BOSTER BRETON BOSTER

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Sam & Neoma Hooks

Submitted by Allan Goddard

What would become the Village of Breton, started out on the homestead of Sam & Neoma Hooks. The Dominion Land Survey of the area had been completed in 1906, and within a couple years the land was opened up for individuals to file on homesteads. One of the first to file on a homestead in the area was William Allen, in 1909. Mr. Allen contacted other African Americans families in Oklahoma, which he knew, suggesting the area would be a suitable area to settle and start a community of their own. Over the next couple of years, a number of families settled in the area and called the community Keystone.

Sam and Neoma Hooks were married in Oklahoma in the early 1900's. In 1912 along with their four children Virgie, Ellis, Elmer and Victoria left Sharpes, Oklahoma, their destination Edmonton, Alberta. The family crossed the US Canadian border at North Portal, Saskatchewan with their farm animals and household effects. Also accompanying the family was Neoma's mother Mrs. S. Atkins. Mrs. Atkins would return to Oklahoma within a year, but that is a story for another time.

Encouraged by William Allen, Sam Hooks filed on a homestead at Keystone, (SE2 48-4-W5) on a quarter with a ravine running through it. The Hooks family would remain in Edmonton for the first years, where Sam found employment working on the building of the High-Level Bridge. In 1915 they were ready to move to their homestead. With their team of mules and wagon they started out for Keystone. The trip would take several grueling days, over very poor trails, to reach their homestead. A small cabin and garden plot had been constructed prior to their move; an addition would be added later. Although there were many challenges completing the required improvements to obtain title to their land, the Hooks family persevered. The family also grew with six more children born to Sam and Neoma after coming to Canada.

In the mid 1920's it was announced that the Lacombe North Western Railway would be extended through the area. On the Hooks' homestead, was an artisan spring with water that was suitable for the steam locomotives. Land was purchased from the Hooks for the railroad right away and the start of what became Breton along the western side of their property.

The new terminal of the railway was named for Douglas Breton, a provincial MLA in the United Farmers of Alberta, the Provincial government of the time. Douglas Breton, along with others, had lobbied for a railway through the area for a number of years.

A large eight room house was built over looking the ravine circa 1930. Sam and Neoma would raise their family on the homestead. In 1942 the farm was to Harry Huntley and they moved to Edmonton. Sam would pass away in October of 1943 and Neoma in August of 1965. The Hooks house would remain as a sentinel overlooking the Ravine until October 1974 when it was destroyed by fire. The Village of Breton, in 1994, named the Ravine which ran through the Hooks' homestead the "Sam Hooks Ravine".

Join the Breton Museum 1:30 Sunday February 25 at the Breton Faith Covenant Church as we celebrate Black history Month.



Sam Hooks



Neoma Hooks

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

JANITORIAL WORKERS WANTED at Genesee- full & part-time needed. Mon-Thurs 10:30am - 7pm, Fridays 8:30am - 5pm. Call 780-982-7701

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*Please note: Ads will be picked up every Tuesday afternoon so if your ad is time sensitive, please call 780-499-9006 or email media@community39.com by 10am Monday morning for the Wednesday Breton Booster.

Classified Ads are \$5 for 2 weeks

(max. 4 lines or approx. 30 words) GST included
You can email your ads to media@community39.com
or call 780-499-9006

The Breton Booster can be viewed online & in color at www.community39.com



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

Sudoku Answers from Feb 14 Issue

The object of the puzzle is to fill the remaining squares, using all the numbers 1–9 exactly once in each row, column, and the nine 3 × 3 subgrids.



WE'RE HIRING IN THORSBY.

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Wilf Brandt Trucking Ltd. is seeking a Shop Hand for year round work in our Sunnybrook location.

Current Oilfield Safety Tickets are a definite asset, but are not a requirement to hire.

Successful candidates can expect yearround work, benefit package and excellent wages.

Pre-Employment Screening is a prerequisite to hire.

Please email resume along with a current drivers abstract to resumeswbt@gmail.com



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Shop open Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm.

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- Making decals, signs, banners, t-shirts etc.
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 - > Basic design on computer
 - Customer Service
- Deliveries to Edmonton and surrounding areas
 - Assist in installations
 - Keeping work areas clean
 - > Other duties as required

QUALIFICATIONS

- > Attention to detail is a MUST
 - > Must be self motivated
 - Must be willing to learn
- > Experience with Corel Draw an Asset
- Must have valid Class 5 Drivers License

HOW TO APPLY

Please email your resume to Shane at info@cemedia.ca or drop off at CE Media, 4928 Hankin Street, Thorsby.

