

\$190

Northern Alberta News / Features / Commentary

The FEVER

Volume 23, Issue 44

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Young & Old attend Bigstone Round Dance

More on Page 6



In This Issue:

Calling Lake teenager killed in quad rollover

FireSmart projects may be on tap for three hamlets

Mini Cultural Days Wrap-up

Super Fan Magoo has fun date for Oilers game against Predators



Oilers Super Fan Magoo (Blair Gladue), well-known entertainer from Bigstone Cree Nation, took a special guest to the Oilers game on November 1 against the Nashville Predators. Magoo credits Veronica Logan's cheering with being the reason for the 7-4 Edmonton victory.



Magoo and Veronica pose prior to the game to let everyone know that Veronica, age 9, gives thanks for being a Stollery Kid since age 3 with continuing treatments at the Children's Hospital in Edmonton. She told her Mom, Jaselyn, the recognition and fun at the Oilers game was "the best day of my life!"

Marco Gallone, a co-founder of Wosler Corp, a Calgary firm hoping to market ultrasound services to remote communities, allows himself to be scanned by a robotic arm holding an ultrasound sensor which is being controlled by a sonographer located in London, Ontario.

The test was done at Keyanow Medical Clinic in Wabasca last Thursday. The London participant successfully produced an image of Gallone's liver for medical diagnosis.



This medical-related test was the first to ever be conducted in Wabasca. It was videoed for presentation in marketing efforts towards improving and broadening access to ultrasound services.

[Another Photo & Details on Page 14](#)

Photo by Denis Carnochan

Possible deadly candy handed out in Alberta

Details on Page 2



Publisher's Ponderings ...

• **Responsible parents usually remember to go through Halloween treats their children get when out gathering up candy.** Unfortunately, a parent in Rocky Mountain House did not do that right away, but two days later, noticed an open package of gummy candy with three pieces “of a dark unknown substance”.

According to the RCMP who were called, the substance was sent off for analysis and the first presumptive find was that it was fentanyl. This “treat” came from trick’n treating in “a large geographical area in Rocky Mountain House” and parents in the community were asked to doublecheck their children’s Halloween stashes of goodies.

Since fentanyl is a leading cause of fatal drug overdoses, the seriousness of this Halloween incident can not be overstated. The police investigation continues.

In Winnipeg, police have already laid charges against two people who are alleged to have handed out cannabis candies to children on Halloween night.

RCMP in Richmond, BC, issued a public warning, complete with photo, that one child had been taken to hospital after eating THC candies, from a package labelled as “medicated nerds”. Parents told police that their kids had gotten candy while trick’n treating at a housing complex.

Investigations were being made to find the source of these candies and whether they

were intentionally given out.

• **The rush is on for Albertans to get their flu shots.** As of October 29, over 542,000 doses had been administered which translates to 12.2% of the total population. But the emphasis early for flu shots is always on senior citizens in nursing home and supportive living facilities so almost 40% of the over-65 Albertans have been immunized.

• **Front page of Focus this issue has a story with “flophouse” in the headline.** Alberta Sheriffs used the word in their description of a residential property closed in Slave Lake for community safety reasons. Flophouse seems to be an old-fashioned word, but actually is still being used in regards to the issue of homelessness.

In quick research about the word which does not necessarily have anything to do with “a house of ill repute”, we discovered that there are many involved in the battle against homelessness who feel flophouses should become the norm, and are actually being established in many urban areas already but under different names: “residential hotels”, “affordable housing or rentals”, “respite housing”, or “housing first” programs.

Basically, flophouses are small living

The **FEVER**

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 Contributor: Denis Carnochan

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 12015 - 76 Street T5B 2C9



This week's
Oilers
Fan
Corner
 has moved
 to **Page 13**

TheFever reserves the right to decline to publish and to edit items as necessary

Deadline for submitting ads to TheFever or Focus is Mondays, 10 a.m.

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Watch for news updates between issues on Facebook:
Bruce Thomas FEVER

spaces, publicly or privately owned, that are very cheap to rent, only have basic kitchen and bathroom facilities or even communal facilities. They are licensed and regulated/inspected by municipalities and often are linked to various social and employment services.

Overcrowded cities in Japan actually use the flophouse concept in earnest with not only workers, tourists and short-term visitors using collections of small sleeping compartments for naps or overnight sleeping located in shopping malls and other buildings where there are restrooms and food services available. Japanese homeless people are also using them with the little bit of income they can scrap up for their shelters. And if there are many in one location, government or charitable social services step in to provide support service - similar to the Canadian shelters for the homeless.

• As we finish producing this week’s issue Tuesday, big election things are happening that will influence the future of the entire United States and its democracy. In Alberta, the MLA by-election in Brooks-Medicine will show how well Premier Smith can do in an actual non-party election.



On November 3, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (CNRL) donated \$15,000 to Atoske Action Group for use in training and development programs.
 Photo by Denis Carnochan



MD ONLINE AUCTION
Closing

The MD of Opportunity will be closing the Online Auction to dispose of Replaced or Surplus Equipment, Vehicles and Miscellaneous items

on November 30th, 2022.

Final miscellaneous items have been added to this site. Check the Site for updated items that have been added.

All units will be sold as is where is.

Go to: <https://www.govdeals.com/opportunitymd> for more information. There is also a question section that you can complete.

