# **HETHBRIDGE**

#### **ONLINE: myLH.ca**

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2021

## COVID-19 cases Numbers as of end of day June 23\*

• Lethbridge has 4,834 cases, 8 are active cases,

- 4,787 have recovered. There have been 39 deaths. • Lethbridge – West has 1,770 cases, 2 active,
- 1,764 recovered, 4 deaths.
- Lethbridge North has 1,611 cases, 3 active, 1,597 recovered, 11 deaths.
- Lethbridge South has 1,452 cases, 3 active and 1,425 recovered, 24 deaths.

\*Alberta Health technical issues caused updated numbers to be unavailable this weekend

#### PRICE \$1.75 PLUS GST

### Advisory committee continues working toward reconciliation

#### Tim Kalinowski LETHBRIDGE HERALD

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All week long the Lethbridge Herald has been celebrating National Indigenous History Month with powerful stories from the community, and as the week draws to a close we would like to remind readers that celebrating local Indigenous peoples, and their cultural contributions to the region, shouldn't just be confined to just one week a year.

In this spirit, the Reconciliation Lethbridge Advisory Committee continues to speak out about local Indigenous issues and advise city council on how to take baby steps forward to foster change and bring up true reconciliation in the community.

'I am very proud of what we have been working on towards reconciliation," says RLAC co-chair Trina Tallow. "Reconciliation is about balancing our worlds together, and opening a space where we can share our truths and garner understanding together. I think the work we have been doing with the City has been very meaningful and a way of building our futures together, where Indigenous people can express their ways of knowing and being, and feel connected to our cultures.

"The City of Lethbridge has provided a foundation toward

that; so we are walking together collectively to be able to build these infrastructures to be able to help us connect better with our culture, and connect better collectively as an entire city," she states.

"I think one of the most important accomplishments of the last year has been work that has been ongoing for awhile now," adds fellow co-chair Patrick Wilson; "which is recommendations around the commission that reported on the findings around Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. RLAC reviewed the much larger document that came out of that national inquiry, and with the help of Perry Stein and Pam Beebe at the City, who provide direct support to RLAC, we came up with a list of 26 recommendations for council about things the City could do to help address both the present crisis and the legacy of missing and murdered Indig-enous women and girls. This was generously funded by the City with a budget of over \$500,000 to work toward addressing each one of these 26 initiatives.

"We are really excited about that. We think it is particularly important in the immediate aftermath of the horrific discovery of the bodies of the 215 children in Kamloops, and addressing the legacy of the genocide that has been committed against Indigenous people here. It's as important as ever, we think.' **CONTINUED** Please see page A2



HERALD FILE PHOTO BY TIJANA MARTIN

Terry Fox high-fives students as they finished their school Terry Fox run at Nicholas Sheran in 2016. The Lethbridge man is remembering his namesake nephew on the anniversary of his passing.

# **Remembering Terry Fox 40 years after his passing**

#### **Al Beeber**

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n June 28, 1981 cancer claimed the life of a Canadian hero, a man whose legacy is still felt to this day.

Terry Fox was a month shy of his 23rd birthday when he died in New Westminster B.C. days after being re-admitted to hospital.

Fox was a talented athlete playing various sports in his youth but life changed in his first year of university when he developed pain in his right knee, waking up one morning to discover he couldn't stand. A week later Fox learned he had a malignant tumour but his chances of survival were between 50 and 70 per cent. The night before his right leg was amputated he read an article in a running magazine about amputee Dick Traum who ran the New York City Marathon, and Fox was inspired to do one across Canada to raise money for cancer research. His Marathon of Hope started April 12, 1980 when he dipped his artificial right leg into the Atlantic Ocean at St. John's, Newfoundland where he began his quest to cross the country on foot one marathon at a time.

On Sept. 1, 1980, near Thunder Bay in Northwestern Ontario, Fox's journey came to a sudden end. After chest pains and a coughing fit he was taken to hospital and the next day, Fox announced his cancer had returned and spread to his lungs.

During the Marathon of Hope that lasted 143 days, Fox ran 5,373 kilometres. By Feb. 1, 1981, the Marathon of Hope had raised \$24.17 million, reaching Fox's goal of a dollar for each Canadian.

The first Terry Fox Run in 1981 raised \$3.5 million with more than 300,000 Canadians running about his nephew, the Marathon of Hope and the research funding that has been raised by the runs. Fox is a two-time cancer survivor and credits his nephew's work with paying for the research that has saved his life.

