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April 20, 2021

AIR CANADA TO OFFER REFUNDS FOR FLIGHTS AFFECTED BY COVID-19 SINCE FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellow-

head is pleased to advise constituents that Air Canada customers whose fares were non-refundable and cancelled due to COVID-19

since February 2020, are able to submit a refund request.

Continued on Page 2

WILDWOOD AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY DONATES TO FOOD BANK

Submitted by Carol Riehl

Hello Everyone. I truly hope you are finding this lovely weather refreshing and encouraging as the latest COVID news is

not. Hang in there and stay healthy. The WEE Food bank is struggling to meet the growing need in our communities. The Wildwood and District Agricultural Society was in the

position to recently donate \$500.00 to the WEE food bank to assist in purchasing some much needed fresh food for their clients.

Continued on Page 2

LILSA LAKE WATER QUALITY SURVEY

Submitted by Lake Isle and Lake Ste. Anne (LILSA)

Lake Isle and Lake Ste. Anne (LILSA) is interested in hearing the viewpoints

on lake water quality from residents & general users at Lake Isle & Lac Ste Anne Lake. Our primary goal from this survey is to find out the current knowledge

base around the water quality, overall lake health, and your major concerns surrounding it.

Continued on Page 2

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Air Canada to Offer Refunds for Flights Affected by COVID-19 Since February 1, 2020

Continued from Page 1

As of April 13, 2021, customers who purchase non-refundable fares

whose future flights are cancelled or rescheduled by more than three hours will have the option of a refund. The airline will not recall

commissions for refunded tickets that travel agency partners process. Customers can request a refund through their travel

agent or online at: www.aircanada.com/refund until June 12, 2021. More details can be found at: Refund (Eng) (003).pdf

Wildwood and District Agricultural Society Donates to Food Bank

Continued from Page 1

With that thought in mind, perhaps if you have a few extra feet in your garden, you could plant a few extra potato hills or a few feet of carrots to donate to the food bank. To produce those products for your neighbor-in-need would be such a rewarding feeling and be such a blessing.

Thank you in advance for considering any kind of donation you may be able to make for your friends in need. Remember strangers are only friends you haven't met yet!. Caption to be included with picture Presentation of \$500.00 donation check to the WEE food bank by Wildwood and District Agricultural Society President Wilma Swinkles.



LILSA Lake Water Quality Survey

Continued from Page 1

This survey is completely anonymous, however if you would like any further information or would be willing to take any additional follow up surveys, you can leave your contact information at the end of the survey. Providing us with

your contact information also gets you entered into a draw for a gift card to a local business. This survey is available until June 15, 2021 LILSA, a non-profit society, is committed to promoting the preservation of Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne Lake, located 40 minutes west of Edmonton, Alberta.

Our goal is to maintain and improve the quality of the water. Our society is run entirely by volunteers. Please go to the LILSA website <https://www.lisawaterquality.com/> and click on 'Take Survey Now' which is located on our homepage.

COMMUNITYVOICE
YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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AND BIWEEKLY (Zone 3)

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HIGHER LEVEL OF SENIORS CARE COMING TO DRAYTON VALLEY, PONOKA

Supportive living changes reflect growing needs in both communities

Submitted by Alberta Health Services

A total of 36 supportive living beds in Drayton Valley and Ponoka will offer a higher level of care starting next month to better meet the needs of residents in those communities.

Currently, these beds at Seasons Retirement Communities provide care for individuals who are medically and physically stable, able to move independently or with the assistance of one other person, and may be experiencing increased healthcare needs that cannot be scheduled. This level of care is known as SL3.

As of May 1, these SL3 beds will be converted to SL4, a level of care previously unavailable in the two communities. SL4 care is for individuals with more complex medical needs, including chronic disease management and assistance with daily activities, such as meal assistance (including tube feeds), mechanical lift or two-person transfers, medication assistance or administration.

"The Alberta Government is working to ensure the healthcare needs of all Albertans are met, and the introduction of this level of care in Drayton Valley ensures residents who need this higher level of continu-

ing care can get it here in the community," says Mark Smith, MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon.

"This is welcome news," adds Ron Orr, MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka. "Ponoka residents should be reassured that if they or their loved ones need this high level of supportive living care, it's now available in town and near their families."

The decision to offer this higher level of care was made following a thorough review, and consideration of current and future needs of both communities. All current services and care will continue uninterrupted, and these changes will not impact any current residents.

"This is just one of many ways AHS is working to increase choices and options for seniors," says Lori Sparrow, AHS Executive Director, Seniors Health, Central Zone. "This decision brings a level of enhanced continuing care to these communities that will help meet the needs of residents and their families now and into the future."