Teen death ruins celebration of Halloween in Calling Lake

A quad rollover on the Jean Baptiste Gambler Bigstone reserve late Halloween afternoon killed the 16-year-old male operator of the machine and injured a 14-year-old male passenger.

According to Athabasca RCMP, the quad was being operated on a roadway, but had to go into a ditch to avoid a collision with a vehicle. It rolled in the ditch causing the fatality. The teen passenger suffered non-life threatening injuries.

The tragedy shocked both the hamlet and reserve portions of the Calling Lake community.

Calling Lake School had classes suspended on November 1 and Northland School Division provided counselling and grief support services on November 2 to students.

Northland School Division Statement

Today, October 31, 2022, a Northland School Division student was involved in a serious off-road vehicle accident in Calling Lake. It is with great sadness that we confirm the loss of the student involved in the accident.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the families and communities affected by this tragic event.



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MD of Opportunity / Bigstone Employment Opportunities are inside Focus supplement!

Big jump in influenza cases, but still no deaths

Edmonton, Calgary have majority of cases North, Central 22 each

The last week of October saw lab-confirmed influenza cases almost double to 317 as of Saturday, October 29.

About 81 per cent of the cases were in the Edmonton and Calgary health zones with Edmonton leading with 149.

All but six of the cases were of the Influenza A strain. Calgary had five of the B strain and Edmonton the sixth case.

The North Health Zone

had only 22 cases and four residents hospitalized, but none had serious enough symptoms to be placed in intensive care units.

Low ICU numbers so far

Provincially, there were 50 people in hospitals with flu which was about 16% of the lab-confirmed cases needing to be hospitalized.

Intensive care influenza cases numbered six on October 29 – 3 each in Calgary and Edmonton zones – which represented 12 per

cent of hospitalizations leading to more intensive treatment being required.

This flu season is starting off similar to seasons prior to the invasion of Covid-19.

Due to the Covid-19 protection measures there were no confirmed flu cases in 2020-21 flu season.

The 2021-22 season saw about half the numbers of pre-covid seasons and most of them were later in the spring.

GET IMMUNIZED

Influenza immunization available now.



COVID-19 immunization also available.

For appointment booking, visit ahs.ca/vaccine, call 811 or text 'flu' to 88111

Wolves are target of MD bounty program

Dead wolves are worth \$250.00 each under the Municipal District of Opportunity's Wolf Reduction Incentive Program for 2022/23 which started November 1.

Information packages on the bounty program is available at MD offices in Wabasca, Calling Lake and Red Earth Creek. William Auger is operating the program and can be contacted at 780-891-0988.

Persons may claim a bounty on wolves killed within the boundaries of the MD by showing the carcass to the district and filling out the paperwork.

Snares and traps are not allowed to be set within any hamlet boundaries.

The last bounty program ran into difficulties with Alberta Fish and Wildlife intervention and complaints to the RCMP because snares and traps were being set within Calling Lake and pet dogs were getting caught in them.

Authorities with the help of citizens had to locate and confiscate the snares and traps.

Auger told *TheFever* that the last two years of the program saw an average of 95 wolves eliminated.

Missing girl located by RCMP

Lac La Biche RCMP announced last Tuesday, November 1, that the missing teenager Neveah Valerie Beaver had been located and was safe.

She was residing in the Town of Lac La Biche and had last been seen there on October 9.

A family member told *TheFever* the 16-year-old has family links in Wabasca and Slave Lake and had also been spotted in Athabasca.

RCMP did not give details of where she had been located nor any other details which coincides with the usual handling of missing persons who are found.

However, a family member did reveal to *TheFever* that the missing girl was located in High Level.

Local food bank supporter lands donation via Calgary firm



Ken Beaudry (left in photo) is always campaigning for donations for Wabasca food bank operated at the Neepinise Healing Family Centre. Ken holds annual fundraisers: rental proceeds from an ice-fishing shack he installs on North Wabasca Lake and an Oyster Fest during summer.

He also finds ways to help through his business. So earlier this year when he purchased an item from Crescent Point Energy of Calgary from a plant it was demolishing in Sandy Lake area, he talked about his favorite charity. Todd of Crescent Point (right in photo) got permission for the \$1,000 cheque to be made out to the food bank. Ken waited for the donation to be made at the start of the food bank's busiest times during the upcoming holiday season.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 17, 2022
5:00 p.m.
in the
Pee Kis Kwe Tan boardroom

Pee Kis Kwe Tan

“Let's Talk” Society

Municipal District of Opportunity No.17



COUNCIL MEETING 2022-2023 SCHEDULE

All meetings commence at 10:00 a.m. unless specified otherwise

DATE	TYPE	LOCATION	VENUE
November 15, 2022	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
November 29, 2022	1 st Draft Interim Budget	Wabasca	Council Chambers
November 30, 2022	Delegation	Wabasca	Council Chambers
December 12, 2022	2023 Final Interim Budget	Wabasca	Council Chambers
December 14, 2022	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
January 11, 2023	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
January 25, 2023	Delegation	Calling Lake	Complex Boardroom
February 8, 2023	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
February 22, 2023	Delegation	Chipewyan Lake	Community Hall
March 8, 2023	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
March 29, 2023	Delegation	Red Earth Creek	Sports Centre Boardroom
April 12, 2023	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
April 26, 2023	Delegation	Sandy Lake	Community Hall
May 10, 2023	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
May 23, 2023	Delegation	Red Earth Creek	Sports Centre Boardroom
June 14, 2023	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
June 28, 2023	Delegation	Calling Lake	Complex Boardroom
July 12, 2023	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
July 26, 2023	Delegation	Sandy Lake	Community Hall
August 9, 2023	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
August 23, 2023	Delegation	Calling Lake	Complex Boardroom
September 6, 2023	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
September 20, 2023	Delegation	Red Earth Creek	Sports Centre Boardroom
October 11, 2023	Regular	Wabasca	Council Chambers
October 23, 2023	Organizational	Wabasca	Council Chambers
October 24, 2023	Delegation	Chipewyan Lake	Community Hall

