern 2267 sq.ft 2 storey home. Finished basement, 26' x 28' heated 2 storey double garage with developed man cave - 2nd residence is a quaint cabin for guests & many other outbuildings. \$735,000.00
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Recruiting Firefighters in Thorsby Area

From Leduc County

Applications accepted until Jan. 31, 2021

Leduc County Fire Services is recruiting paid on-call firefighters in the Thorsby Fire District.

We need individuals living and/or working in the Thorsby area to join our team of dedicated firefighters by Jan. 31. This is a great opportunity to develop life-saving skills, gain valuable hands-on experience and give back to the community in a meaningful way, all while getting paid for it. Keven Lefebvre, fire chief

Paid on-call firefighters get professional-level training to respond to emergency calls — including residential, rural and industrial fire calls, vehicle collisions, medical calls and airport response — in the Thorsby Fire District and in surrounding areas through mutual aid. They get paid to attend weekly training and respond to emergency calls.

To become a paid on-call firefighter, you must meet the following requirements:

- live/work within 19 kilometres of the Thorsby Fire District Station (4836 49 Ave.)
- be at least 17 years of age
- have a valid driver's license
- provide criminal record check and driver's abstract

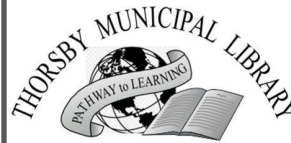
See full eligibility requirements and learn more at leduc-county.com/recruitment

The Thorsby Fire District includes property east of Range Road 22 and west of Range Road 275, including the Town of Thorsby; this district is home to roughly 2,805 people.

Cadet program

In an effort to attract more individuals to this opportunity, we are launching a cadet program in the Thorsby Fire District to attract high-school students.

Successful applicants between 17 and 18 years of age will be trained to professional standards and must attend weekly training nights as cadet firefighters. When they reach the age of majority, they will become a firefighter and will be able to respond to emergency calls.



News

From Gayle Sacuta

Happy January!

The library will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM the week of January 18-22 for curbside service.

The week of January 25-29 we hope to extend the hours. Please call the library at 780-789-3808 to confirm, or check our Facebook page. You can also send us an email at thorsbypublib@yrl.ab.ca.

We also have board meeting January 20 @ 7:00 PM via ZOOM. The public is welcome to attend/observe meetings by sending an email to yatmgsacuta@yrl.ab.ca.



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COVID-19 ALERT

Due to AHS restrictions we have limited our in-office visits. Please call our office for appointments, payment inquiries & insurance or registry services.

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News, Views, Peruse - A Book Lover's Stew

Thorsby Municipal Library Reading Challenge 2021

The goal of this challenge is for each of us as readers to break out of our 'reading bubble' and expand our worldview through books. To do this you will read at least 6 books in 2021, each from a different suggested category.

Categories- (you can make a note by the category of the title of the book you read)

Read a biography or memoir

Read a non-fiction book on a current topic

Read a book published before 1970

Read a book of short stories or poems

Read a "Young Adult" (YA) book

Read or listen to an e-book or audiobook

Read a book by an Albertan author

Read a book by an Indigenous author or that has a theme relating to Indigenous culture

Read a book that has been translated into English

Please contact the library to let them know that you are 'taking up the challenge', and then let the library know when you have completed the challenge. Draws will be made in December for prizes for a couple of lucky participants.

As a reader you will be encouraged to write a short review or rate the book so others will have suggestions of what they might like to read. There will be forms at the library and an area to display these.

Thorsby Municipal Library 780-789-3808 email: thorsbypublib@yrl.ab.ca



MLA REPORT

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

Submitted January 11, 2021

As we kick off 2021, Alberta's government remains focused on protecting the lives and livelihoods of Albertans. From administering vaccines to ensuring we have strong public health measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, we are working tirelessly to keep Albertans safe.

Alberta's government is leading all major provinces in COVID-19 immunizations. In fact, more than 65 per cent of the vaccines we have received have been administered to vulnerable Albertans and healthcare workers. In total, 33,864 doses of the vaccine have been administered in the province as of Jan. 6, working out to roughly 765 doses per 100,000 Albertans – the highest rate per capita in the country. Our province's phased approach to vaccination prioritizes healthcare workers and our most vulnerable. Eligibility to receive the COVID-19 vaccine will continue to expand as more vaccines arrive in Alberta.