Supportive living promotes residents' independence and aging in place through the provision of services such as 24-hour monitoring, emergency response, security, meals, housekeeping and social-enrichment activities. This decision will affect all 16

SL3 beds at Seasons Retirement Communities in Drayton Valley, and all 20 SL3 beds at the facility in Ponoka.

"Seasons is very pleased to be able to offer this enhanced care option at Seasons Drayton Valley and Seasons Ponoka," says Nicole Almost, Senior Regional Director, Resident and Guest Services, Seasons Retirement Communities.

"I want to thank AHS for their continued support and partnership. Our ongoing collaboration greatly benefits our residents, staff and local seniors. The SL4 designation will also allow us to hire more team members, which is good for the local economy and our retirement communities."

Established in 2009, Seasons is a Canadian company that operates 13 retirement residences in Ontario and

nine residences in Alberta, with more under development. Its management team has extensive experience in the senior housing sector and has developed a culture dedicated to providing residents with superior customer service. Seasons wants residents to feel proud to call them home and to know they are surrounded by people who genuinely care. Connect. Care. Change. For more information, please visit www.seasonsretirement.com.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

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JOKE of the week

A mother mouse and a baby mouse are walking along when suddenly a cat attacks them. The mother mouse shouts "BARK!" and the cat runs away. "See?" the mother mouse says to her baby. "Now do you see why it's important to learn a foreign language?"

A MESSAGE FROM MLA MARK SMITH: CURRICULUM

Submitted by MLA Mark Smith | Drayton Valley – Devon Constituency

Alberta has produced some of the best curriculum anywhere in the world. The new K-6 draft curriculum has just been released and Albertans are carefully combing through it to see how it is going to impact their children's education.

The new K-6 curriculum draft:

- was produced and vetted by a Curriculum Advisory Panel made up of experts.
- 8,500 Albertans provided feedback through public consultations.
- 102 experienced elementary teachers provided feedback as well
- The Association of Alberta Deans of Education and over 30 Faculty of Educa-

tion deans and professors.

As is always the case Albertans have spoken up both in praise and criticism of the new curriculum. Many educators believe that the new curriculum's re-emphasis on traditional math logarithms and the de-emphasizing of Discovery Math is going to help Alberta students reverse the trend in declining international math scores.

There are also some who are questioning one or more aspects of the curriculum. Some elementary teachers have reached out to me worried about the amount of material or age appropriateness of the material in Social Studies. As I scanned the K-6 Social Studies curriculum I saw many positives.

- I like the way it is organized with an: Organizing

Idea, Guiding Question and Knowledge, Understanding and Skills objectives.

- It is clearly divided into the traditional components of History, Civics, Geography, Economics and has a new component added in called Financial Literacy.

- I like the chronological progression through the grades from First Nations, Ancient and Medieval Societies, Canadian history, settling of Alberta and the North West, the Great Migration and Canada/USA.

- I see the many touchstones that will help our students understand the world that they live in today from: various faiths, to First Nations, European, French Canadian cultures etc.

Yet there are still challenges ahead for us. Expecting teachers to implement all of

the disciplines of learning in one year is going to be a difficult task. I look forward to the feedback from the validating teachers, especially as they address the issue of content and age appropriateness in Social Studies. There is still much work to be done in developing age appropriate resources and assessment pieces. Perhaps some of these concerns can be addressed by engaging and articulating a clear role for the Alberta Regional Professional Development Center moving forward.

Over all I believe the new K-6 draft Program of Studies is a step forward over the previous draft curriculum inherited by the government and will with some more work produce a world class curriculum for our students.

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TEACHERS CALL FOR STOP TO CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

Submitted by The Alberta Teachers' Association

The Alberta Teachers' Association is calling for the Government of Alberta to stop all work on the piloting and implementation of the draft curriculum until an independent, open and full review and rewrite can occur.

The Association is publishing full-page ads in daily newspapers across Alberta tomorrow to issue the call for a moratorium and to show support for school boards and teachers that decide not to participate in piloting.

"Alberta's students and teachers require an appropriate and workable curriculum. The government is being told loudly and clearly that this curriculum is unacceptable. We

now need the government to announce a stop to their implementation plans and to spell out a new way forward."

-Jason Schilling, ATA president

ATA president Jason Schilling says the Association supports school boards that have decided not to pilot this draft curriculum, and he calls on all school authorities to refrain from directing their teachers to participate in piloting.

"Teachers who believe this curriculum is unsound and potentially damaging to student learning have the professional responsibility and moral right to refuse to participate in voluntary piloting. The government and school boards must respect the decision of individual teachers to not participate in piloting."

-Jason Schilling, ATA

president

Although the teaching profession is frustrated by being left out of the curriculum development process, Schilling says teachers are more than willing to assist the government with a rewrite that reflects their extensive expertise and knowledge.

