

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

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OFFICE CLOSED

Rainbow Lake Welcomes CAO



On January 8, 2026 Rainbow Lake Council
appointed a new CAO.

Q & A With the New CAO!

Q: What interested you in applying for the CAO position?

Jason: I have worked in provincial and municipal governments, and I have always enjoyed local government the most. When you serve in a municipality your work has an immediate impact on the quality of life of its residents and businesses. I also enjoy the diversity of municipal work. No two-days are the same.

Q: What attracted you to Rainbow Lake?

Jason: I have always wanted to live and work in a northern community. Prior to Rainbow Lake, the furthest north I had ever worked was in Peace River, where I developed a strategic plan for the town as well as lobbied the provincial government for new capital funding to build a school in Grimshaw. I sometimes wonder if my Métis ancestry has influenced my desire to live and travel to northern communities. I have visited Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Rankin Inlet, so I was naturally curious about Rainbow Lake.

Q: What are your first impressions of the community?

Jason: I am impressed with how many facilities and services the Town offers. For such a modest population we have an exceptional recreation centre, health clinic, school, and water treatment plant. I am looking forward to experiencing the golf course, too.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish as CAO?

Jason: My first step is to build a strategic plan with Council that will guide our planning and operations for the next 3 to 5 years. I also want to spend time

with staff to understand their roles. I am going to make it a priority over the next few months to meet with residents and local businesses to see what opportunities and challenges exist in the community. My door is always open if a resident wants to visit the town office or to stop and say “hi” if they see me walking around town.

Q: What specific skills do you bring to your role?

Jason: I have a lot of experience working with Indigenous communities. Most recently, I worked with Tall Cree Tribal Government on establishing an urban reserve in Edmonton. I have also worked with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government on Indigenous tourism at Métis Crossing near Smoky Lake. I believe I can strengthen relationships with our Indigenous neighbors. I also have experience in economic development, and I am motivated to find ways to encourage people to live, work, and call Rainbow Lake home.

Q: Any final thoughts?

Jason: Rainbow Lake is celebrating its 60th anniversary. It is a good time to reflect on our history and to reimagine what we want the town to be in the future. It is an exciting time to call Rainbow Lake my new home.



The 1973 Road Trip to Rainbow

The two-toned green Ford truck was packed, and 10-year old Melvin Lederer didn't know what to expect when he left Edson with his brother, Dale, and his Dad for Rainbow Lake. His Mom did not initially make the trip because she was in the hospital. It was the early 70s and Melvin recalls the long drive, especially the miles of gravel road from High Level to Rainbow Lake that made it feel like the "trip from Hell."

Melvin's dad, who worked for the Department of Highways, set out to visit his cousin, who said there were investment opportunities up north. "My dad was a hard worker, and it didn't take him long to see the opportunities here. He liked the place," said Melvin.

In 1973, Rainbow Lake's population was roughly 450 people, like the size it is now, although it was about half of the geographical size it is today. A few years later, Melvin's parents invested in a Gulf gas station, which they had taken ownership from a relative. To earn extra money, Melvin would wash vehicles for \$1, which was good money for a young kid, washing as many as five trucks a day. He also worked part-time at the gas station. The money may have been too much of a temptation to resist, as Melvin left school in grade 10 and started working full-time.

Over fifty years later, Melvin has seen the town's fortunes go up and down like a rollercoaster. "I have seen it come full circle," he says. What he misses the most about the boom years is that there were businesses, like a grocery store, and other places where people could go for supplies. "You didn't need to drive to High Level to get a nut and bolt," he recalls.

When he looks back on his years in the community, he speaks with a combination of fondness and sadness. "Rainbow was a steppingstone for lots of people who made money and got work experience. It has been a good place for a lot of people to build their lives. It would be nice to return to those days." As he starts to slow down in his career, Melvin and his wife, Sherri, enjoy spending time travelling and visiting their grandchildren.

Rainbow Lake is starting its planning for the 60th anniversary. If you have stories about Rainbow's history or have ideas on how we can celebrate this milestone, contact us at admin@rainbowlake.ca.

JOKE CORNER

My father always told me you gotta fight fire with fire

Great guy, horrible firefighter!

Firefighters are the easiest people to make fun of

They're used to getting roasted!