As was announced in December, rapid testing has been expanded to include vulnerable Albertans and has begun at long-term care and designated supportive living facilities in the Edmonton area. Remote and rural hospitals in Alberta are receiving rapid tests, and rapid testing has also been expanded to homeless shelters and centers in both Calgary and Edmonton.

Our government also remains focused on ensuring our children can learn in a safe and thoughtful way. As previously scheduled, schools opened to in-person learning on January 11th. This decision was based on the latest evidence which demonstrates that before the Christmas break, case rates in schools flattened and then dropped, once restrictions on social gatherings were implemented. In September, a clear majority of parents chose in-person learning for their

children during the pandemic, and Alberta's education system has done an excellent job of implementing and following provincial health measures. The return to school occurred with strong guidelines in place to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and students, while also helping restore a sense of normalcy for our children. Alberta's government is actively evaluating the latest public health data to assess if the current level of restrictions need to be adjusted. As of now, families, businesses, organizations and service providers must continue to follow existing public health measures until at least Jan. 21. We recognize that changing health guidelines can be difficult on businesses, in particular, which is why we continue to consult with affected industries and are committed to providing businesses with at least one week's notice before any changes.

The measures that were implemented in December have helped reduce the number of active cases, however, overall case numbers, hospitalizations and positive testing rates continue to remain high. The worst thing we could do right now is increase chances of another wave of cases that would, in turn, jeopardize our healthcare system. We all have a role to play as part of the solution, and we will continue to carefully assess the data to determine what options are available to provide Albertans with more flexibility in their lives. In the meantime, please continue to follow public health measures as we will all need to work together to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in Alberta.

Alberta's government is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by protecting lives and livelihoods with precise measures to bend the curve of COVID-19, sustain small businesses, and protect Alberta's healthcare system for all.

I can be reached at the main constituency office in Drayton Valley at 1-800-542-7307 toll-free Monday to Friday, the Devon constituency office at 780-987-3666 Wednesdays and Thursdays or emailed at draytonvalley.devon@assembly.ab.ca anytime.

Mark

Our House Rocks

From Kevin Maine

Just a short update on curling rink.

The club is looking at a refund to the loyal members based on days played and days that would have been played. The refund will not be returned until the end of March, at which time one cheque will be made out per team.

The curling club has a cash raffle running which will end at the end of March. Three cash prizes: 1st \$2000.00 2nd \$750.00 3rd \$250.00. Tickets are available from any curler or the Warburg village office.

When teams come to get their refund cheques, please return the tickets. I will be contacting the team name on our records when this will be done.

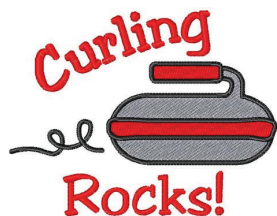
Some good/sad news Kelsie Cygan and Ethan Chung qualified for the fourth time to go to Mixed Doubles Provincials. These two young athletes have qualified 4 times and are only 17, they have a great future if they continue down the road of curling.

Alberta Curling had organized a bubble at Sylvan Lake, then 2 weeks before the event, the province changed the restrictions and they were cancelled.

The Brier, Scottie's and Mixed Doubles are still a go at this time, so we may get a curling fix then.

Thank you for your continued support of the Warburg Curling Club and we looking forward to getting back to our old lives soon.

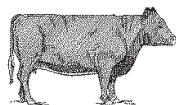
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Bell Let's Talk Day

Shared by Breton FCSS

Bell Let's Talk Day is January 28 and we're encouraging you to help create positive change.

Mental illness affects people of all ages and from all walks of life. According to the Mental Health Commission of Canada, one in five people in Canada will experience a mental health issue or illness in any given year. Over the past 9 years, Canadians and people around the globe have joined in the world's largest conversation around mental health on Bell Let's Talk Day. Together we have taken big steps to reduce the stigma around mental health issues.

In a recent survey conducted by Nielsen Consumer Insights in 2019, 84% of Canadians now say they are comfortable speaking with others about mental health, compared to only 42% in 2012.