"We are committed to supporting the development of a high-quality curriculum, and the ATA is prepared to work constructively in partnership with the Government of Alberta toward that end. It is the only workable path forward. We just need to be invited."

-Jason Schilling, ATA president

The call follows the release of preliminary survey results showing that 91 per cent of teachers and school administrators are unhappy with the draft curriculum,

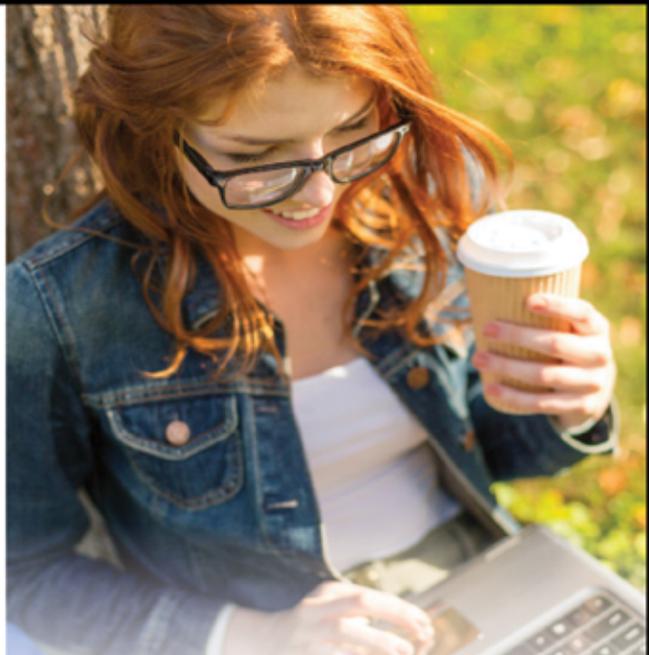
with three in four teachers stating that they are "very unhappy." The survey also showed that 90 per cent of elementary school teachers feel uncomfortable about teaching the new K-6 curriculum, and 95 per cent of principals feel uncomfortable about supporting the curriculum in their school and community.

The ATA is directing parents and the public who are concerned about the draft curriculum to pledge support for the moratorium and review by visiting curriculum.thelearningteam.ca.

The Alberta Teachers' Association, as the professional organization of teachers, promotes and advances public education, safeguards standards of professional practice and serves as the advocate for its 46,000 members.

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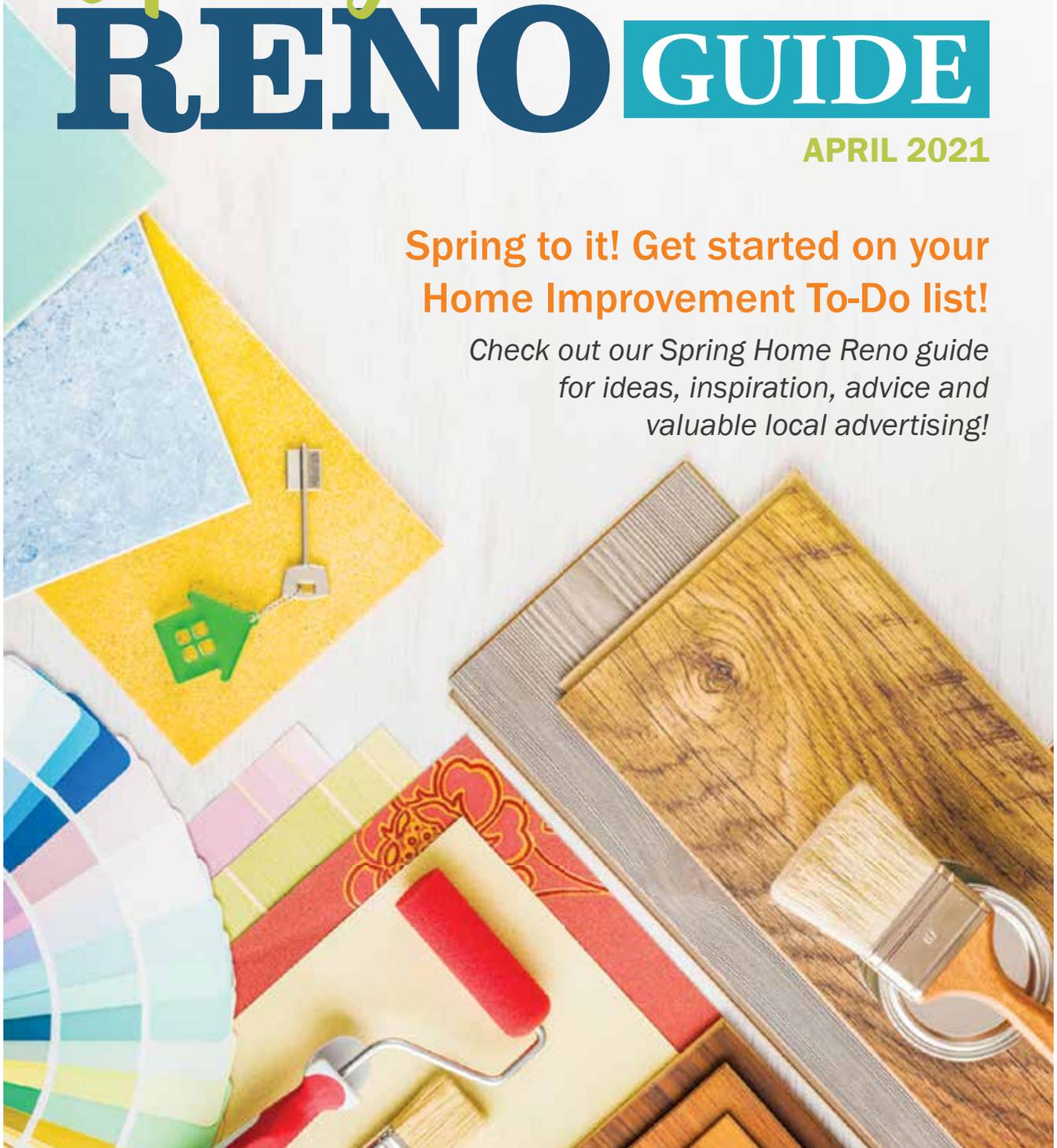
Spring **HOME** **RENO** **GUIDE**