*Applications accepted until February 23. **Interviews for those selected will be February 26 - 28.

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UPCOMINGSPECIALEVENTS

(Breton, Thorsby, Warburg & Surrounding Areas)

<u>February 24</u> - Zirka Zabava at Devon Community Hall. Zirka performance, Ukrainian dinner by Saskitoba and dance. Tickets available on Eventbrite.

<u>February 25</u> - Black History Month Performance at the Faith Covenant Church in Breton @ 1:30pm. Admission is by donation. Also, collecting donations for the food bank

February 27 - West End Swimming Pool Society AGM @ 7pm in Salt & Pepper Lounge. Everyone welcome

<u>February 28</u> - Adult Bus Trip - Kingsway Mall, Preregistration required by February 28. Contact Breton FCSS for more information. \$10/passenger. Adults only

<u>March 1</u> - World Day of Prayer service at 7PM in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Everyone welcome.

 $\underline{\text{March 2}}$ - Andrew Boitchenko's coming to the Warburg musuem @ 2:00pm

<u>March 9 & 10</u> - First Aid Training @ Genesee Hall from 8am-5pm. \$30 per person, lunch included. Email mhill@capitalpower.com to register.

<u>March 16</u> - Off to the Races Fundraiser at the Mackenzie Centre in Drayton Valley for the CSTS Society. Contact Krista 7 8 0 - 8 9 8 - 2 9 0 3 , Mandy 7 8 0 - 6 2 1 - 6 2 6 2 or csts1992@gmail.com

<u>April 6</u> - Gord Bamford Canadian Dirt Tour 2024 at Warburg Community Center. Go to <u>www.showpass.com/gord-bamford-canadian-dirt-tour-warburg-ab/</u> to <u>purchase tickets.</u>



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<u>April 13</u> - Breton/Warburg Women's Wellness Day - a day full of speakers, breakout sessions, fabulous food and a vendor market to shop! More information available soon!

Community Events & Information is FREE to advertise

If you'd like to get a link to the paper in your inbox you can subscribe online or email

media@community39.com

Village of Breton



SPECIAL Council Meeting

Bylaw Review

Wednesday, February 21st, 2024

At 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Carolyn Strand Civic Centre.

THE BRETON MUSEUM CELEBRATES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Special Guest:

Thomas "The Voice" Alexander

presents a musical concert with his Edmonton based band

Thomas' family roots go back to the first Black pioneers that settled in the Alberta Keystone area.

February 25, 2024

1:30 pm

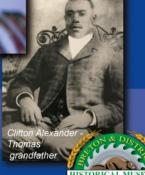
Breton Faith Covenant Church 4712 - 53 Avenue

Admission: By donation

Donations of non-perishable food will be collected for the Breton Food Bank

For Information Contact: bretonmuse@yahoo.com

Ph: 780-898-1155 www. bretonmuseum.ca







Banman Westerlund LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

- Derek W. Banman CPA, CA Partner
- Kyle Westerlund CPA, CA Partner

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PROGRAMS & REGULAR EVENTS

(Breton & Surrounding Areas)

**Please note - all events are subject to change

MONDAYS

BUS TO DRAYTON VALLEY (AQUASIZE OR WALMART) Leaving Warburg & Breton on Monday mornings. Registration must be completed the Thursday prior to the Monday trip to save your seat. Contact Warburg FCSS at 780-848-2828.

<u>CARDS & FLOOR CURLING</u> at the Breton Golden Age Club at 1pm (\$3)

TUESDAYS

YOGA FOR WELLNESS - Every Tuesday from 10 -11 am at the Breton Community Centre until April 30. Adult Only. Instructed by June Knobel. \$2 drop in fee.

CHILDREN'S GYM TIME - FREE Drop in for 0-6 years old from 10am -11:30am at the Breton Faith Covenant Church. Hosted by Brighter Futures. For more info 780-514-5070.

FLOOR CURLING at the Breton Golden Age Club at 12:30pm

FOOT WELLNESS services the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in Breton. Services include nail care, pedicures, detox treatments. Contact Christa at 780-514-5640 or online www.yourintrinsicelement.com/copy-of-services to book.