"I used to babysit him, eh. If I said 'Terry, you can't do this or you can't do that' oh boy, he'd get his back up. People would call him stubborn but I'd call it determination," Fox said this week.

"He was always a determined boy. He tried to be anything and everything. When he told them what he was going to do and run across Canada, his mother (Betty) wanted him to run across B.C. She didn't want him to run across Canada. B.C. was far enough, which I understand her being a mother and all. And he said 'no mom, I've made up my mind and I'm running across Canada.'



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Children run through the fountains at Galt Gardens in a past season.

### **Coming heat wave prompts** reminder to take precautions

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The City of Lethbridge is reminding local residents to take precautions against the heat with temperatures projected to reach the mid to high 30s over the next week.

Some of the tips shared by the City on Friday include: staying hydrated, taking breaks if working outside, wearing light, loose clothing, and avoiding the hottest part of the day between noon and 2 p.m.

Residents are also being asked to turn off all unnecessary electrical devices and keep air conditioning and other appliances at a moderate temperature to prevent overloading of the power grid.

The City is also asking residents to be mindful of the enhanced risk of fires that come with such dry conditions and avoid smoking in public areas, such as the River Valley, where the risk is particularly high. There is a local fire ban in place in Lethbridge to

combat the fire risk within the city.

Residents are reminded to think of the most vulnerable among us as the heat wave descends, and to check on neighbours who might be struggling with the heat.

The City and other local organizations are also stepping up efforts to provide water and outreach to those in need in the community through Streets Alive, the Lethbridge Shelter and Resource Centre, the Overdose Prevention Site, the Lethbridge Food Bank and the Interfaith Food Bank. The City confirms any individual in need can come to either food bank or Streets Alive to pick up water.

The City's Emergency Coordination Centre and Emergency Social Service team are monitoring the local heat wave situation, and are exploring potential sites to use as Cooling Centres so people can come in and cool off as needed.

The Red Cross has also been put on standby to be ready to respond as needed.

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or walking in his honour.

In the ensuing decades, Terry Fox runs have become an annual tradition in Canada with more than \$750 million being raised.

For Fox's uncle Terry Fox, 82, of Lethbridge, June 28 will be a special day.

The brother of Terry's dad Rolland, the Winnipeg native has fond memories of his namesake nephew whose family moved to B.C. in the 1960s.

Lethbridge's Terry Fox has spoken at countless schools over the years, visiting as many as 14 in one month, telling students

A salesman by career, Fox ended up in Lethbridge when he was offered a job working for Benjamin Moore Paints. He also did car sales at the old Beny Chev-Olds (now Murray's) and worked at a paper company.

Fox said he never visited Terry during his actual marathon but talked to him a couple of times and was at the funeral.

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# Crown 'anxious to proceed' in fatal pedestrian collision trial

**Delon Shurtz** LETHBRIDGE HERALD dshurtz@lethbridgeherald.com

The Crown prosecutor in a 14-month-old careless driving case involving the death of a young boy, is pressing to go to trial, while defence says it needs to gather more evidence before it will be ready to set a date.

During a brief hearing Friday in Lethbridge provincial court, Crown Prosecutor Bruce Ainscough said the assigned prosecutor is ready to set trial dates, and estimates the trial will take three days. Ainscough said the Crown is "anxious to proceed," and wants to schedule a pre-trial conference, which typically allows lawyers

and a judge to meet and discuss issues relating to the trial.

However, Lethbridge lawyer Greg White told court he is still waiting for his expert to provide a traffic reconstruction report, which he requested in response to a report prepared by the Crown's expert. That report, White said at an earlier hearing, is missing information, and defence needs time to review its own findings before it will be ready to take the next step.

The accused, Neil Martin Skjodt, was charged after the 10-year-old boy was struck and killed by a motor vehicle April 13 of last year. A large SUV turning right onto Whoop-Up Drive near Aquitania Boulevard struck two young boys crossing in the crosswalk with their father. The

10-year-old boy died in the hospital.

Skjodt pleaded not guilty several months later to a single charge of careless driving under the Traffic Safety Act, and his lawyer said a trial would likely be necessary to deal with specific issues.

Skjodt, 52, was charged under the Traffic Safety Act rather than under the Criminal Code after investigating officers determined there was no criminality involved in the incident. The charge allows for a maximum fine of \$2,000 or six months in jail, or both, and possibly licence suspension.

The accused's next court hearing is set for July 15, and in the interim lawyers will try to arrange a pre-trial conference.

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