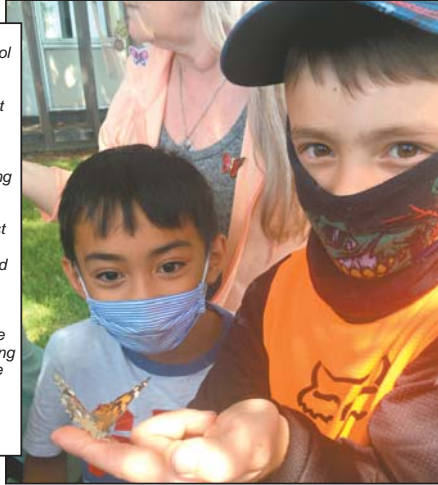


Thorhild Central School grade two students Rance Corlett and Caiden Dorwart observe a butterfly release ceremony last week. The class received 30 butterfly caterpillars in May and students have been observing their life cycle as part of the grade two science curriculum.



Students in TCS's Kindergarten class celebrated Mrs. Linda Ewaskow's retirement on June 16th. "Mrs. E." finished off her 30+ years of working at Thorhild Central School on June 29th! The students, staff and parents wish her all the best!

Redwater Chamber gets funds to promote shopping in town

2020 was a difficult year for the Redwater & District Chamber of Commerce. "Covid and the Provincial restrictions played a huge part in the Chamber not holding events last year. It also was hard because we did not qualify for any grants or funding available from the Provincial or Federal Governments" says President Sam Baldwin. Due to the hard work and a great proposal sent in by our board, our Chamber has received a grant for \$6,840 to create and enhance our Shop Local Programs until the end of 2021.

Although there are many grants available for businesses and organizations, Redwater Chamber was unable to qualify for any of them as a volunteer board. "It was a struggle to find funding to help us create and enhance any Shop Local Program we had planned. When the opportunity arose that all Chambers across Canada were encouraged to apply for the Canada Shop Local Grant from the Ministry of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, we jumped at the opportunity to apply" says Baldwin.

"Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, community chambers have truly been a lifeline for businesses," says Ken Kobly, Alberta Chambers of Commerce President and CEO. "As we transition to reopening and recovery, we still have a long road ahead to rebuild our economy. This federal funding will help chambers do what we do best: support local job creators."

"Myself and our Past President have been attending weekly meetings with provincial Chambers and together, we were very vocal on how Chambers big and small needed funding to help promote the wonderful businesses we have. After many failed attempts on receiving any type of funding, we had almost given up until we received word that we were approved for the grant. We want to thank the ACC and the Ministry of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade for their hard work to establish this grant."

The Canada Shop Local Grant covers such things as a shop local promotional video, creating a website, helping businesses within the Redwater Chamber District to create an online ecommerce store, creating a shop local promotion that has not been done before or enhancing one in place, purchasing promotional and marketing materials. "The Promotions Committee will be very busy between now and December 31st."

If you are a business in the Redwater Chamber District (Redwater, East Sturgeon County & Thorhild County), and want to be a part of these promotions, contact the Chamber.

Smoky Lake Chamber plans three projects supporting local shopping

The Smoky Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce will receive \$5,580 in a Federal grant for promoting and enhancing local shopping in the Smoky Lake Region. This is "funding that will expand the Chamber's ongoing efforts to encourage patronage of community businesses," says Noel Simpson, President. "We are truly thankful to the Federal Government for this funding, and the Alberta Chamber of Commerce, of which we are a member, that has facilitated this grant."

The Federal Grant is part of the support from the Federal Government for the Prairies. On June 24, the Honourable Jim Carr, Minister and Special Representative for the Prairies and Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South Centre, and Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages (Western Economic Diversification Canada) and Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South, announced that an investment of up to \$7.2 million will be going to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to encourage people to shop locally and support businesses in their community as they reopen. This will help businesses stay open so they can thrive as the economy recovers.

In our Region, the funding will support three projects during summer and fall of 2021. These include BizBites, short infomercials on local businesses to be shared on social media and websites, drive by/drive thru events to provide safe experiences, and an expanded Regional marketing campaign. All businesses in the Region are eligible to participate, not just members of our Chamber. The Chamber is also excited to work alongside St. Paul Chamber and Elk Point Chamber for this ShopLocal

campaign. Our Regional Community Development Committee (RCDC) is supporting this project with mentoring and supervision of students and interns and we appreciate their support.

"Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, community chambers have truly been a lifeline for businesses," says Ken Kobly, Alberta Chambers of Commerce President and CEO. "As we transition to reopening and recovery, we still have a long road ahead to rebuild our economy. This federal funding will help chambers do what we do best: support local job creators."

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