KNIT & KACKLE - meet to knit and crochet items to be give to non profits. No experience necessary. The 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Breton Faith Covenant Church at 1pm. Contact Gaylene at 780-696-3597

BRETON BOOK CLUB meets at the Library the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm from September until June. All readers are welcome to join the conversation!

THURSDAYS

NEW INDOOR WALKING GROUP on Thursdays at the Breton Community Centre starting January 18 from 9:30-10:30am. \$2 drop in fee. Please bring inside shoes.

FRIDAYS

LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE CLASS on Fridays from 9:30 - 10:30 am at the Breton Community Centre. Drop In \$2 per class. For more information call 780-696-3636

JAM DANCE & CARDS NIGHT at the Buck Creek Community Hall the first Friday of every month.

SATURDAYS

<u>CRIB</u> at the Breton Golden Age Club on Saturdays at 12:30pm. Contact Larry at 780-975-8755

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COMMUNITYGROUPS&MEETINGS

(Breton&Surrounding Areas)

MONDAYS

<u>Breton & District Historical Society</u> - Monthly meetings the 4th Monday at 7pm at the Breton Museum. Jan-June & Sept-Nov. 780-898-1155 or <u>bretonmuse@yahoo.com</u>

Breton Golden Age Club - Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 11am (except July & August). 780-898-1651 or dwaymon@telus.net

<u>Breton Royal Purple Elks No. 285</u> - Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm (except July & August) at the Community Hall. 780-514-4273 or <u>bretonrp285@gmail.com</u>

WEDNESDAYS

<u>Breton Municipal Library Board</u> - Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm (except July & August). 780-696-3740 or <u>bretonlibrary@yrl.ab.ca</u>

<u>Buck Creek Community Association</u> - Meetings at the hall the first Wednesday of every month at 8pm. 780-542-6604 or <u>buckcreekhall@gmail.com</u>

THURSDAYS

<u>Breton Ag Society</u> - Meets the second Thursday of every month (except July & August) at 7pm at the Community Centre. 780-202-0140 or <u>bretonagsociety@gmail.com</u>

Breton Elks 402 - Meetings are at 7:30pm every 3rd Thursday of the month (except July & August) at the Community Centre. 780-898-3557 or bretonelks402@gmail.com

Community Events & Information is FREE to advertise



Wednesday February 28, 2024



Adult Trip \$10 / passenger Leaving Breton at 9:00 am - Returning at 3:30 pm

Pre-registration and payment required by February 26th Register at Breton FCSS

For more information - fcss@breton.ca or 780.696.3636



Open to any adults in the Village of Breton or Brazeau County. If we are not full others will be welcome.







FCSS NEWS

from Deanne Young

780.696.3636

Please feel welcome to contact me at fcss@breton.ca
or 780-696-3636. Our office hours are Monday to
Thursday 8:30am - 4pm.

Hope everyone had a good long weekend and was able to connect with their family (blood or not) and enjoy the reason for the day off.

Changes to Alberta Government Payments - Albertans who rely on the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) and Income Support programs will get their payments four business days before the first of the month. Here are the next few payment dates:

February-Feb-01-2024 March-Feb-26-2024 April-March-25-2024

"Yoga for Wellness" Every Tuesday 10 am to 11 am January 16 to April 30, 10:00 – 11:00 am, Breton Community Center. Gentle flow yoga to help strengthen and relax the body and the mind. Pose sequences, meditation and breath work also promotes flexibility, balance, as well as, mind and body wellness. Adults of all ages are welcome; however class content was developed with age 55 plus in mind. Instructed by June Knobel, Certified Yoga Teacher with, Yoga Association of Alberta. \$2.00 drop in fee

The Adult Exercise Program is returning This class runs from 9:30 – 10:30 am on Friday mornings. Equipment is provided. This class will focus on toning, balance, increased mobility, strength gains, and increased flexibility. Participants will be able to either do the exercise standing or sitting, which ever their ability will allow. This program is facilitated by Cassie Kreil a certified instructor. Participants will be asked to pay a small fee of \$2/class. Join today and start to get fit with friends. This is a drop-in group so you are welcome to start attending at any time throughout the year.