Box 50
Red Earth Creek, AB T0G 1X0
Phone: (780) 649-3427
Fax: (780) 649-3440
Toll Free: 1-855-649-3427

Box 60
Wabasca, AB T0G 2K0
Phone: (780) 891-3778
Fax: (780) 891-4283
Toll Free: 1-888-891-3778

Box 22
Calling Lake, AB T0G 0K0
Phone: (780) 331-3860
Fax: (780) 331-3950
Toll Free: 1-855-331-3860

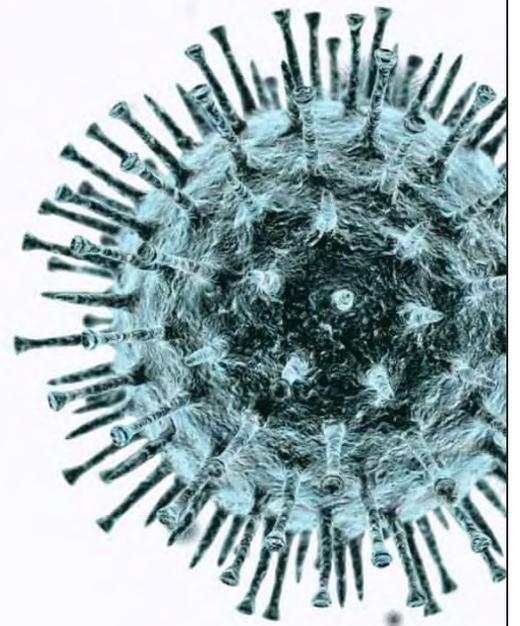


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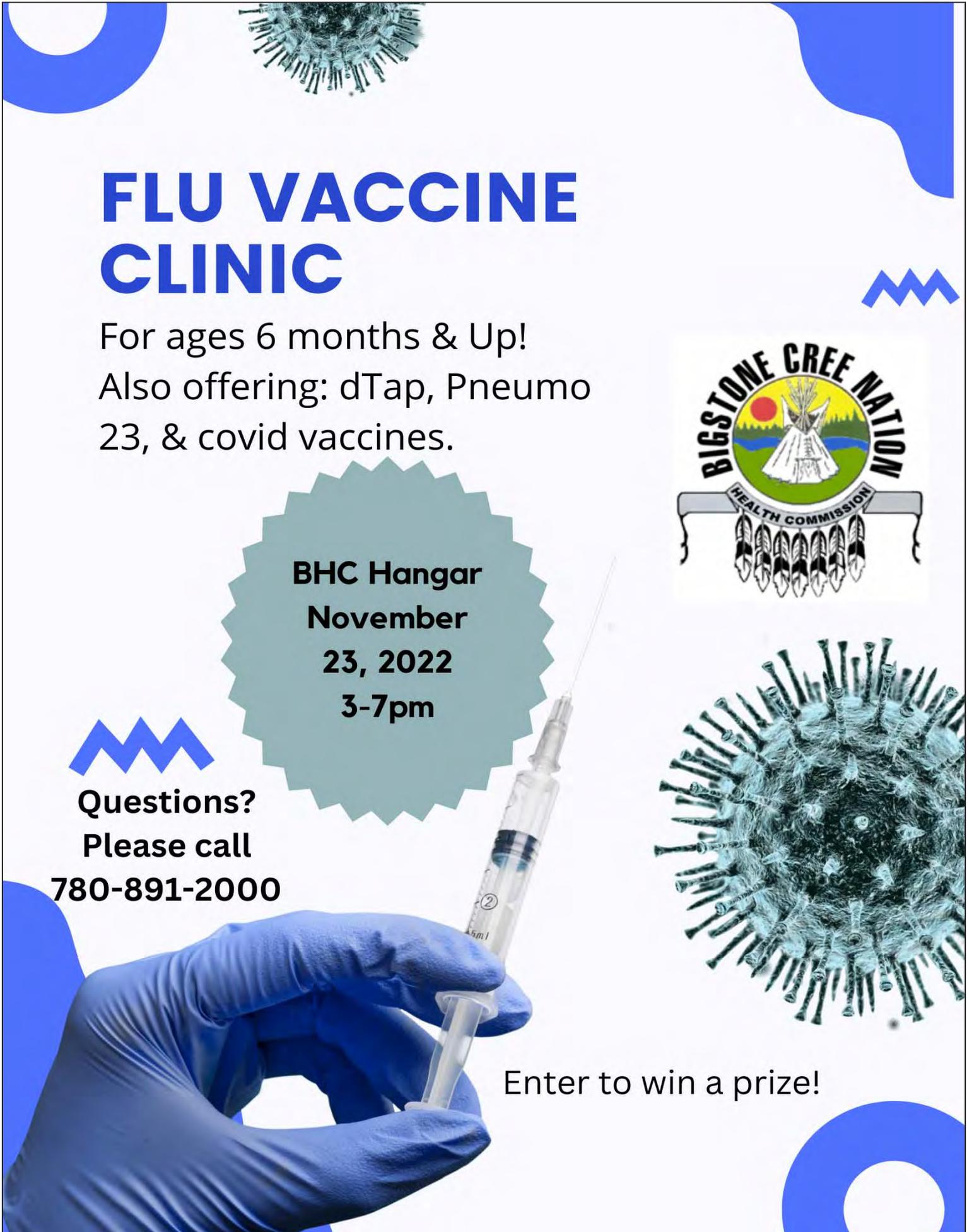
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November
23, 2022
3-7pm**

