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## February 9, 2021

### CHARGES LAID IN THEFT OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

**Submitted by Leduc RCMP**

On Jan. 10, 2021 at approximately 4:50 a.m., Leduc RCMP responded to a complaint of two suspects stealing catalytic converters from vehicles parked at a business in the Leduc industrial area.

Officers made patrols and

conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle found leaving the area.

As a result, Leduc RCMP arrested two males and recovered several catalytic converters.

Brian Decosse (37) of Edmonton was charged with the following:

- Break and enter
- Mischief under \$5000

- Fail to comply with release order condition x3
- Theft under \$5000.
- Fail to comply with probation order

Decosse was remanded into custody after a judicial hearing and is scheduled to appear in Leduc Provincial Court on January 21, 2021.

*Continued on Page 6*

### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR NEW BUSINESS RELIEF

**Submitted by Government of Alberta**

Expansions to the Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant program announced in January are now included on the Government of Alberta's application portal. New businesses that began operating between March and October 2020, as well as unregistered sole proprietors, can now apply for COVID relief

funding.

"Even during the pandemic, Alberta saw around 10,000 new businesses open across the province in 2020. These new businesses were started by Albertans who had the entrepreneurial spirit and confidence to bet on Alberta. Entrepreneurs, whether new or experienced, need to know that Alberta's government is here to support them." - Doug Schweitzer, Minister

of Jobs, Economy and Innovation

"We appreciate the government expanding access to the SME relaunch grant for sole proprietors and new businesses that started operations in 2020. Access to the grant for new businesses will help, considering they have largely been unable to access the federal support programs.

*Continued on Page 6*

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# MP GERALD SOROKA ON BILL C-10 'BROADCASTING ACT' AND DEPLOYING SPECTRUM IN RURAL AREAS

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, participated this morning in the debate on Bill C-10 "An Act to amend the Broadcasting Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts". MP Soroka believes that C-10 is a regulatory mess that could have unintended consequences. His comments can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/GeraldSorokamp>

Later that morning during Question Period, he questioned the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry (Science) on the results of the 600 MHz auction last

year.

MP Soroka stated: "Madam Speaker, when the minister announced the results of the 600 megahertz auction last year, she noted the government's set-aside policy had created more competition for Canadians, but we now know that set-aside bidders have a poor track record of deploying Spectrum in rural communities. There needs to be a "use it or lose it" condition to ensure Spectrum is deployed in rural Canada.

Why will the government not force service providers to deploy Spectrum in rural Canada so we can get high speed Internet?"

Mr. William Amos (Parliamentary Secretary to

the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry (Science), Lib.) replied: "Madam Speaker, our government is taking every single measure in the policy toolbox to ensure that all sorts of investments and all sorts of new infrastructure around telecommunications can be integrated across Canada.

Spectrum auction is just one of these sets of policies. We are working towards a new spectrum auction later on this year. There have been delays due to COVID-19, but we are well aware that this is a very important mechanism to ensure that Canadians have the very best of telecommunications infrastructure across Canada."



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**JOKE** of the week

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# EXPANDING COVID SUPPORTS FOR ALL ALBERTANS

## Submitted by Government of Alberta

Prior to this expansion, only Albertans in Edmonton and Calgary were eligible for the \$625 payment when they completed self-isolating in their assigned hotel.

Now, Albertans across the province – including First Nations individuals living both on and off reserve and people living on Metis Settlements who cannot isolate safely in their own home – are eligible.

Upon referral by Alberta Health Services, Albertans who must isolate or quarantine and cannot do so safely at home are eligible for a free-of-charge hotel room stay of up to 14 days, complete with culturally appropriate food and other supports.

COVID Care Teams will continue to provide on-the-ground supports and interven-

tions to limit the spread of the virus. Supports include care packages with masks, sanitizers and information translated in multiple languages. Safe transportation to COVID-19 assessment and testing facilities is also available.