Busing to Aquacise or Walmart in Drayton Valley - Monday Mornings-Together with Warburg FCSS the bus will arrive in Breton at 9:15 to head to the Drayton Valley Gentle Aquacise class. Returning at 11:30. Purchase a 5 ride Bus pass for (\$36) or 10(\$72) bus pass from the Village of Breton office. Register with Shauna the Thursday prior to the Monday class to save your seat on the bus. If you register with the Active 55 program (at the pool) and live in Brazeau County (including the Village of Breton) there is no cost for the Aqua Size class. If you do not qualify for Active 55 the cost for the aquacise class is \$7.50 or a 10 card pass for \$67.50. We must have at least 8 riders to make a trip. The bus will also make a stop at Walmart for those that would like to shop for 1 hr.

Walking Group – Thursday Mornings – 9:30 – 10:30 – Breton Community Centre, Drop In \$2. Organized by Kasey and Lorraine.

Save these Important Dates

Adult Bus Trip – Kingsway Mall – Wednesday February 28 - Need to get a few things that aren't available in our community? Just like to window shop? Join us on a bus trip to Kingsway mall - \$10/passenger. Adults only. Leave Breton at 9:00 return at approx. 3:30. Preregistration required by February 28. Contact Breton FCSS for more information.

Breton /Warburg Women's Wellness Day – Saturday April 13, 2024. We are excited to partner with Warburg FCSS and bring you a day full of speakers, breakout sessions, fabulous food and a vendor market to shop! Tickets are \$30 and will be available this week at the Village of Breton and the Village of Warburg Offices.

We have just finalized our day but it will feature:

Keynote - Christine Holubec Jackson - Finding our Super Power Through Adversity: Lessons From the Classroom of Life.

Breakout sessions with:

- Hot Mess Organizing Lisa Blough
- Homestead 39 Learn how to make Lavender Deodorant & Fermented Garlic Honey
- Make-up Demo Mikayla Leibel
- Planning with Heart Lisa Blough
- Flourished Creekstead Creating a cut flower garden
- Sarah's Sourdough Learning about Sourdough making
- Closing Speaker Billi J Miller "Overcoming Diversity: Blooming Where Planted"

If you would like to be a vendor at the event, please contact cosa@breton.ca

Tickets will be available this week at both Breton FCSS and Warburg FCSS.

Bus to Swim – Summer 2024 - It is never too early to start thinking about Summer activities. July 15-19,2024 bus leaves Warburg at 10 am, stops in Breton at 10:15, swim lessons at 11-12, then bus leaves at 12:10 from Pool to return home. Please arrive 5 minutes earlier as the bus will be leaving SHARP at 10 am. Cost: \$41.00 bus for one week+ swimming lessons \$55.00=\$96.00/total. Bus to Swim is for youth ages 5+. 4 parent volunteers(must be attending all week) for the bus to swim are needed. If you sign up to volunteer, we will give you \$20.00 off one child's registration for helping us out.

You can register online at

www.docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSenD8cs0V m r t M I I I q b g Z I g f B Z w F z j M 7 - I y _ A p U - DtHBkAmc2g/viewform or at either the Warburg FCSS office or Breton FCSS office.

Contact us at: WARBURG-Shauna (780-848-2828)or fcss@warburg.ca /BRETON- Deanne (780-696-3636) or fcss@breton.ca



Brazeau County

OPPORTUNITY

Invitation to Tender: Caretaker of Easyford Community Centre

Brazeau County is inviting bids for the contracted caretaker of the Easyford Community Centre located 16 km Northwest of the Town of Drayton Valley. Duties and requirements include the following; however, interested parties are encouraged to carefully review the tender package which can be found at www.brazeau.ab.ca.

ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY:

Manage and operate the community centre until October 31, 2024, including:

- Facilitate existing bookings, including but not limited to taking payment, meeting with clients, ensuring activities are in line with statutory provisions and verification is provided (i.e. liquor permit, food handling), and responding to inquiries throughout the contract term
- Maintain the community centre and grounds in good working order for clients and as outlined in Appendix A.3 of the tender package
- Communicate with clients and the public in a professional manner and promote the region's recreational opportunities where possible
- Develop and implement an approved risk management plan as described in Appendix A.4 of the tender package

CARETAKER REQUIREMENTS:

- Carry liability insurance as outlined in subsection A.5 in the tender package
- o Carry Worker's Compensation, as required

For complete information on the requirements for the caretaker, please see the tender package at www.brazeau.ab.ca. Please direct inquires to Colin Loose, Parks & Recreation Supervisor at (780) 542-7777 or by email at cloose@brazeau.ab.ca.