APRIL 2021

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LAUNDRY ROOM RENOVATIONS YOU'LL LOVE

Does it seem like your hamper is always full and the washing machine is running constantly? You may not be imagining it. Laundry Butler for You, a wash, dry and fold service, says the average household washes 50 pounds of laundry a week and 6,000 articles of clothing every year. Families with children at home are doing laundry most often, and those with pets may find there is ample laundry to wash as well.

With so much laundry being generated, homeowners may want to consider paying extra attention to the space in the house where their clothing is being cleansed. Laundry room renovations may not top homeowners' priority lists, but it may be time to give these rooms another look.

Assess your equipment

If your appliances are aging, a laundry room renovation can start with an investment in new appliances. New models have large capacity loads, tend to be energy-efficient and could have innovative features that help fit with your laundry lifestyle. Purchasing front-loading models also can free up design space, as you can install a counter directly above the units, saving room for other items like drying racks.

Figure out your room needs

A laundry room need not be limited to laundry only. Many homeowners make large laundry rooms catch-all spaces that can serve as utility or mud rooms, pantry overflows, or off-season storage areas. Consider the functions you want the room to serve and include those ideas in your designs.

Add some natural light

If possible, include a window in your laundry room. Natural light can help make the room more enjoyable.

It also can help you identify stains on clothes that need to be addressed and make it easier to fold matching items like socks.

Think about a utility sink

Many washing machines drain out directly to waste pipes in the floor or wall, but you also can opt to have them empty into a utility

sink. This sink also provides a convenient place to hand-wash items, clean tools or paintbrushes, or store items that perhaps you do not want to bring into a bathroom or kitchen sink.

Include some flair

This utilitarian space need not be boring or bereft of design elements. Mirror your

home's style in the laundry room, and include wall hangings, plants, accent items, and even task lighting. Play up certain features with a bold floor tile or brightly colored walls.

Updating laundry rooms can be a great way to make doing laundry more enjoyable and efficient.

 The advertisement features a background image of wood-grain flooring on the left and a grey and white checkered tile pattern on the right. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a dark brown diamond shape containing the word 'The'.

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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

OPTIONS ABOUT WHEN SHOPPING FOR HOME SIDING

Home improvement projects run the gamut from minor repairs to complete overhauls. Replacing exterior siding is one of the most significant home improvement projects homeowners can undertake. Such a project can give homes a completely new look, which is why choice of siding is such an important decision.

Homeowners have many siding options to choose from, and the following guide can help them make the best choice for their homes.

Vinyl siding
Vinyl siding is easily maintained and among the more budget-friendly siding options. According to the home improvement resource HomeAdvisor, vinyl siding is made from a PVC plastic that does not rot or flake. Siding professionals note that the technology used to create vinyl siding has changed consid-

erably in recent years, making this option more diverse than traditional vinyl siding. So homeowners turned off by the potentially plastic look of vinyl siding might be surprised at how different modern vinyl siding looks compared to the vinyl siding of yesteryear.