"Today's expansion builds on the effective outreach efforts of COVID Care Teams. No matter what they earn, what community they live in or what language they speak, all Albertans should be able to isolate safely to protect themselves, their families and their neighbours from COVID-19. Reducing the spread means we can get Alberta's economy back on track while we protect both lives and livelihoods." - Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

"Expanding the isolation supports to include people on First Nations and Metis Settlements is the right thing to do. Everyone should have the

chance to isolate safely while having the financial support to cover expenses while they recover." - Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations

"Our community needs this kind of support to stop the spread of COVID. Having come from an area that has been particularly hard hit, we are grateful to the province for providing a means for our residents to access a place to isolate safely. Knowing they will be able to cover their bills when sick will make a world of difference for the Samson Cree Nation and all other Indigenous communities." - Chief Vernon Saddleback, Samson Cree Nation

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

## Quick facts

- The COVID Care Team program launched in December 2020 as an integrated way to reach communities with particularly high levels of COVID-19 spread.

- The Government of Alberta also developed an outreach campaign to communicate important public health information directly to Albertans who may have English language barriers through expanded access to translated materials and other supports.

- Messages are being delivered in 10 languages through radio, television and print advertising, as well as through various social media channels and web platforms.

- Since the launch of the COVID Care Teams and outreach campaign on Dec. 15, more than 850 Albertans have accessed hotel accommodations for self-isolation purposes.

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# Letter to the EDITOR

## Drayton Valley Residents Deliver Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms with Messages to Elected Officials



**Submitted by Tim Cameron**

Similar to people in communities across Alberta, many residents of Drayton Valley are frustrated. On Sunday afternoon, Jan 17th many showed up at the offices of their elect-

ed officials to leave messages of concern. No gathering took place in the interest of public safety, but the message was clear that every level of government is not doing enough to address the concerns of its citizens. People requested for all businesses to be opened

to provide parity for all, for outdoor restrictions to be removed, reduction of salaries for politicians and bureaucracy alike, and for better more clear information to be provided with the daily Covid update from the province.

The information that is re-

quested is briefly summarized as requesting the age ranges of those deceased, how many have co-morbidities, a breakdown where the case numbers are located (in their own homes vs public care facilities), what the stats need to look like that would either increase or decrease restrictions, (goalposts) why the input of David Redman has not been sought out or ignored, and what the province will do to protect individual rights if businesses start to demand proof of vaccinations so that they can better understand what we're collectively facing.

The provincial and federal governments have had nearly 10 months to plan to address the issues, and yet they seem to still be at the starting point, providing inconsistent messaging with a lack of supporting detail as to what information was utilized in their decision making process. These Albertans and Canadians deserve better, as do all citizens.

**Gerald Soroka MP**  
YELLOWHEAD

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**MARK SMITH**  
MLA FOR DRAYTON VALLEY-DEVON

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Gerald Soroka, MP  
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# KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE: PREMIER KENNEY

## Submitted by Government of Alberta

Premier Jason Kenney issued the following statement about reports President-elect Joe Biden may cancel the Keystone XL pipeline permit:

"I am deeply concerned by reports that the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden may repeal the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL border crossing next week.

"Doing so would kill jobs on both sides of the border, weaken the critically important Canada-U.S. relationship, and undermine U.S. national security by making the United States more dependent on OPEC oil imports in the future.

"In 2019, the United States imported 9.14 million barrels per day of petroleum, 3.7 million of which came from Canada. The rest comes from countries like Venezuela and Saudi Arabia, none of whom share the commitment of Canada and the United States to environmental stewardship, combatting climate change, or North American energy security.

"As President-elect Biden's green jobs plan acknowledges, Americans will consume millions of barrels of oil per day for years to come. It is in perfect keeping with his plan that the United States energy needs should be met by a country that takes the challenges of climate change seriously.

"The Keystone XL pipeline also represents tens of thousands of good-paying jobs that the American economy needs right now. That is why major American labour unions who supported President-elect

Biden's campaign strongly back the project, as do First Nations who have signed partnership agreements, and all state governments along the pipeline route.

"As the Government of Canada has said, building Keystone XL is 'top of the agenda' with the incoming Biden administration. Prime Minister Trudeau raised the issue with President-elect

Biden on their November 9, 2020, telephone meeting, agreeing 'to engage on key issues, including ... energy cooperation such as Keystone XL.'

"We renew our call on the incoming administration to show respect for Canada as the United States' most important trading partner and strategic ally by keeping that commitment to

engage, and to allow Canada to make the case for strengthening cooperation on energy, the environment, and the economy through this project.

