NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

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2026 WINTER CARNIVAL

There were plenty of tasters on hand to judge the chili cookoff and lucky for them there was plenty of delicious ones to choose from!

The defending champ from 2025 took home the title of BEST CHILI for a second year in a row.

Congratulations to SHERRI LEDERER!

(I must have been too busy sampling and missed getting a pic of Sherri)



TOWN OF RAINBOW LAKE

TALENT SHOW



MY MY we have some talent here in Town! Thank you to all those who shared their skills at this year's Talent Show!

1st Place went to Danielle and Charlotte with an adorable performance of Baby Shark!

FIREWORKS







The Fire Department put on a show!!

It was a cold night, but the fire, hot chocolate and fireworks made it all worth it!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

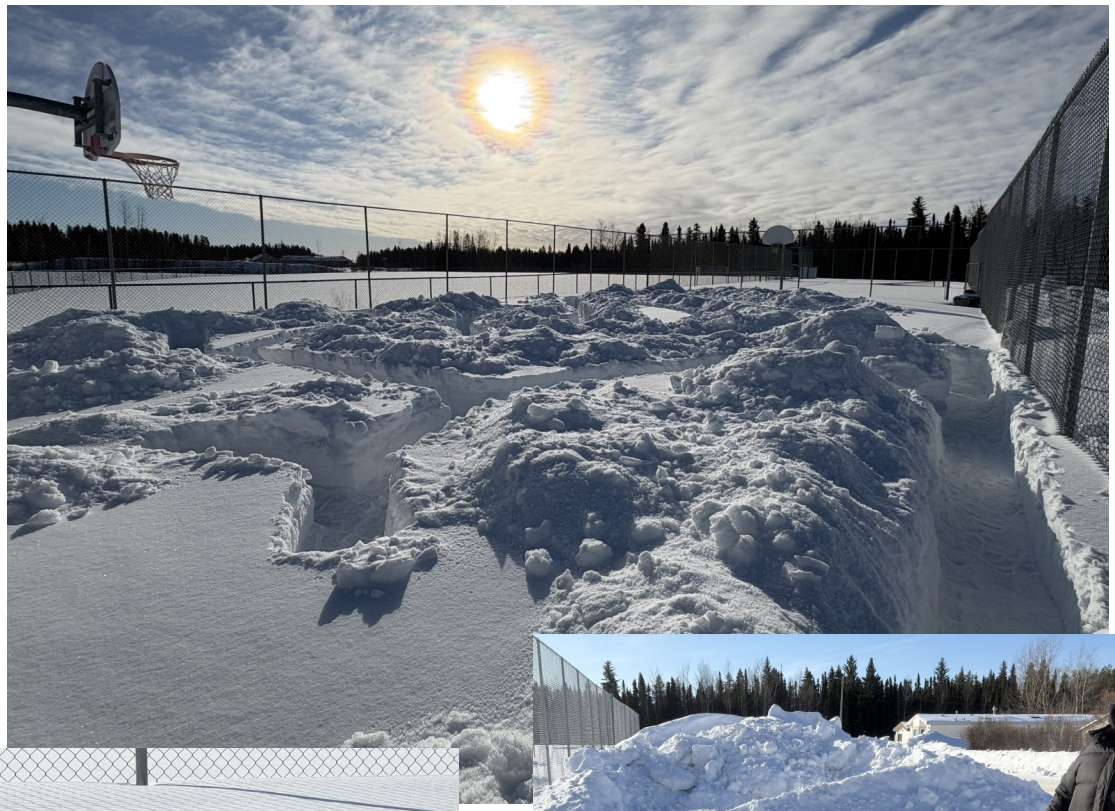






Ron and Melissa helped cook up some delicious breakfast.

Not pictured were our other chefs— Cheri Hazelwood, David Simms, James Barnhill, Myles Simms and Nathan Nichols!









Kids got to run through a snow maze looking for hidden eggs filled with treats and toys!

CARNIVAL GAMES / NERF WARS



The kids (and adults!) got to take part in some carnival games and nerf wars for a chance to win "money" that they could spend on prizes!