Fiber-cement siding
The home improvement television network HGTV notes that fiber-cement siding has grown in popularity among homeowners in recent years. This material does not require much maintenance and it's non-flammable and resistant to termites. HomeAdvisor notes that fiber-cement siding can create the look of wood, stucco or masonry, making it a versatile option capable of creating various looks. In addition, fiber-cement siding is known for its durability, with some products coming with warranties lasting as long as 50

years.
Wood siding
Homeowners have many choices if they prefer wood siding on their homes. Cedar, cypress, fir, pine, and spruce are just a handful of the many wood siding options homeowners can choose from. HomeAdvisor notes that cedar shingle siding offers a natural look that blends well in wooded and waterfront landscapes. Wood clapboard siding is another popular option, though it tends to require more maintenance than cedar shingle siding. Homeowners who want wood siding should discuss their options with an experienced siding professional, as many factors, including the choice of wood, must be considered before making a final decision.

Stone and stone-veneer siding
Many homeowners fall in love with the natural appeal of stone, but the price tag, which

tends to be costly, may not be as awe-inspiring. HGTV notes that stone can be difficult to add to an existing home, and doing so may drive the price up even further. Stone siding is durable, and there are many options, including solid stone and natural stone cladding, that make this an option capable of providing an array of looks. Stone-veneer siding is less expensive than natural stone and also comes in an array of styles. As is the case with wood, stone siding options are so extensive that homeowners are urged to discuss each one with a siding professional before making their decisions.

These are just a handful of the many siding options homeowners can choose from. Siding can give homes a completely new look, making choice of siding a significant decision worthy of careful consideration.



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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

TOOLS THAT CAN KEEP PEOPLE SAFE AT HOME

Promptly addressing maintenance issues around the house can reduce the risk of accident or injury. In addition, various items can alert homeowners to problems they may not otherwise recognize before issues jeopardize residents' health or take a turn for the costly.

AUTO SHUT-OFF FEATURES

Who hasn't left the house only to worry an hour or so later about whether the coffee pot was turned off or the straightening iron was unplugged? When shopping for personal care items or appliances, seek out models that have automatic shut-off features. This safety feature will power down the unit after a certain amount of time, which can reduce the risk of overheated products and house fires.

FLOOD AND LEAK DETECTOR

The financial information and wellness resource Canstar says leakages, burst pipes and other water-related issues in a home are one of the more common home emergencies. Water dam-

age can cost between hundreds and thousands of dollars depending on how invasive the water problem is. Catching a leak or flood in a home early on is essential.

Water leak detectors are designed to detect a potential flood or leak at an early stage so homeowners can take action. Sensors may sound an alarm or be connected to a WiFi system to send an alert to a mobile device.

CARBON MONOXIDE AND GAS DETECTION

It is vital that homeowners install carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless, and can cause poisoning that slowly suffocates a person. It also is combustible.

Carbon monoxide devices cannot detect a gas leak, but gas detectors can. They are a wise addition for people who have a significant number of natural gas appliances, or those who have older, gas-powered appli-

ances.

SUMP PUMP ALARM

A sump pump can mean the difference between a flooded basement and a dry floor. Homeowners may not recognize a sump pump malfunction during a power outage, and clogs also may not be detectable

until the basement floods. Sump pump alarms incorporated into the system alert homeowners that something is amiss.

Homeowners can rely on devices and other tools to prevent their homes from being damaged and themselves and their families safe.



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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

TYPES OF HOME INSULATION AND WHERE TO INSTALL THEM

A home insulation project certainly doesn't offer the wow factor of a kitchen remodel, but insulation serves a vital function in the house that helps keep people comfortable and reduces energy consumption. Insulation is typically placed in areas where air escapes, such as between the stud cavities inside the walls and in the attic, and serves to slow and reduce heat transfer.

The U.S. Department of Energy says between 50 and 70 percent of the energy used in homes is for heating and cooling. By improving home insulation, homeowners can make their homes more comfortable, consistent and efficient. In

fact, the ENERGY STAR program overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says homeowners stand to save an average of 15 percent on heating and cooling costs by adding proper insulation. To do so, homeowners can take a crash course in home insulation and find the products that fit their needs.

Blanket batts and rolls - Blanket batts and rolls typically are constructed with fiberglass, so proper safety gear, such as a mask and gloves, is needed when handling them. Installing this type of insulation is relatively easy since the materials are designed to fit the standard width between studs,

rafters and floor joists.

Loose fill - Loose fill is usually made of fiberglass or cellulose (recycled paper fiber). It is blown or sprayed into place with pneumatic equipment, according to The Home Depot. Loose fill can be ideal for hard-to-reach areas in attics or inside wall cavities. It's good for adding insulation to irregularly shaped areas. Since it requires special equipment, this is a job best left to professionals.

Sprayed foam - Sprayed foam is just as the name implies, a foam made from polyurethane, polyisocyanurate, cementitious, or other materials that are applied by a spray container. DIYers

who need only small applications can use canned products. Large quantities are pressure-sprayed by professionals.