Closing Time April 3. 2024 @ 2:00 P.M.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 5 | Council meeting | 9 a.m.

March 12 | Municipal Planning Commission meeting | 1 p.m.

March 27 | Agricultural Services Board meeting | 1 p.m.

March 29 | Brazeau County Administration Building
closed | Good Friday

April 1 | Brazeau County Administration Building closed | Easter Monday

Drayton Valley Brazeau County Fire Services will be hosting a series of FireSmartTM Public Engagement Workshops during the month of March to prepare the



community and residents for the upcoming wildfire season.

Join us at one of our upcoming workshops to learn more about FireSmartTM techniques that residents can use to help protect their property from wildfire, how to prepare for an evacuation, how to build an emergency kit and other important information to help you and your family prepare for an emergency.

Workshops have been scheduled at local community halls throughout the month of March to allow residents to attend the workshop at the location, date or time that works best with their schedule.

Food and refreshments will be provided at each workshop.

For more information, please contact Deputy Fire Chief of Inspections, Investigations & Safety, Kamil Lasek at firetso@draytonvalley.ca

March 5 | 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Buck Creek Community Hall March 7 | 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Lindale Community Hall March 12 | 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Breton Community Hall March 14 | 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Drayton Valley MacKenzie Conference Centre

March 19 | 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Easyford Community Hall March 21 | 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Lodgepole Community Hall



Bart Guyon Reeve 780-542-0999



Glen Gunderson Councillor Div. 1 780-621-6459



Donna Wiltse Councillor Div. 2 780-898-0247 dwiltse@brazeau.ab.ca



Cody Brooks
Councillor Div. 3
780-898-9526



Kara Westerlund Councillor Div. 4 780-898-4561 kwesterlund@brazeau.ab.ca



Anthony Heinrich Councillor Div. 5 780-696-2468



Dallas Ekstrom Councillor Div. 6 780-898-9129



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Structures/Buildings
Hobby Farms
Livestock
Poultry
Dairy Farms

COMMON OPTIONAL COVERAGES:

Loss of Use on Farm Machinery

Loss of Income Protection

Power Interruption

Increased Fire Department Charges

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22nd Annual



RT 158L - Homo Polled Purebred Kkh Killswitch 276J DS: MVRN Pol Red Lad 196E



RT 227L - Black Homo Polled Purebred S: SVS Gambler 33H DS: LFE The Riddler 323B



SWS 27L - Fleckvieh Fullblood S: Virginia Gelinas 525H DS: R-Five Cozmo 60C



BSSR 16L - Polled Fleckvieh Fullblood S: R-Five Gideon 67G DS: NAC Roughhouser 38Y



STBS 35L - Homo Polled Fleckveh Fullblood S: Cherry Creek Epic 3D DS: Anchor D Viper



STBS 2K - Homo Polled Black Purebred S: LFE McDavid DS: Proclamation E202

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Blair & Sheryl Stone Cell: 780.312.4225 Blaine & Susann Stone Cell: 780.312.0098

STOUT BROTHERS SIMMENTALS

Cameron & Mackenzie Stout Cameron Cell 403.963.1034 Mackenzie Cell 403.913.9453

Internet Bidding Available



For more information call: Mark Shologan 780-699-5082 or Purebred Team 780-991-3025

60 BULLS ON OFFER

HIGHWAY 20 OPEN

SPILL UPDATE 18 Feb 18, 2024

from the Village of Breton Facebook page

The moment has arrived that many have been waiting for...Highway 20 north and south bound is completely open! There are still some garbage bins at the intersection of 616 and 20 on the shoulder of the northbound lane so please keep an eye out for the flaggers at this intersection.

Thank you so very much to all of you that have been patient and kind through these last 3 and half weeks. It has been a long road (and even longer for those clean up crews!) and we all made it through.

To the ladies and gentlemen involved on all levels of the clean up, thank you on behalf of the residents of Breton and area. It was quite evident that no expense was spared to ensure our highways and the environment were appropriately looked after. Also thank you for all the support shown to our local businesses during these few weeks. There were many comments of gratitude from owners for the additional business.