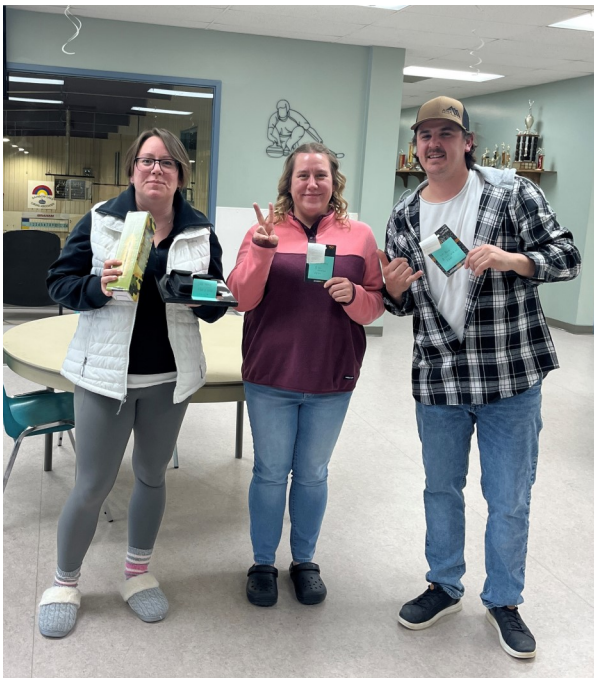




CRIB TOURNEY

It was some close games during the annual crib tournament!

1st Place—Bryan Margeson
2nd Place—Stacy Williams
3rd Place—Kim George



CORNHOLE

1st Place—Pete and Ashley
2nd Place—Laura and Brandon
3rd Place—Kim and Joe







REC RUNDOWN

The Rainbow Lake 15th annual Winter Carnival was a big success this year! Thank you everyone who was able to make it. There were some unexpected surprises on Friday the 13th this year, not least of which was the outstanding varieties of Chili for the Chili Cookoff!!!

Thank you so much to all the volunteers and Town of Rainbow Lake staff that make this event happen every year. A special thanks to The Village and Cenovus for providing an epic nerf gun battle for the kids (young and old). We love to see our community members having fun and we look forward to seeing you again soon!!

SO MANY TO THANK!

REW Electric
Royal Caretaking
Warner Trucking
RKM
Strike Energy
The Village
Startech Refrigeration
RJ's @ The Crossroads
Eagle's Nest
Silvertip Camp
La Crete Transport
Billy & Boyz Trucking
Cenovus Energy
ATCO
Esso
Thirsty's
Eldon's Transport
And all the VOLUNTEERS!

49th OILMENS BONSPIEL

Huge THANK YOU to the Oilmens' committee and all the sponsors and volunteers for putting on such a fun event!

'A' EVENT WINNERS



Dale Chretien
Char Chretien
Kyle Moser
Cam Demkiew

'B' EVENT WINNERS



Ashley Howatt
Greg Platt
Tristan Dugas
Pete Baker

'C' EVENT WINNERS



Angela Lambert
Manley Lambert
Bertha Auger
Crystal Bateman

April in Public Works: Mud, Potholes & "Surprise!" Season

April… when winter tries waves goodbye but leaves its mess behind.

The snow is melting, roads are soft…. potholes and washboards are back from vacation and popping up like they pay property taxes. If you've had a cup of coffee jump out of your hands this week, Congratulations… you've officially met one. We see them, we chase them, and yes, we're working hard to get rid of them, but please, don't give them a name, that would just make them feel too special. We don't want to make them feel important; we just want to fill them in and make the roads smooth again. It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it. So, let's just focus on fixing it and not give them too much attention, okay?

Also, it's that time of year again, Culvert Season. You know, when the snow melts and suddenly everyone has waterfront property they didn't ask for. If you've got a ditch or a culvert near your house, take a minute to clear out any debris that accumulated: snow, ice, gravel, leaves, and who knows, you might even stumble upon that shovel you've been missing since February. Water likes to flow wherever it wants, but it's a good idea to give it a little guidance. Just be careful not to get too carried away and start treating it like a brand-new recreational lake or something. Some spots can be a lot deeper than they look, and trust us, we don't want anyone taking an unexpected spring swim… if you know what we mean. So go ahead, give the water a hand if you can, just make sure to stay safe and keep a clear head while doing it. And if you spot anything, don't hesitate to reach out to us at: 780-956-3934. Extra eyes around town help us respond a whole lot quicker.