Foam board/rigid foam panels - Ideal for unfinished walls, such as basement or foundation walls, floors and ceilings, these are boards of polyurethane or polystyrene. Foam boards tend to reduce energy consumption more effectively than other types of insulation.

Homeowners considering upgrading their insulation or amending existing insulation should do their homework on the type of insulation that will be most effective for their homes.



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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

HOW TO ADD SHADE TO A DECK OR PATIO

Homeowners eagerly await the arrival of the warm weather so they can cast off the remnants of cabin fever and bask in the sunshine. However, as summer nears its dog days, the same sun homeowners once coveted can contribute to uncomfortable conditions in outdoor entertaining spaces.

Meteorologists at WHAS11 in Kentucky took to their neighborhoods in July 2020 to test just how hot surfaces can get in the sun during peak daytime temperatures. Concrete sitting in the sun almost all day reached a temperature of 134.7 F, while the same concrete in the shade clocked in at just under 80 F. When air temperatures are around 90 F, unshaded concrete and asphalt can

be 125 F and 140 F, respectively. While wood decking may not be as hot as asphalt and concrete, it still can get steamy underfoot.

Homeowners who want to be able to enjoy their outdoor spaces in an array of temperatures can think about investing in shade solutions. Sun-blocking ideas like awnings, shade trees and large umbrellas can help people enjoy their yards all day long.

· **Canopy:** A patio canopy is typically a freestanding unit that can be installed over a patio or a deck. Some people prefer to bolt it down so it will not be knocked over in windy conditions. The fabric on the canopy can be removed during the off-season, helping to improve its longevity.

· **Awning:** Awnings may be stationary or retractable. Many are installed directly onto a home and can cast shade on specific areas of outdoor entertaining spaces.

· **Shade sail:** Similar to an awning but a bit less structurally rigid, shade sails are large pieces of triangular fabric installed over areas of a patio, pool or landscape, according to The Family Handyman. Shade sails are light and airy and can be customized.

· **Trees:** A natural way to increase shade in a yard is to plant more shade trees. If sun glare is an issue all year long, and it's not just the heat of the sun that is troublesome, think about planting evergreen trees. Deciduous cousins will drop their leaves

in fall and only be effective during the warm weather.

· **Patio umbrellas:** Many umbrellas start at around \$25. Umbrellas can be paired with patio tables, while stationary cantilever umbrellas sit out of the way on their own heavy-duty stands. A cantilever umbrella tends to provide more shade than patio table umbrellas.

· **Curtains:** Homeowners can block sunlight outdoors the way they do inside, offers MSN. Hang curtains from the sides of canopies or between posts on a deck to provide shade and cozy spaces.

Shade is in high demand when the sun is hot. Options abound for making outdoor areas more comfortable.



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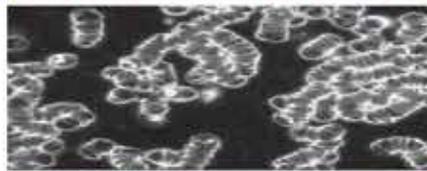
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FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS-OWNED HOUSING PROJECTS

Submitted by Government of Alberta

The four projects include two in Alberta's big cities, Edmonton and Calgary, and two in rural locations, Lac Ste. Anne and Victor Lake near Grande Cache. In northwest Edmonton, the project involves the purchase of a 34-unit building for affordable housing. The funding in Calgary, Lac Ste. Anne and Victor Lake will go to create 12 seniors housing units in each location.

The projects will create about 100 jobs.

Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Ahmed Hussen, and Seniors and Housing Minister Josephine Pon announced the governments of Alberta and Canada provided \$13.1 million for the four projects.

In Alberta, the funding is provided through the Indigenous Housing Capital Program (IHCP), which supports Indigenous governments and communities to build affordable off-reserve, off-settlement and on-settlement housing. The program ensures a flexible, autonomous approach, and encourages public and private developers to partner with Indigenous governments and organizations.

Federal funding for the IHCP is provided through the 10-year bilateral housing

agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta, announced in spring 2019, and will help provide the 70 affordable housing units for this project.

"Improving Indigenous housing must be a priority for the Government of Canada. Elders have contributed so much to their communities, making sure that they have safe and affordable housing is one way to give back to them. With our partners at the Government of Alberta, the Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc., Victor Lake Cooperative, Evergreens Foundation, Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, and Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association, we are building a generation of new housing that we can all be proud of." - Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services

"Everyone deserves a safe, affordable and accessible home, and this important project will provide good homes to those who need them. Indigenous people are over-represented among the houseless, and having access to affordable homes keeps a roof over the head of more Indigenous people and offers a safe place for people to build their lives and heal. This project is a good example of what we can accomplish when different orders of governments and Indigenous governments and organizations work together." - Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations

ter of Indigenous Relations

"This long outstanding item for affordable housing for our Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc. members has finally come to fruition. This collective effort is a step forward and great start in addressing housing shortages for all our Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc. First Nations members. We would like to acknowledge the Creator, our Elders, Chiefs and all working groups to help make this a reality." - Okimaw Vernon Watchmaker, chair, Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc.

