

Macleod Gazette




FORT MACLEOD WAS FOUNDED IN 1874 WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE

Volume 141 • Number 19

FORT MACLEOD, ALBERTA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023

Single Copy - \$1.25

www.fortmacleodgazette.com

ftmgazet@telusplanet.net

NEWS



Walk for dogs

Fort Macleod Lions Club will hold a Walk for Dog Guides on Saturday, May 27.

Page 5

FEATURE



Mother's Day

Our special section has tips for gifts and dining for Mother's Day.

Pages 10-11

FEATURE



Concert series

Juno Award winner David Francey is part of the new concert series.

Pages 20

DANCE SHOWCASE



Photo by Frank McTighe

Taya Boot performed a solo dance routine Saturday to the song 'Young Volcanoes.' The performance was part of Cindy Gray Dance 2023 Showcase on Saturday afternoon at the Empress Theatre. The showcase attracted a large audience of family and friends. Photos, Page 16.

Wildfire danger high in Alberta

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Unseasonably warm temperatures and a lack of moisture have created a province-wide wildfire hazard that has forced more than 29,000 people from their homes.

The situation prompted Premier Danielle Smith to declare a provincial state of emergency.

"The declaration gives the government greater powers to respond to extreme situations," Smith said during a news conference. "This is not a step we took lightly, but it is one that will allow the quickest and most effective response."

The state of emergency gives the government access to emergency discretionary funds and the ability to mobilize additional supports.

One hundred and nine wildfires were burning in Alberta on Saturday, with 28 classified as out of control.

Fire bans, restrictions and advisories are in place across the province, including southern Alberta.

"The situation is very serious," said Stephen Lacroix, managing director of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency.

Lacroix and Christie Tucker, information unit manager for Alberta Wildfire, held a news conference Friday morning.

Tucker told reporters that Alberta has experienced 348 wildfires since Jan. 1, with 25,000 hectares of land burned.

"That is significantly increased wildfire activity for this time of year than we've seen in the recent past," Tucker said.

The unseasonably high temperatures combined with strong winds are a

factor in the wildfire danger. Grass and trees have not had time to turn green this spring, further contributing to the potential hazard.

"The conditions are ripe for a wildfire to start and spread very quickly," Tucker said.

Both Tucker and Lacroix urged people across Alberta to take care.

The entire province is under a fire ban, with no open burning allowed, including backyard fire pits inside the Forest Protection Area.

Alberta Parks and many municipalities and communities, including the MD of Willow Creek and Town of Fort Macleod, have ordered their own bans and restrictions.

A provincial off-highway vehicle restriction is also in place, which means the recreational use of off-highway vehicles on public land, including on designated OHV trails, is prohibited.

By Saturday, mandatory evacuation orders had been issued for all or parts of Yellowhead County, the Town of Edson, County of Grande Prairie, Brazeau County, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Saddle Hills County, Lac Ste Anne County, Athabasca County, Leduc County, Hamlet of Entwistle and Little Red River Cree Nation.

Fire advisories are in place for the Town of Fort Macleod, municipal districts of Willow Creek and Pincher Creek and Waterton Lakes National Park.

The County of Vulcan is under a fire restriction.

People where the fire danger is highest were advised Friday to prepare an emergency kit with supplies for at least three days.

ORDER CHEQUES & DEPOSIT BOOKS

Laser, Manual, Continuous and Personal

Cheques: 14 pantograph styles and 9 standard colour options. Deposit books are also available in 2 or 3 parts.

Macleod Gazette

310 Col. Macleod Blvd. | Fort Macleod, AB
PH: 403.553.3391 | tmgsales@telus.net