**Questions?
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MD council gives support to process that could approve almost \$300,000 worth of FireSmart work within three hamlets

A special meeting of the Municipal District of Opportunity council had to be held Monday morning, November 7, for council to determine if the MD should get involved in 2022/23 FireSmart projects in three of its hamlets.

The Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) is the body that handles FireSmart and related programs for the provincial government and has worked extensively over the years with the MD on FireSmart projects and also on the larger fireguard construction projects in Wabasca and Red Earth Creek.

FRIAA notified the MD that it has been shortlisted for possible approval for four projects worth a total of \$305,700.00.

In working with FRIAA on projects, the MD has to pay for each project as it progresses, but is reimbursed with provincial funding after the project's completion. Most of the projects involve brush clearing and other forestry operations which create work for local contractors and provides local employment for labour and equipment operating positions.

At Monday's meeting, district council with 10 members present, spent only about 15 minutes discussing the proposed and make a statement "that Council acknowledges awareness and is in support of the projects listed for the November 2022 FireSmart proposal submissions to Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) with amendments to Calling Lake:

- Wabasca – Table top exercise for \$15,000;
- Calling Lake - completion of 14.4 hectares vegetation management in treatment in block CAL4-8 for \$135,200;
- Sandy Lake – completion of 5.1 hectares vegetation management in block SL1-3 for \$35,500;
- Wabasca – completion of 10.0 hectares vegetation management in treatment block WA58 for \$120,000."

The statement allows FRIAA to proceed with the funding application.

The table top exercise project is part of a municipal responsibility to have an emergency plan for handling wildfires. Councillors were told that this project was important and timely as there have been staff changes involving positions on the MD Emergency Management Committee. Newer members of the committee may not have taken such training previously.

There was a deadline of November 14 for the MD project proposals to be fully submitted.

Feast, round dance hosted by Bigstone Nation marked Family Violence Prevention Month



Saturday's event at Lakeview Sports Centre in Wabasca attracted a lot of families, meaning lots of children getting involved in the round dance, some for their first time. The dance featured about a dozen drummers. Photos by Denis Carnochan



SENIOR'S DAY EVENT

GEORGE D AUGER COMMUNITY HALL
DECEMBER 7 2022
DOORS OPEN 9:30-4pm

DOOR PRIZES **VACCINATIONS**

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2022 MINI CULTURAL DAYS October 12 to October 21, 2022

We are proud of our youth's keen interest in creating things, learning traditions and parts of our culture!
We thank you for being such a huge part of our success with the 2022 Mini Cultural Days.

Meat Preparation

Nelson Noskiye set up the moose so he could show parts of it, and he also showed the youth how to cut the ribs. For dry meat making you use choice parts, Nelson uses the back strap to make large size dry meat! Many youth wanted to try this as well. Lots of the dry meat was packaged and gifted out. Smoked ribs, and one of the favorites was the moose bone which has yummy marrow! Nelson also made ground up dry meat which we love to eat as well. Delicacies galore were prepared, cooked and eaten over the course of the event.



Aline Auger removes bone marrow



Nelson Noskiye demonstrates meat cutting



Cut ribs ready for smoking



Bernadette Auger prepares moose



Jolene and Janice with prepared delicacies



Jolene Gladue with moose head

Bow and Arrows Station

Another station manned by Kenny Nanemahoo filled with youth eager to create and learn how to make a bow and arrow! Best willow to get for more bend would be in the Spring when the natural sap is flowing making the willow easier to bend, says Kenny. One young lady picks up feathers from the field to add to her arrows! Wonder how many youth added things to their arrows? Or made more? Practised target shooting?



Jayla Auger stringing up the bow



Thomas Gerrits, Darius Orr and Kane Dillion ready to shoot their arrows



Youth at bow station



Lexianne adds feathers to her arrows



Kenny Nanemahoo prepares groove for string



Alexi Alook with her finished bow and arrow

Thank You to Our Sponsors and In Kind Contributors!

Special Thanks to Ernest Houle for loan of gates

Tool Making

The moose bone front leg is used to make the flesher which is used for hide tanning process. Inside the bone is also marrow which can be eaten. Also in the front leg portion is another the bone that people use for the teepee flaps. Our NWT visitor, Elder Ethsue, advises they also use this smaller bone to clean ceremonial pipes!