Breton Community Centre

Keynote -Christine Holubec Jackson

- Mastering Clutter
- · Homestead Thirty-nine Purposeful Wellness
- Makeup Demo
- Planning with Heart
- · Creating a Cutflower Garden
- · Sourdough Starter

"Closing - Overcoming Diversity: Blooming Where Planted"

Door Prizes

Vendor Fair

Lunch

Choose 2 breakout sessions

Ticket - \$30

Tickets available at Breton and Warburg FCSS Offices

Get the girls together for a day of laughing, learning, shopping and fun!







West End Swimming Pool Society



Would like to thank those who donated to our club for the year of 2023.

- Jesse Jones
- Curtis Cox
- Torrent Fluid Solutions Inc.
 - · Ariant Holdings Ltd.
 - Breton Elks #402
- Breton Royal Purple #285

We also recieved some donations in memory of Anne Power from:

- Janet Young
- Arylnn Miller
- Breton Ag Society

We are seeking donations for the 2024-2025 school year as we await a casino. If you would like to donate please contact:

Debbie Tryon 780-514-9350 Margaret Smith 780-696-2427



Don't forget about our AGM February 27, 2024 @ 7pm

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AARON PRITCHETT ON THE EPAC STAGE IN DRAYTON ON FEB 11

Submitted by Russ Hickman

A touring coach and cargo trailer pulled up behind the Pembina Stage and unloaded a night of great country music entertainment. An established artist in his songwriting and performing prime, a pair of fun-loving co-conspirators and a lively band produced concert chemistry that Started with a Bang, Ended with a Boom and Burned Hot in Between! Aaron Pritchett's Liquored Up Tour was at The Pickup!

With the opening sonic bang, "Let's get Rowdy", Aaron Pritchett, Cory Marks, and Matt Lang gave clear notice of their plan for the evening! The tour's name sake song, "Liquored Up", confirmed it! Everybody was going to have a good time tonight! And they delivered! No opening act! The three amigos shared the stage, together, apart, and together again throughout the 27+ set list. Each kept the coals hot performing solo: Cory Marks with "Devil's Grin, "Blame it on the Double" and "Outlaws and Outsiders". Matt Lang with "All Night Longer", and Honky Tonk/Boot Scootin'" and "Water down the Whisky". Aaron poured on the gas with his hit, "New Frontier", "Worth a Shot", and his revealing, heart felt new single, "I Just want to Feel It". An all three artists acoustic set after the intermission and a stirring, evocative version of The Band's classic "The Weight" was a welcome break from the heat waves coming from the stage. But not for long! The songs burned hot until BOOM, a standing ovation brought everyone back on stage for riotous versions of Thin Lizzies' anthem to

brotherly good times, Pritchett's "Hold My Beer" and in case anyone had forgotten the theme of the evening, a reprise of "Liquored Up"!

The more than satisfied audience hung about the merch table waiting for the Aaron, Cory and Matt who signed anything put in front of them. After a visit to the EPAC concession for a final toast it was to the hotel and Lloydminster tomorrow for this rolling good times, far from temperate, team!

brotherly good times, "The Boys are Back in Town",





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SHED LIGHT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ALBERTA

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association, February 17, 2024

Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes in Canada. Many of us mistakenly assume that human trafficking isn't something that happens in rural Alberta, but the truth is, from 2011-2021, the number of police reported cases of human trafficking rose from 2 to 38, and 93% of reported victims are Canadians who are trafficked domestically. A significant number of these cases go unreported. It is a crime that we, as a community, must become more aware of.

Human trafficking involves recruiting, transporting, harbouring, or receiving people through force, coercion, or deception to exploit them. They are sent through trafficking networks within Canada and internationally.

This crime can impact any member of our community, including women, men, trans and non-binary individuals, and children. While the majority of the victims of human trafficking are female, 1 in 4 are male.

In Alberta, there is a notable push to combat human trafficking through awareness campaigns and the collaboration of the government, non-profit agencies, and First Nations.

By understanding human trafficking, we can prevent any more of our neighbours from being victims of this horrible crime.

Understanding Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a global problem, including in Alberta, that takes many forms, including sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, forced labour, slavery, and forced marriage.

Trafficking can occur in industries such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and domestic work. Victims often have to work long hours for little or no pay as they or their families are threatened.

By educating the public and those in positions of authority, we can all work together to combat human trafficking and support its victims. Through the provided knowledge, we can recognize the signs of trafficking, protect survivors, and hold traffickers accountable.