When you're cruising around, you'll likely catch a glimpse of us, your local Public Works team, operating graders, loaders, and trucks, making it look like we own the streets. So, be sure to give us some breathing room, ease off the gas pedal, this isn't NASCAR and keep in mind…… mud is your complimentary accessory, we didn't order it, but we're distributing it, and that splash on your vehicle… think of it as free undercoating.

Thanks for hanging in there with us, and for helping make spring a bit safer for everyone. And yeah, let's be real, it's probably going to snow again coz we know Mother Nature hasn't updated her calendar, so let's not tempt fate, deal?

Your Friendly (and Slightly Muddy), Always Trying, Definitely Not Defeated Public Works Crew



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 19-25, 2026. This year's theme is "Ignite Volunteerism". Rainbow Lake is an awesome place to live thanks in large part to all the volunteers who dedicate countless hours volunteering. If there is someone in the community that you want recognized for their efforts, please fill out a nomination form and return it to admin@rainbowlake.ca.

Physical forms can be found at the Rec Plex or Town Office.





WATER UTILITY UPDATE

The system that will deliver an approved substance to the untreated raw water to diminish the manganese levels in our water is almost completed, just waiting on a small amount of technical support for the programmable logic controller to control the dosage pump, then live trials will begin the first part of April. Bench testing in the Laboratory the week of March 23rd showed promising results and we are optimistic that this substance will perform well.

For present, small children should remain on bottled water as per the guidelines established by Alberta Health. Once we achieve the optimum levels and concentrations of manganese are below the maximum acceptable limit, then I will proceed forward with advising Alberta Environment and Alberta Health.

We have taken a proactive approach to the manganese problem to eliminate it because the quality of the water and health of our population is the number one priority.

Thank you for your support.

James

CAO CORNER

As April begins, we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of spring. We have more snow than in past years (or so I have been told), which is good news when it comes to our fire season. A few weeks ago, Fire Chief Barnhill and I attended a Regional Spring Stakeholder meeting held by Alberta Forestry and Parks. The meeting was mostly attended by regional emergency services leaders, companies involved in the forestry sector, and other representatives in the provincial government.

Alberta Forestry and Parks shared provincial fire data from 2025. The province had some of the worst drought conditions in the last 50 years. This is another reason why we should be grateful for this year's heavy snow load. Over 60% of fires last year were caused by human activity. This statistic is particularly alarming, because it means that of the roughly 1200 provincial fires last year, over 720 of them could have been avoided.

In the High Level area, which includes Rainbow Lake, there were 128 wildfires and over 60 thousand hectares burned, with the highest activity in May and June. While we can never predict when peak fire season will begin, we expect much of our fire activity to occur in the later parts of summer or early fall.

Alberta Forestry and Parks encourage all residents to apply for fire permits from March 1 to October 31 to ensure safe burning practices and to allow the province to accurately track active fires. Without a permit, if smoke is visible in our community, a fire response may occur, diverting limited and valuable resources away from other priorities. Applying for a fire permit is easy by calling 780.926.5407. Residents can also subscribe to the High Level Forest Area for email updates and can download the Wildfire App on their phone to stay current on any fire-related news.

Although the province lost nearly 681,000 hectares to fires last year, it was reassuring to hear that over 27 million trees were planted in our province in 2025. Overall, Rainbow Lake is starting this fire season in a relatively good position. We have lots of snow, the years of Fire Smart activities have provided us with less vegetation as a fuel source, and our fire department, provincial agencies, and regional partners have experience in coordinating rapid responses to wildfires.

Rainbow Lake staff have reminded me to prepare an emergency pack in case of wildfire. A bag that I can grab with my critical supplies and details, like insurance documents and passport. I encourage you to prepare your emergency bag as well. While we are still covered in snow, this may be the best time to get ready for an emergency.

Jason

DID YOU KNOW?!

Rainbow Lake was founded in 1966. You read that right, The Town of Rainbow Lake will be turning 60 this year! Planning is underway to celebrate this milestone so keep an out for updates!



OPEN HOUSE—2 LEFT!





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)