These pieces were sought after at the tent and some were gifted to Ethsue as well. The hair removal tool is made of wood, usually poplar or birch, shaped with an ax to prepare it for installation of metal for scraping the hide. Metal from car springs or lawnmowers can be used once shaped to fit into a groove for the wood. A must have while working on hide is also a sharpener as blades become dull really quick from the moose hair!

The transformation of a moose bone to tools



Pearl Supernault with her finished flesher



Theresa Belanger with hair removal tool



Charles Auger prepares a hair removal tool



Charles Auger at his station



Nathan Cardinal tries his hand at tool making

Canning:

Some of the finished product was gifted out to seniors/elders and community members who visited the tent!



Preparing the jars for canning



Vina Young: happy in the kitchen



Geraldine Orr hams it up after a long day



Beatrice Cardinal shows off finished product

Mini Teepees:

Betty Jackson was kept busy for the duration of mini cultural days. Coincidentally an ad on Facebook was selling miniature teepee kits for \$49 dollars each; canvas, dowels, paint included to create one at home. If 200 mini teepees were made inside the tent over the 10 days, that would be \$9,800 in gift value.



A student with Betty Jackson



Halle Waskahat with her Mini Teepee



The teepee making station saw lots of action throughout the event.

Hide Making

There are many steps to hide making. Here are a few pics of it. Although the tanning process did not work as well as planned or to the liking of the facilitators, (Color turnout of the finished hide) the intent was to teach, show so that beginners can watch and learn. Over the 10 days there were two raw hides, one already gifted to Philip Nanemahoo for Bigstone Community Wellness drum program, one more is one its way. One finished tanned hide (which was Super Soft) to be split by four students who worked so hard during the whole process! One unfinished one will be folded and frozen for next year.

It was amazing work by everyone and super proud of the facilitators and their students. Thank you to those who shared their knowledge in the moose hide making as many do things differently, using various softeners and tools. The days there sure brought nostalgia for many who also have years of experience in brain tanning moose hide. The gathering and sharing stories I am sure were good ideas that can or will be incorporated by others and the new beginner tanners!



Nelson, Jolene, Ida and Janice as Nelson adds pieces of Sunlight soap at soaking stage



Cheryl Houle at scraping stage



Raymond Auger works on the hide



Nelson Noskiye worked tirelessly on the hide



Smoking the raw hide to help softeners soak in



Jolene Gladue and Nelson Noskiye at the wringing stage

Slingshots

Derrick Bigstone had his table full at all times during the school days with many youth creating slingshots. One student asked where to carry them and two responses were given by older adults about how they carried their slingshots back in the day; around your neck or the back pocket of your jeans!



Ethan hard at work on his slingshot



Leighton Alook shows slingshot in progress



Abbi Auger Gladue intent on carving



Many people who came were amazed at what was going on at site. Many who came were gifted with goodies. Many came to learn. Many enjoyed moose delicacies during lunch or at supper. Many left feeling good. Many left to go home and be creative. Many shared other knowledge or teachings. Many totally enjoyed each and every day! Many commented on how great it was! Many asked if this would happen again next year in the first few days and throughout the event.

Over the 10 days, the average number of youth, community members, seniors and elders attending each day was approximately 150 to 200.



Cheryl Houle and Pearl Supernault



Matthew Bigstone learns from Ida Noskiye and Raymond Auger





Hunter and Nature Noskiye - two of our youngest helpers



Wendy Zabot, Bernadette Auger and Theresa Belanger



Nelson Noskiye, Pearl Supernault & Ida Noskiye



Doreen Alook made countless batches of fry bread



Gladys Cardinal and grandchild Chesney



Seth Auger and Matthew Bigstone package the dry meat to gift out



Cecile & William Yellowknee tour the site



Moose hide tanners have a visit



Julie Rathbone intent on her task



Veronica Auger cuts the hide to place on stretcher

Request for Proposals

**Please note:
There has been a change in the Trust process.**

Proposals can now be submitted from
June 1, 2022 - January 15th, 2023 (until 11:59 pm)
for the 2023 funding year.

All proposals submitted to the Trustees will be presented to Bigstone Cree Nation members and Affiliates for voting on March 31, 2023.

Proposals for Programs & Services that benefit registered Bigstone Cree Nation Members and Affiliates are now being accepted by the BCN Trust Department. Members at Large will require WCB and Insurance coverage to undergo Trust Proposal projects. We also ask that you please update your address at the Trust Office

The Trust Proposal application is available at:

- Bigstone Main Administration Building #85 Duran Trail in Wabasca, AB.
- The documents can also be downloaded from the website at <http://www.bigstonetrust.ca>
- or call the office and we can send an email or fax.

The estimated net income for 2023 is as follows:

Trust Category	Estimated Revenue for 2023
Wabasca/Desmarais Community Trust	\$193,427.20
Off-Reserve Members & Affiliates Trust	\$220,703.70
Calling Lake Community Trust	\$180,908.90
Chipewyan Lake Community Trust	\$175,738.80
Bigstone Cree Nation Trust	\$1,214,977.50

Please identify which Trust your proposal is to be placed in and forward all submissions to Bigstone Trust.