"This funding creates an incredible opportunity to provide our Elders with stable, safe, affordable housing located in our home community of Lac Ste. Anne. This independent living development, to be operated in its early stages through a collaboration with the Communitas Group, fulfils a critically important short-term goal for our community." - Ray Daniels, board member, Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association

IHCP applications are accepted on a continuous basis and are now available at alberta.ca/ihcp. The next quarterly deadline is March 31.

Quick facts

- In addition to these four IHCP construction projects, two others have been approved for funding, with construction underway:

- As announced in September 2020, the Métis Capital Housing Corporation will re-

ceive up to \$7 million in capital funding to repurpose 10 single-family homes in Edmonton into 23 family housing units.

- As announced in August 2020, the Elizabeth Métis Settlement, near Cold Lake, will receive up to \$3 million in capital funding to build 10 new four-bedroom homes. The housing will serve Métis families living on-settlement.

- Announced in 2019, the 10-year bilateral agreement between the governments of Canada and Alberta, under the National Housing Strategy (NHS), will invest \$678 million to protect, renew and expand social and community housing, and support Alberta's priorities related to housing repair, construction and affordability.

- Canada's National Housing Strategy (NHS) is a 10-year \$70-plus billion plan that will give more Canadians a place to call home - this includes more than \$12 billion committed through the 2020 Fall Economic Statement.

- The 2020 Fall Economic Statement proposes to increase the lending capacity of the existing National Housing Strategy's Rental Construction Financing Initiative by an additional \$12 billion over seven years. This new funding will enable CMHC to support the construction of an additional 28,500 purpose-built rental housing units across Canada.

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YELLOWHEAD COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Yellowhead County

2021 Budget & Tax Rate – Council passed the 2021 Budget with no increase to the municipal portion of the mill rate. The \$133.5 million budget includes the county’s operations costs (\$45.5 million) and capital project costs (\$30.2 million), contributions to county reserves (\$3.4 million), and Yellowhead County’s revenue-sharing and cost-sharing contributions to local governments (\$8.9 million). The budget also includes the Seniors Requisition (\$4.25 million) and the School Requisition (\$24.3 million). A 2021 Final Budget Summary is available online.

Municipal Campground Fees – Council approved an increase to overnight campground fees for Yellowhead County municipal campgrounds. The new fee is \$20 per night per site (previously \$15-\$17/night). The new fees will be implemented for the 2021 camping season.

Proposed Municipal Parks Bylaw Update – Changes to the Municipal Parks Bylaw for rules regarding cannabis consumption at municipal parks and campgrounds in Yellowhead County were brought forward to Council. The proposed changes also reflect the closure of Riverside Park Campground. The bylaw will be brought back to Council for a final vote at a future date.

RD to CR Bylaw Amendment – A bylaw amendment was adopted by Council that will change a property northeast of Edson from a Rural District (RD) to a Country Residential (CR) district. The redistricting of this property will allow the property owner to apply for the property to be further subdivided to allow for an additional lot on the property.

Property Tax Agreements

– A new bylaw has been passed that allows for a penalty to be imposed on non-residential property tax agreements. This bylaw allows Council to impose a reduced penalty of 3% on any non-residential property tax agreement. Non-residential property tax agreements are not granted automatically and

each company wishing to enter into an agreement will be required to submit a formal request and a decision will be made by Council on a case-by-case basis.

2020 Audited Financial Statement – Council received a presentation from the auditors for the 2020 Audited Financial Statement. The statement will

be available on the County website and printed copies will be available for review at the Yellowhead County Administration buildings in Edson and Wildwood.

The next regular Council Meeting is April 27, 2021 at 9:30 AM. The next Governance and Priorities meeting is April 20, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ALBERTA'S TEACHERS

Alberta's teachers do not have confidence in the content and design of the Draft K-6 Curriculum.

Submitted by The Alberta Teachers' Association

The curriculum consultation and development processes used after the suspension of a partnership agreement with the Alberta Teachers' Association have

been deeply flawed and have lacked transparency.

The ATA supports key elements of The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum published by Alberta Education

in December 2020, but this curriculum fails to meet the criteria set out in the government's own framework. We expect that any programs of study proposed for adoption will meet the criteria previously determined by government.

We support the decision of school boards to not pilot this draft curriculum and, furthermore, we call on all school authorities to refrain from participating in or directing their teachers to participate in the curriculum pilot.

Teachers who believe this curriculum is unsound and potentially damaging to student learning have the professional responsibility and moral right to refuse to participate in voluntary piloting. The government and school boards must respect the decision of individual teachers to not participate in piloting.