If a firefighter has 2 eyes, then what does a ballerina have?

Two, too!

JOIN THE FUN!

Fire practice takes place on Monday's at 5:00pm and generally run for 3 hours. At a recent practice, JP Serrano got to try out the gear for ice rescue. The team got to learn ice rescue theory!



TV/INTERNET REMINDER!

Internet service as well as Rally TV (live streaming service) are available to Rainbow Lake residents. Signing up is quick and easy. You can scan the QR code and complete the form online, or give Connect a call at 403-703-6300.

HS
25M/20M
\$59.95 + GST
25 Mbps download speed
20 Mbps upload speed

HS
100M/80M
\$129.95 + GST
100 Mbps download speed
80 Mbps upload speed

HS
50M/30M
\$89.95 + GST
50 Mbps download speed
30 Mbps upload speed

HS
150M/130M
\$149.95 + GST
150 Mbps download speed
130 Mbps upload speed

HS
75M/50M
\$99.95 + GST
75 Mbps download speed
50 Mbps upload speed

HS
250M/250M
\$249.95 + GST
250 Mbps download speed
250 Mbps upload speed

SIGNING UP IS EASY...

- 1 SCAN THE QR CODE & COMPLETE THE FORM**
- 2 BOOK INSTALLATION**
You will receive a phone call to book an installation appointment unless your address has the hardware preinstalled! New installations are completed **FOR FREE!**
- 3 EMAIL CONFIRMATION**
Once the installation is complete and the account is setup, you will receive a confirmation email with your login credentials for the online billing platform!



All services are billed a month in advance. After your account goes live, you will be generated a bill for the month.

Delinquent accounts are blocked when payment is not received by the due date—your data is slowed to only a few Mbps... just enough to pay your bill online! If you are experiencing slow internet speeds, check to ensure you haven't missed a payment due date before opening a ticket!

NEVER RESET YOUR ROUTER. This removes all permissions to the network and will require a house call to remedy.

AVAILABLE PACKAGES:

BASE TV
\$24.95 /MO
27 CHANNELS

PEAK TV
\$59.95 /MO
138 CHANNELS

ADDITIONAL ADD-ONS:
THEME PACKS **OR**
U-PICK CHANNELS



FAMILY DAY

FREE SKATE

February 16, 12-4pm

Rainbow Lake Arena



**Helmets are mandatory
for kids under 12 and
adult supervision is
required for kids under 10**

WINTER CARNIVAL

PLANNING UNDERWAY!

The Winter Carnival will be held March 13-14. You can still help with planning the events by coming to the next planning meeting on Monday, February 9 at 7pm in the Rec Plex. All ideas are welcome!



Pink Shirt Day

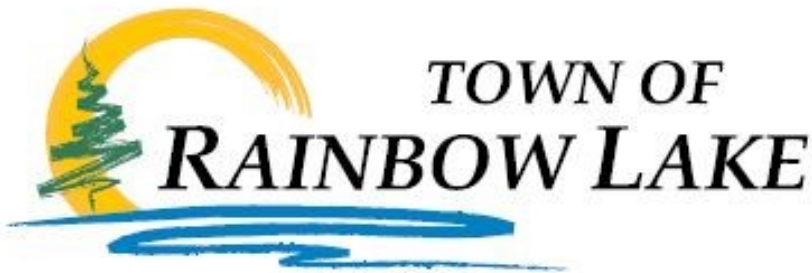
Pink shirt day falls on the last Wednesday of February every year. Join us in wearing an pink shirt on February 25, 2026. The mission of Pink Shirt Day is to create a more kind, inclusive world by raising awareness and funds for anti-bullying initiatives.



FAMILY DAY



The Town Office will be closed on
Monday, February 16 for Family Day. We
will reopen on Tuesday, February 17.



**TOWN OF
RAINBOW LAKE**

Town Office (Administration)
Box 149, 65 Imperial Drive
Rainbow Lake, AB T0H 2Y0
780-956-3934

Recreation Complex
(Rec Plex)
1 Atco Road
780-956-3778

Public Works
(Town Shop)
58 Imperial Drive
780-956-3949

Fire Hall
58 Imperial Drive
780-956-3354
(Emergencies, dial 9-1-1)