However, there is still work to be done to ensure all Canadians have access to the mental health support they need. This year, on Bell Let's Talk Day Canadians are encouraged to share the actions, large and small, that they are taking to improve the lives of people living with mental health issues.

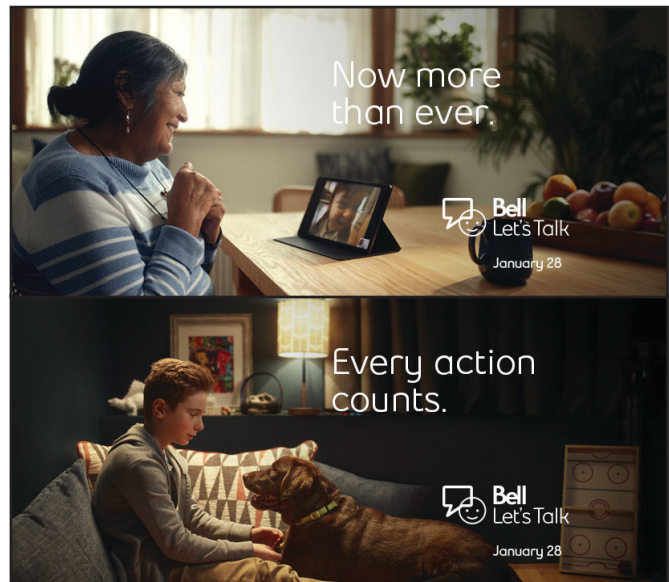
When it comes to mental health, every action counts.

On Bell Let's Talk Day, for every text, mobile and long distance call made on the Bell network, tweet using #BellLetsTalk, social media video view, or use of the Facebook frame or Snapchat filter, Bell will contribute 5 cents more to Canadian mental health programs.

You can also learn more about some of the organizations providing meaningful mental health supports and services throughout Canada and download the Bell Let's Talk toolkit to begin your own conversation about mental health at home, school or in the workplace.

Join in to as we work together to improve the lives of Canadians living with mental health issues and help create positive change.

If you would like to challenge yourself this month to more Self-Care, we have included it in this week's Thorsby Target on the next page.



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that a boa constrictor monitors
its victim's heart and when
it stops beating
it stops squeezing?

Self-Care Activity

Practicing self-care means taking the time to participate in activities that bring you enjoyment or a sense of calm and peacefulness. Activities can include things you do on a day-to-day basis or new activities. Self-care can promote positive mental health and well-being, keep us grounded and reduce the effects of stress in our lives.

This month, challenge yourself to complete as many self-care activities as you can. For each activity completed, fill in the talk bubble in that square.

 Cook a healthy meal 	 Head out on a nature walk or hike 	Write a letter/email to an old friend 	 Head to bed early 	Practice mindfulness 
 Enjoy a quiet moment over a cup of tea or coffee 	Write a positive affirmation and recite it in the mirror 	Connect with your community 	Discover a new author or musician 	 Stretch or practice yoga 
Discover a new podcast 	Talk to a loved one about your feelings 		Put on your dancing shoes 	Make a vision or mood board 
 Paint or draw 	Set a goal 	Have a good laugh 	Write in a journal 	 Create a gratitude list 
 Do a crossword or jigsaw puzzle 	Take a warm bath or shower 	 Practice deep breathing 	 Make a to-do list 	 Cuddle a pet or look at a cute photo of one online 

When it comes to mental health,
now more than ever, every action counts.

Join in to help create positive change.

Learn more at bell.ca/letstalk



I will always make you smile
BECAUSE **You Smile.... I Smile**



A man ran home from work, pulled his wife into the bedroom, threw her on the bed, and pulled the blankets over them. She was shocked - he hadn't been like this for 20 years. Then her husband said, 'Look! My new watch glows in the dark!'

The correct way to weigh yourself:



I can't believe I was doing it wrong all these years.

Supervisor: Do you have any special skills?
Me: Look, a turtle!



This baby owl was caught watching dogs play fetch in a yard in Warburg. So sweet.

Have a cute or funny pet picture or a wildlife picture taken in the area? Email it to media@community39.com or text to 780.887.0088

How times change!



**Kathleen O'Meara's poem
'And People Stayed Home'
written in 1869**

And people stayed home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently
and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal
and when the danger ended
and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.

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