Given the extensive concerns identified by many, the ATA is calling on the Government of Alberta to immediately stop work on the piloting and implementation of the Draft K-6 Curriculum until an independent, full and open review and rewrite can occur.

The independent review must meaningfully involve a broad cross-section of certificated Alberta teachers and faculty members from Alberta faculties of education and must be properly inclusive of francophone, First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives. Before piloting is to resume, rewritten curriculum must be developmentally, structurally and pedagogically sound, and should enjoy the broad support of Albertans.

Alberta's students and teachers require an appropriate, inclusive and workable curriculum. We are committed to supporting the development of such, and the ATA is prepared to work constructively in partnership with the Government of Alberta toward that end.

We just need to be invited. Pledge your support for a rewrite at curriculum.the-learningteam.ca

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of the week

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

Church Directory

Seba Beach Christian Fellowship

Sunday School 10:00a.m.
Worship Service 11:00a.m.

Weekdays Bible Study & Prayer

(780) 305-3594

Advent Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship & Sunday School 11:00a.m.

Evansburg
O: 747-3594

Roman Catholic Church

St. Agnes' Parish, Mayerthorpe
Sunday 9:00a.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish, Evansburg
Saturday 7:00p.m.

(780) 786-2032

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Sunday Mass 11:30a.m.
Tuesday Mass 7:00p.m.

Wabamun, AB

St. Augustine's - Parkland Anglican Church

131 Church Rd., Spruce Grove
Sunday Service 10:00a.m.
Eucharist with Sunday School & Nursery
All are Welcome

Office 780-962-5131
www.staugustinesparkland.org

Parkland Baptist Church

Sunday Worship Service 10:30a.m.
All Welcome

121 Brookwood Drive
(780) 962-4101
www.parklandbaptist.ca

Word Church Apocalyptic Era

Border Paving Athletic Centre, 9 Tri Leisure Way, Spruce Grove
ignitars in the Wild Rose room.
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St. Anthony's Ukrainian Orthodox Church

6103 172 St. NW, Edmonton
Saturday:
Vespers 5:00PM
Sunday: Divine Liturgy 10:00AM
780.487.2167
santhonys@telusnet.net
www.st-anthonys.ca

Stony Plain United Church

Sunday Service 10:30a.m.
5012-51 Ave. Stony Plain

Mewassin United Church
Sunday Service 9:00a.m.
Rev. Heather Koots
Hwy 627 - Rg Rd 30
Ph: 780-963-4745

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal

Sunday Worship Service 9:30a.m.
Sunday School

780-963-4048

Emmaus Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship Service 11:30a.m.

Rev. Robert Marshall
4604-56th Ave, Drayton Valley
Ph: 780-542-5101
www.emmauslutheranchurch.org

Church of God

Worship Service Sun. 11:00a.m.
Please contact for activities
5004-49 Street, Drayton Valley
Ph: 780-542-5091

Calvary Baptist Church

Pastoral Team: Kenton Penner

Sunday Worship 10:30a.m.
Youth & Ministries Info - calvbapt@telus.net
4401-50th Ave. Drayton Valley
780-542-4774
www.calvarybaptistdu.ca

Drayton Valley Alliance Church

Pastor John Haazen
Join us for Sunday Service at 10:30a.m. 5014-56 Ave. (next to Value Drug Mart) Programs for all ages
Ph: 542-6501 dvalliance.ca

All Saints' Anglican Church

Sunday Morning Worship 9 BCP 10:30 BAS with Sunday School & Nursery
5212-47 Ave. Drayton Valley
(780) 542-5048

St. Anthony Catholic Church

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday 5:00p.m.
Sunday 12:00p.m.
4708-50 Ave. Drayton Valley
Parish Office: 542-5254

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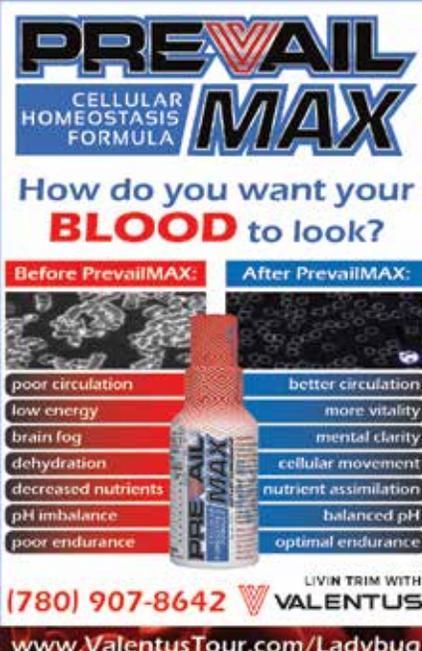
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