"Should the incoming U.S. Administration abrogate the Keystone-XL permit, Alberta will work with TC Energy to use all legal avenues available to protect its interest in the project."



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# LEDUC RCMP TACKLE CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

**Submitted by Leduc RCMP**

Leduc, Alta. – Leduc RCMP recognize catalytic converter theft is a rising crime trend in the area and want to remind vehicle owners of some Crime Prevention tips.

“Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is a key factor in reducing theft of catalytic converters. Think about where you park your vehicle. Think about how the criminal would gain access to it, if there’s any way to

prevent access or add a barrier, that’s what we recommend,” says Cst. Cheri-Lee Smith.

This is predominantly a crime of opportunity where the vehicle has been left unsecure or is easily accessible by the offender.

Tips to prevent theft of catalytic converters from being stolen include:

- Park in well-lit areas and close to building entrances, when possible
- Park your vehicle inside your garage and keep all garage doors shut and locked
- Business owners

should secure their vehicles behind locked fences or inside a locked building

- Set your car’s alarm to go off when it detects vibration

- Engrave your vehicle identification number (VIN) on the catalytic converter. This may alert a scrap metal dealer that it was stolen and makes it easier to identify the owner

- Report to local police, if you see anyone underneath a vehicle or around a resident/business at odd hours of day or night

“Our officers are working diligently using crime re-

duction strategies to target the offenders and reduce the impact these thefts have on residents in the area” says Sgt. Shane Himmelman.

If you have any information on property crimes in your area, you are encouraged to contact Leduc RCMP at 780-980-7267 or your local police. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8444 (TIPS), online at [www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com) or by using “P3 Tips” app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

## Charges Laid in Theft of Catalytic Converters

*Continued from Page 1*

Calvin McKirdy (35) of Edmonton was charged with the following:

- Break and enter
- Mischief under \$5000

- Theft under \$5000.
- Fail to comply with probation order

McKirdy was released to appear in Leduc Provincial Court on February 18, 2021.

“Leduc RCMP take Property Crime such as thefts of catalytic converters very

seriously. We are combating it and seeing a reduction in these crimes through intelligence led policing, as well through strategic enforcement and community based, pro-active measures. Leduc is a tight knit community where property

crime and those choosing to commit these crimes have no place. Together we can continue to make all the difference” says Insp. Dale Kendall, OIC Leduc RCMP.

## Applications Open for New Business Relief

*Continued from Page 1*

With restrictions continuing and small businesses struggling, support programs will need to be extended and expanded in order to avoid widespread business closures across the province.” - Annie Dornuth, Alberta provincial affairs director, Canadian Federation of Independent Business

The Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, co-operatives and non-profit organizations with fewer than 500 employees that have faced restrictions or

closures due to COVID-related public health orders, and have experienced revenue losses of at least 30 per cent.

Businesses can use the funding as they see fit to offset the costs they are facing as they relaunch their businesses. This includes the costs of items that help prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, as well as rent, employee wages or replacing inventory. The funds can also be used to help businesses expand their online presence or e-commerce opportunities so that they can continue to serve customers. These

grants do not need to be repaid.

The program launched at the end of June 2020, and the government has committed \$500 million to the grants. More details are on the program web page. Application intake will be open until March 31, 2021, unless otherwise communicated.

Alberta’s Recovery Plan is a bold, ambitious long-term strategy to build, diversify, and create tens of thousands of jobs now. By building schools, roads and other core infrastructure we are benefiting our communities. By diversifying our economy and attracting investment with Canada’s most competitive tax en-

vironment, we are putting Alberta on a path for a generation of growth.

Quick facts

- As of Feb. 1, Alberta’s government has provided more than \$327 million to more than 47,000 businesses.

- Small and medium enterprises are an important part of Alberta’s economy, accounting for more than 99 per cent of all businesses and almost 55 per cent of all employment.

- Additional supports for businesses are available through the federal government.



# *Bridal Guide*

February 2021

## *Your* Guide to Planning Your Big Day

Filled with helpful planning advice, savvy how-to tips and the latest wedding trends, as well as a host of local wedding vendors here to help you plan the perfect day!