Types of Human Trafficking

Sex Trafficking

There are different types of sex trafficking, including sexual exploitation and forced marriage. Sexual exploitation involves manipulating someone into engaging in commercial sex acts, while forced marriage involves the exploitation of individuals through marriage without their consent.

Often, victims of sex trafficking are forced to:

provide sexual services

- · work in massage parlours
- work in escort agencies or the adult entertainment industry

Labour Trafficking

Victims of labour trafficking are forced into providing drastically low or unpaid labour in various sectors, often hidden behind legitimate industries. They are caught in this situation through force, fraud, or coercion.

This can also include domestic servitude, where they are made to work as housekeepers or childcare providers with little to no contact with the outside world.

Organ trafficking is another concern where individuals are forced to give up their organs and other parts of their body.

Recruitment Methods Employed by Traffickers

Human traffickers are expert manipulators who exploit the vulnerabilities of their victims through a variety of recruitment tactics, in particular, grooming.

Grooming tactics are manipulative strategies employed by traffickers to establish trust, control, and dependency over their victims. These tactics are a gradual process. Understanding grooming tactics is crucial for recognizing potential red flags and preventing human trafficking. Here's a closer look at some common grooming tactics:

- 1. Building trust and friendship
- Creating dependency through financial assistance or isolation
- 3. Exploiting victim's vulnerabilities
- 4. Offering false promises and future plans
- 5. Introducing substances and creating dependencies
- 6. Coercion and threats
- 7. Normalizing exploitative behaviours

False job offers are another common ploy used to lure in victims. Traffickers may pose as employers, offering promising positions with attractive benefits. These deceptive job offers often target those who are new to the country, struggling with unemployment or seeking a better life, making them susceptible to traffickers' tactics.

Exploiting debts are also used by traffickers. The victims are forced into labour to repay a debt they couldn't repay otherwise.

Human Trafficking in Alberta

Like any other part of the world, there are difficulties addressing human trafficking and assisting vulnerable communities specific to Alberta.

Victims of human trafficking come from diverse backgrounds and age groups. An estimated 24% of trafficking victims are minors, with homeless youth being particularly vulnerable.

However, certain demographics are more vulnerable to human trafficking; for example, Indigenous people make up over 50% of trafficking victims in Canada. Immigrants and newcomers to Canada are also most likely to become victims of human trafficking.

The Government of Alberta is implementing the 9-point

Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking to protect atrisk individuals from being trafficked in Alberta. They are also empowering survivors of trafficking and providing new ways to deal with traffickers. The Protecting Survivors of Human Trafficking Act was enacted on May 12, 2020. This act includes new measures to help address human trafficking and protect survivors.

The Human Trafficking Task Force was also created to find ways to protect and empower survivors of human trafficking. There are human trafficking units assembled across Alberta, including within the RCMP and through ALERT.

Community organizations and front-line services are also active in preventing the trafficking of persons and supporting those who have escaped.

There are efforts at all levels in Alberta to prevent human trafficking and to support victims. By understanding human trafficking in Alberta, we, too, can help prevent this awful crime.

Resources for Victims of Human Trafficking

If you or someone you know is the victim of human trafficking, help is available. There are resources for those who are looking to escape trafficking and those who are experiencing long-term physical and psychological impacts.

www.alberta.ca/human-trafficking www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/get-help/ www.actalberta.org/ www.acws.ca/get-help/

Human trafficking is a growing issue in Alberta, where reported cases have increased significantly over the past decade. Understanding human trafficking, such as sex trafficking and labour trafficking, is crucial for recognizing signs and preventing victimization.

By educating the public and those in positions of authority, our communities can contribute to the fight against human trafficking. Recognizing grooming tactics, understanding recruitment methods, and being aware of vulnerable demographics are essential steps in this collective effort. In addition, the availability of resources for victims underscores the importance of support for those looking to escape trafficking and cope with its long-term effects.

Preventing trafficking is a collective action. Let's work together to prevent crime and protect our vulnerable neighbours.

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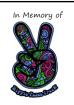
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Answers will be published in the next issue!



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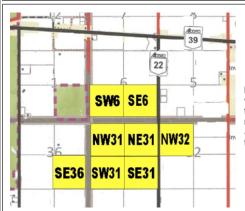
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