Attn: Eunice Stuart - Trust Administrator
Box 990 Wabasca, AB T0G 2K0
780-891-3836
1-800-268-3783
Email: eunice.stuart@bigstone.ca

Scan to visit the BCN Trust website



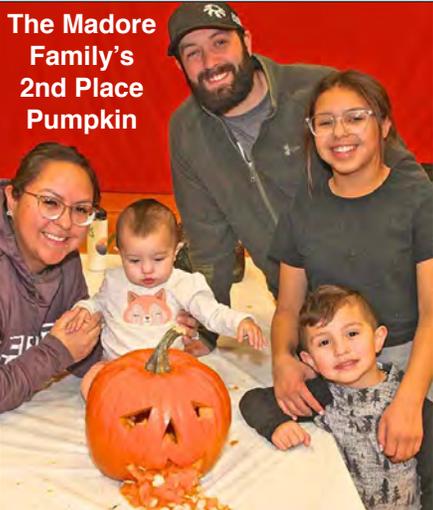
Wabasca Halloween Fun Photo Leftovers



It was thumbs up for the Houle Family for their first place carved pumpkin!



Chase Brule was a clown not to be met in a dark alley.



The Madore Family's 2nd Place Pumpkin

There were reports that one firefighter was horsing around too much during the candy handouts!



Even though they came in their pj's, the McEwan Family definitely were the best dressed and most identifiable to show up at the Lakeview Sports Centre's Pumpkin Carving Contest.

November Family Violence Awareness Month



Domestic Family Violence Conference "Diverse Voices"

DATE: November 16th -18th TIME: All day
COST \$175 per person.

What will you learn?

Tips and best practices, listen to keynote speakers over the course of the event which is in its 22nd conference year. Or access the link at your leisure.

To learn more and how your organization or front line employees can attend:

<https://diverse-voices.com/>
<https://diverse-voices.com/conference-schedule/>



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Corner for Edmonton Oilers Fans



Oilers got their highest score so far in the regular season November 1 on home ice when they downed Nashville Predators, 7-4.

There seemed no doubt the Oilers would get a victory after building a 4-1 lead at the end of the first period.

In both the second and third, each team matched goals for the final score.

Leon Draisaitl got the most points, five with one goal and four assists, followed by Connor McDavid's four on two goals and two assists.

Evander Kane got three points, all goals, while Derek Ryan contributed another one in the net.

Jack Campbell was between the pipes in the game, making 19 saves on the 23 Nashville shots.

Win slips away

New Jersey Devils arrived in Edmonton with the same early season record as the Oilers, 7-3-0, but left with an 8 in the win column while Oilers gained one in the loss column.

The Oilers led 3-1 going into the third before the Devils got their second goal.

Then disaster occurred in the face-off zone and within seconds, the Devils not only tied the game, they went one ahead for a 4-3 victory.

The three markers for the Oilers were netted by McDavid, Draisaitl and Ryan.

Stuart Skinner defended the net with 39 saves on the 43 shots he faced.

Slaughter at matinee

The Saturday afternoon game at Rogers Place started off with the Dallas Stars having the only goal in the first period.

But again with fewer shots on goals and defensive mistakes, the Oilers allowed

the Devils three goals in the second and only got one themselves.

In the third, one in the net for Edmonton and two in for the Devils sealed the final score at 6-2.

Draisaitl and Darnell Nurse got the goal points.

Campbell in the net missed six of the 42 shots against him.

The Oilers only had 32 shots on goal.

Road trip starts

With a 7-5-0 record, the Oilers squad went to D.C. to face the Washington Capitals.

Bad penalties, Bad penalty killing sink Oilers, 5-4

In D.C. Monday night, the Oilers tried to play catch up against the Capitals, but it did not work and they lost 5-4.

Even with some of their top talent out due to injuries, the Capitals got off to a 1-0 first period lead and then increased it to 4-2 by the end of the second.

The third period saw the Oilers score another two goals, but that was short by one as Washington scored the winner to end it 5-4, making their record so far 6-6-2 while the Oilers went to 7 wins and 6 losses.

McDavid and Draisaitl each netted one goal while Ryan Nugent-Hopkins got two.

On the road

Tuesday the Oilers were to play the Lightning and then get a day off to face the Hurricanes on Thursday before finishing the road trip Saturday with the Panthers.

Oilers will be back on home ice next Wednesday against the LA Kings for first time this season.

Alberta wildfire season ends with few major fires; Total fires bit above average, but burned area below

While there were more wildfires (1,254) in Alberta during the 2022 fire season than in the previous five seasons (2017 through 2021), the total hectares affected by the fires was about 40,000 fewer than the average.

This year's fires burned 153,124 hectares.

The largest number of fires were minor and there were only a few that threatened any settled areas and caused evacuations of residents.

A provincial release on the fire season which ended October 31, states: "Thanks to manageable conditions here in Alberta, we were able to aid firefighting efforts in British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alaska and Washington, and supported Parks Canada and the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre.

"We did this by sending 90 firefighters, overhead staff and aircraft to partner agencies in need."

Slave Lake Forest Protection Area, one of ten located in the western mountain and foothills and across northern Alberta, had 177 wildfires this season.

The season wrap-up for the forest area was provided



In October, provincial firefighters had to extinguish a minor wildfire in Slave Lake Forest which was caused by a campfire which was not adequately put out before users left the area.
Photo provided by Slave Lake Forest

by Leah Lovequist, wildfire information officer, and it noted that 76 or 43 per cent of this year's fires were human-caused which is below the provincial average of 56 percent based on 705 of the 1,254 wildfires in all ten protection areas.