# Bridal Guide



## HOW TO FIND YOUR WEDDING FLORIST

Weddings join the lives of two loving individuals so they can share their future with one another. Various elements help make weddings both momentous and magical.

Some weddings adhere to themes that are designed to make an impression and showcase couples' personalities. Floral arrangements are key components of wedding themes, as they help to establish ambiance at both the ceremony and reception.

Flowers can easily help couples achieve a desired vibe, whether that's rustic, romantic, modern, or even whimsical. Skilled florists may use a variety of flowers and foliage, as well as dramatic displays to help create the couple's wedding day vision. According to an internal study from the wedding advice and planning resource The Knot, which surveyed more

than 27,000 couples who got married in 2019, the average cost of wedding flowers was \$2,000 in 2019. However, the cost of floral arrangements can vary depending on the scope of the arrangements and choice of flowers, including whether they're in season or not.

It is essential for couples to spend time vetting potential florists to find one who will produce their desired vision at a price that fits their budget. These guidelines can make the process go more smoothly.

- Establish your theme early on. Floral arrangements will complement and enhance other elements of the wedding, including color scheme and the wedding theme. If your wedding theme ties into a specific season, you will work with the florist to find blooms and other pieces that coordinate. For example, winter weddings with white, ice

blue and silver color schemes may coordinate with white ranunculus flowers, dahlias, dusty miller foliage, and viburnum berries.

- Bring swatches and photographs to consultations. It is easier to explain color palettes to a florist with examples in hand. Show the florist the types of arrangements you prefer and have actual fabric swatches from bridesmaid gowns or groomsmen vests so that colors can be complemented.

- Create a list of desired items. Florists may sell items a la carte or have packages of common floral pieces for wedding celebrations. Types of floral arrangements include bridal bouquet, bridesmaids' bouquets, maid of honor bouquet, corsages for mothers/grandmothers, boutonnieres for groomsmen and fathers/grandfathers, flower girl headpiece, petals

to sprinkle, table centerpieces, altar arrangements, pew or chair decorations, and cake decorations.

- Go easy on aroma. Tread lightly when selecting blooms that have strong aromas. They may be beautiful, but many people are sensitive to smells. Allergies also may be exacerbated by flowers with strong aromas. Discuss options with the florist before proceeding.

- Explain your budget. Research the average cost of floral arrangements and let the florist know what you can afford. This can help the florist narrow down options or make substitutions that fit your theme and your budget.

Couples can take certain steps as they choose floral arrangements for their weddings. Cost should not be the only factor in the decision, even though it is an important one.


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# Bridal Guide



## HOW TO HOST A SOCIALLY DISTANT WEDDING

It's likely that few people heard of "social distancing" prior to 2020. That changed as the novel coronavirus COVID-19 spread rapidly across the globe and the world found itself in the midst of a deadly pandemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines social distancing as keeping a safe distance of at least six feet between yourself and other people who are not from your household. Public health officials continue to champion social distancing while acknowledging the fatigue that many people have experienced as the pandemic stretched on for months. Though much of the world hit the proverbial pause button, life went on during the pandemic. Perhaps nowhere was that more evident than at the altar, where

many couples still tied the knot, albeit in scaled back ceremonies that adhered to social distancing guidelines in their communities.

Engaged couples who have yet to tie the knot no doubt recognize that planning a socially distant wedding will not be the same as organizing more traditional ceremonies and receptions. While planning a socially distant wedding presents some unique challenges, couples can take certain steps to ensure their big day is memorable and safe.

- Spread the socially distant word. Let guests know what they're in for should they decide to take part in the festivities. Many people have strictly followed social distancing guidelines, while others have been reluctant to do so. Couples intent on keeping themselves and

their guests safe from COVID-19 should emphasize that their weddings will be socially distant affairs so there's no confusion come the big day.

- Stream the wedding online. Stream the wedding online for those guests who won't be in attendance. By the end of 2020, millions of people had already "attended" weddings via platforms like Zoom, so loved ones may be experienced virtual guests by the time couples walk down the aisle in 2021. Couples who may need some help planning virtual affairs can visit the virtual wedding coordinators at Wedfuly.com, who recently partnered with Zoom to help couples bring their ceremonies online.