(National Parks in Alberta have federal firefighting services battle their wildfires, so those fires are not included in the Alberta numbers.)

Human-caused fires decline

The good news is that the percentage of human-caused fires has been declining for the past five fire seasons.

Lightning-sparked fires

accounted for 38 per cent of 2022 fires and the balance of six per cent are still under investigation in regards to their cause.

An oddity of the latest fire season was the very dry and warm fall season, particularly in October, so the risk of wildfires which is usually low in the fall due to September rains and early snowfalls in October, actually had many days of extreme risks in most of the fire protection areas.

The high and extreme fire risks led in the Slave Lake forest to provincial firefighters having to extinguish several fires caused by abandoned campfires.

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If a sonographer not available in rural area a robotic system can be of assistance

By Bruce Thomas

As residents of rural areas across Canada already know, attracting professional people to their communities can be difficult.

When it comes to physicians and other health professionals the problem becomes even more difficult as most professionals prefer to be located in larger urban centres or close to them. So the more remote a community is, the more likelihood of it not having enough healthcare professionals.

When there are enough local doctors and nurses, the next problem to solve is that there are diagnostic services that are required. Telling a patient they have to go 400 kilometres to get an ultrasound is frustrating as well as time-consuming and expensive for the patient.



A video recording was taken of the Wabasca testing of a robotic system.

Photo by Denis Carnochan

Thanks to the involvement of Municipal District of Opportunity and Bigstone Cree Nation, the expenses and logistics of setting up ultrasound services in Wabasca were solved and since September, many ultrasounds have been completed at Keyanow Medical Clinic.

But what if an ultrasonographer, trained and certified, is not available or one can not be lured permanently to a rural community?

In the last two decades, health services provided at distance have multiplied greatly. There is probably not a field of medicine that has not been touched - whether it be diagnostics, consultations or treatments.

Like many sectors of providers of services and products, the medical field has also made advances in robotics and digitalization. There are now robotics involved in many types of surgeries. Diagnostics have been a forerunner as the speed and power of the internet grew.

The internet has made a path for all types of services to be offered at a distance.

In 2018, Fred H. Wigmore, Department of Surgery, University of Saskatchewan, wrote: "Remote communities often lack access to diagnostic ultrasonography services. This gap disproportionately affects Indigenous pregnant women in the Canadian North and results in increases in maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality.

"We are pioneering use of an innovative tele-robotic ultrasound system that allows an expert sonographer to perform a diagnostic ultrasound study, in real time, in a distant



A conceptual artpiece of Wosler's vision of what their more advanced technology would look like for ultrasound scans.

location. Research shows that robotic ultrasonography is comparable to standard sonography and is accepted by most patients."

Wosler Corp. of Calgary is developing technology to improve upon what is already existing and desires to spread that technology to not only rural areas of Canada, but perhaps on a global scale.



The ambitious founders of Wosler are Marco Gallone, Henry Madubuobi, and former Wabasca resident John Paolo Pana.

Desires to improve medical services

Pana was a nurse at Wabasca hospital 2018 to 2022, but has left to join the Wosler efforts. The local nursing team with Pana serving as project leader got national attention by helping to develop a virtual training program for hospital staff that could assist hospitals everywhere during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Connecting with his Wosler partners in 2020, Pana saw a possibility of his experience and passion to improve medical services in Wabasca being expanded with technological advances in diagnostic services that could be used in rural areas everywhere there is a shortage of qualified technicians. His partners are like-minded.

With Pana a known asset in a rural area with ultrasound services, Wabasca was a natural choice to be a test site. It took several hours for space to be transformed to a test site, and internet and other logistics had to be set up, but testing proceeded and its success was known when the technician told Gallone – "Your liver looks fine."

Flu shots may protect adults from more than sniffles; Calgary research says risk of stroke is also lowered

Not only will an influenza vaccination help prevent you from getting the virus, it will help prevent adults from suffering strokes, said researchers from University of Calgary.

Using health records of over four million Albertans over a nine-year period with Alberta Health Care Insurance data from 10 flu seasons, the U of C researchers had their study investigated and prepared by medical scholars with the Cumming School of Medicine for publication in *The Lancet Public Health*, one of the world's

foremost journals on health and medicine.

"The flu shot is known to reduce the risk of heart attack and hospitalization for people with heart disease," said Dr. Michael Hill, MD and a neurologist at Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary, after confirming the U of C work.

Benefit to all adults

"Our findings show the risk of stroke is lower among people who have recently received a flu shot. This was true for all adults, not just those at high risk of having a stroke."

Dr. Hill said the potential benefit of influenza vaccination for stroke prevention is a new finding that he hopes will lead to more research about the indirect protective factors of the flu and other vaccines.

"We know that upper respiratory infections often precede heart attacks and strokes. Preventing or reducing the severity of influenza provides a protective factor particularly for stroke," said Dr. Hill, adding that the benefits seem to be the same for both men and women, particularly those who are older.

Community Bulletin Board

• National Addictions Awareness Week is coming up and there will be various activities associated with it. Bigstone Community Wellness is seeking community members from Wabasca, Sandy Lake, Calling Lake and Chipewyan Lake to celebrate and honour their lives in recovery and sobriety. Nominations are now being accepted for the title of "Community Champion". Call Savannah or Robert, 780-891-3777 with your nomination.

• Scheduled events for Addictions Awareness Week include a dinner, speakers and recovery stories Thursday, November 24, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Chipewyan Lake Community Hall.

The same type of event will be held Tuesday, November 22, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Calling Lake Community Complex.

• The second annual Brenda "Buzz" Rathbone Memorial Hockey Tournament will be held November 18 to 20 at Marian Wolitski Arena in Wabasca. Further information about the round-robin double knockout tournament can be obtained by calling or texting Troy Gullion, 780-964-8900.

• A Pocar Rally is being held as part of a fundraiser to help Eileen M. Auger cover costs of dialysis procedures and training in Edmonton. The fundraiser is happening 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, November 10, in St. Theresa School gym.

• Métis Nation of Alberta Region 5 voting has begun and will continue 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the following dates in Wabasca at St. Theresa School: November 12, 20, 26 and 27.

• Bigstone Community Wellness will hold a "Lunch & Learn" session of the topic of What is Recovery" Thursday, November 10, Noon to 1 p.m. at the Calling Lake Community Complex. The lunch will be free and information on recovery from addiction will be available.

• Calling Lake Fire Department is recruiting for firefighters. Persons wishing more information should contact Derrick Rathbone, Interim Calling Lake Fire Chief, 780-891-0046.

**If you wish to have an item listed
please email: wabascafever@shaw.ca
before Monday the week of desired publication**



**Wabasca A.A Group will now meet at the
No Limits Boxing Club Tuesdays @ 8pm**

**The Narcotics Anonymous meeting
will now be held Fridays at the No
Limits Boxing Club @ 8pm**

780-773-3330

Health advice

Caffeine: very popular drug!

Last Issue in Part 1 about caffeine, AHS outlined all the negative effects caffeine can have on human physical and mental health, particularly if you consume high doses of it or drink it too often.

This issue deals further with its negative effects and how to reduce or completely avoid the drug.

By Alberta Health Services

You can become mildly dependent on caffeine from regularly drinking 350 mg (about two to four cups of coffee) a day.

If you suddenly stop drinking caffeine, you might have withdrawal symptoms such as:

- headaches
- problems sleeping
- feeling irritable, tired, and depressed
- lack of energy
- feeling down
- having trouble focusing or concentrating

Withdrawal symptoms begin 12 to 24 hours after you stop caffeine. Most symptoms go away within a few days.

Long-term effects

More than 300 mg of caffeine (about two to three cups of coffee) in a day may be linked to miscarriages and low-birth weight babies.

Caffeine is passed via breastmilk, which might make your baby irritable or have trouble sleeping. If you're pregnant or breastfeeding you may want to limit or avoid all caffeine.

Some women who drink (more than three cups a day) may be at risk of bone fractures as they get older.

Regular use of more than 600 mg of caffeine might

cause long-term effects including chronic insomnia, constant anxiety, depression, and stomach problems.

It can also cause high blood pressure or make high blood pressure worse.

Caffeine and young people

Because their bodies are smaller, caffeine may have a stronger effect on a child than on an adult.

Children who drink pop or energy drinks with caf-

feine might feel anxious, be irritable, have trouble sleeping, or wet the bed.

Some teens and young adults who use a lot of caffeine may have health problems like an increased or abnormal heart rate or chest pain.

If this happens, they may need to go to the hospital or need an ambulance.

For more information on caffeine and health, call the 24-hour Addiction Helpline at 1-866-332-2322.

Large amounts of caffeine found in energy drinks may cause serious heart and blood vessel problems such as heart rhythm disturbances and increases in heart rate and blood pressure. Caffeine also may harm children's still-developing cardiovascular and nervous systems. National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

American, Canadian health authorities stress caffeine-loaded energy drinks can be dangerous to their main users: teens age 12 and up, young male adults

Both American and Canadian government health branches have warnings about energy drinks which are heavily promoted to attract younger buyers. Here are some of the facts the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cites:

• As consumption of energy-drinks increased so did visits to hospital emergency departments for problems related mainly to the caffeine in the products. One in ten visits ended up in hospitalizations.



• When the drinking of alcohol beverages and energy drinks is combined, the user is more likely to binge drink particularly in the age group of 15 to 23.

• Binge drinkers are more likely to drive impaired, sustain alcohol-related injuries,

and report unwanted or unprotected sex.

• Combining drinking of energy drinks with cannabis use can also often lead users to emergency departments and hospitalizations.

• In several studies, energy drinks have been found to improve physical endurance, but there is less evidence of any effect on muscle strength or power.

• Energy drinks may enhance alertness and improve reaction time, but they may also reduce steadiness of the hands.

• A single 16-oz. container of an energy drink may contain 54 to 62 grams of added sugar; this exceeds the maximum amount of added sugars recommended for an entire day, so all the dangers of over-consumption of sugar can be added to the other health problems caused by energy drinks.

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Remembrance Day Ceremony

WABASCA COMMUNITY HALL

November 11th, 2022



AGENDA

- 10:00 AM - Service at Catholic Church
- 10:50 AM - March from Church to Cenotaph
- 11:00 AM - Cenotaph Gathering
- 11:11 AM - A Moment of Silence
- Raising of the flag
- Laying of the Wreaths

- 12:10 PM - Opening Prayer
- 12:30 PM - Lunch and Presentations
- 1:00 PM - Closing Prayer