- Pare down the in-person guest list. Couples who planned large

weddings prior to the pandemic can still invite all of their loved ones to witness the festivities online, but pare down the in-person guest list to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Limit in-person guests to immediate family and those people who are part of your social distancing bubble.

- Plan a party for down the road. Couples can still celebrate their nuptials with family and friends down the road. Plan a post-pandemic reception and let guests know you will fill them in on the details once social distancing restrictions have been lifted.

Socially distant weddings may require couples to take some unusual steps as they try to tie the knot while keeping themselves and their loved ones safe.

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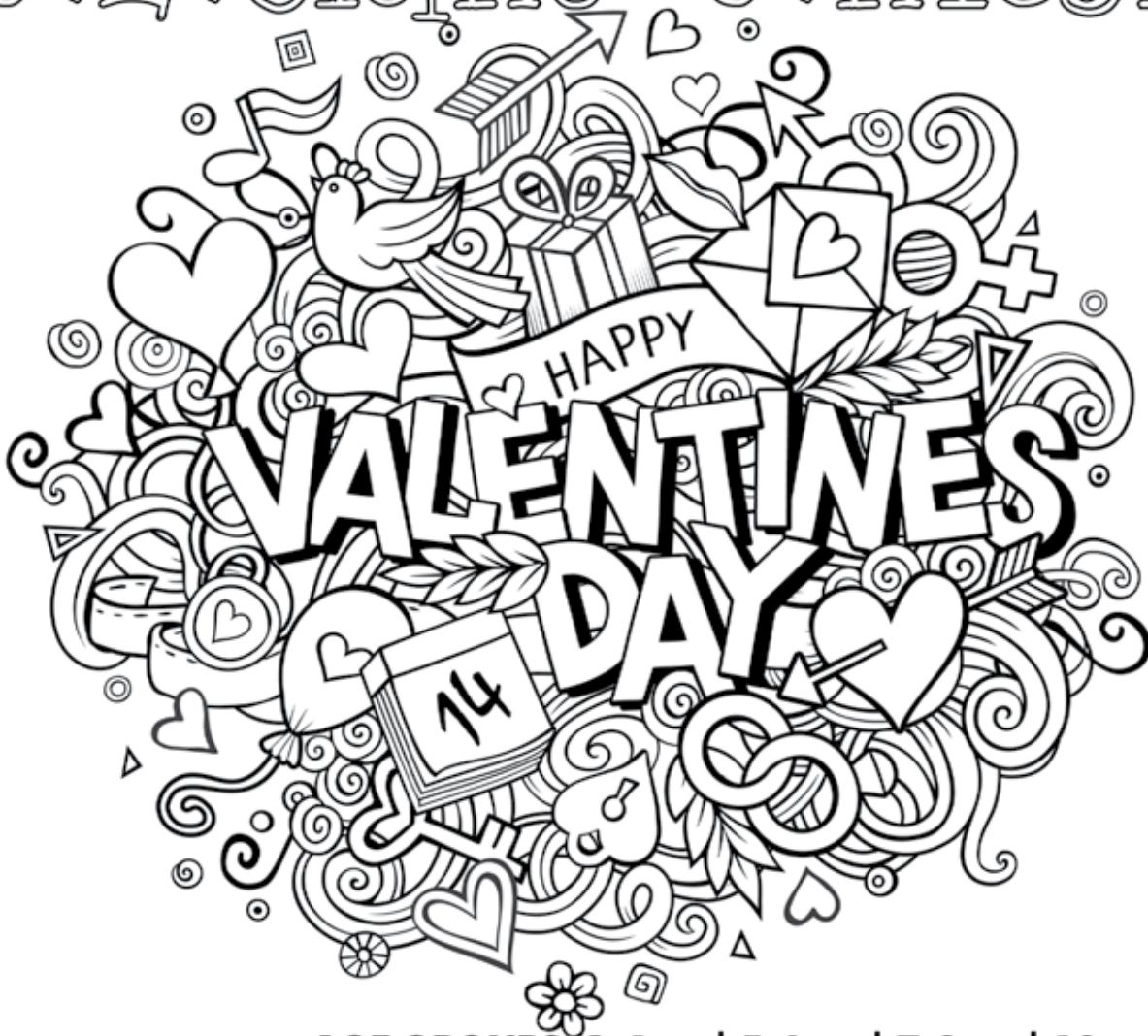


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# ALBERTA FARMERS NEED FIXES TO THE AGRISTABILITY PROGRAM

Submitted by **Ronald Brochu**

The AgriStability program was once a key program for Alberta farmers, designed to protect them against large declines in farming income. Iconic Albertan cattle ranchers and grain farmers were especially reliant on

it as a guaranteed backstop should they face a bad year. It accounted for millions of dollars in the pockets of farmers who needed it the most.

However, farmers were blindsided in 2012 when the previous federal Conservative government cut AgriStability. The cuts in-

cluded a "Reference Margin Limit", which limits payments and makes the program too complex. Farmers have become increasingly frustrated that there is no predictability on receiving payment. As a result, most farmers do not even bother signing up for the program any more. They don't be-

lieve it's worth their time or money.

Recently, the federal Liberal Agriculture Minister proposed to improve the program by removing the "Reference Margin Limit" and increasing the compensation rate back up to 80%. These proposed fixes to AgriStability would produce \$170 million in direct support payments to farmers annually. Alberta farmers would enjoy a substantial financial boost by receiving a significant amount of those support dollars.

To make these changes happen, the federal Liberal Government need provinces to agree to pay their 40% share. Provinces across Canada are agreeing, and it has come down to the Prairie governments to step up in support of their farmers.

Prairie farmers are urging their provincial governments to accept the deal, but the UCP Government does not seem enthusiastic to repair this broken program. The UCP Government has created the narrative that the Trudeau administration doesn't do anything for Albertans. But here is a tangible example of action by the Feds that would provide a huge benefit to Alberta. This precious opportunity for farmers may be sacrificed on the altar of politics.

Proper support programs are vital to the success of farmers and rural Alberta as a whole. I worked with Farm Credit Canada and in agricultural finance, and I know the financial stress farmers can face. The Kenney government must listen to farmers on this one, take the deal, and get this important AgriStability program back on track.

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# A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE SANTA'S ANONYMOUS COMMITTEE

*Alder Flats, Buck Lake, Winfield & surrounding areas*

**Submitted by Marian Whitby**

The Santa's Anonymous Committee would like to thank everyone who generously donated to the December 2020 campaign, supporting over 40 families in need over the Christmas season.

Thanks to the following for donating \$400 or more: Mr. & Mrs. S. Heagy & Mr. T. Lidstone towards hams & turkeys, 5 Star Locating, Alder Flats Ag. Society, Mr. & Mrs. J. Banack, Buck Lake Ag. Society, Mr. & Mrs. S. Hodgson, Winfield & District Ag. Society, Winfield & District Ag. Society and Wetaskiwin County. Also Cenovus, Obsidian Energy, Spartan Delta Corp. Social Club and Vermillion Energy.

We would stress that we appreciate every donation to Santa's Anonymous. Thanks to Alder Flats Bottle Depot for proceeds from their donation bin for October & November and to Dr. J. Hambleton of Breton for donation of toothbrushes. Thanks to Corey Anderson & Janet Magnuson for their wonderful gift donations. Brighter Futures was able to help us with their starter kit food donations and recipe book/information pamphlets through emergency funding from Gov. of Alberta Social Services Support for Covid 19. Their Basic Shelf Program, which start-

ed in 1994, helped families with a program of cooking & budgeting in a group setting. That funding has ended but this grant has enabled them to help our families in a similar way within Covid guidelines. Also thanks so much to Buck Lake Agricultural Society for continuing

to donate the use of the hall, we really appreciate their help over the years. If I have missed anyone I apologize.

I would also like to say a big thank you to the volunteers who make this program possible; they give tirelessly getting the hamper boxes ready, collect-

ing and sorting, filling and delivering hampers. We missed the input from high school volunteers who have been a great help with the collecting and sorting the last couple of years. Hopefully life will be better next year and they can join us again. All the best in 2021.



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

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



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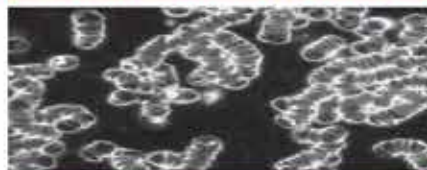
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