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## NEWS LOCAL

# Council makes decisions on cemetery, election signs before break

By Andrew Bates, Today staff

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TODAY FILE PHOTO

### Council approve land for cemetery

RMWB council cleared the way for design to start on a cemetery near Real Martin Drive. It passed Land Use Bylaw amendments that will change the parcel near Wood Buffalo from an environmental protection area to a public services district.

The municipality identified the need for a new cemetery in 2013, and has done a number of technical studies to determine if the land is suitable.

Residents had some concerns about traffic and proximity, and while the design isn't complete, a tree barrier and 80m buffer zone between the borders of the site and the cemetery itself are proposed ways to keep the area discreet.

### Conklin restructure plan passes

Council also passed a structure plan to organize how development, housing and environmental concerns will be respected in the hamlet of Conklin.

The plan, which has been in the works since 2010, tries to retain features of the community, such as large, rural lots and area near Christina Lake for traditional uses, while expanding industrial capacity to provide local employment.

A representative from the Conklin Resource Development Advisory committee spoke in support, and Councilor Jane Stroud, whose ward covers the Conklin area, said that she believed residents, who gave input at 12 consultation sessions, supported it as well.

### Election signs bylaw finally passes

In the third attempt to pass second reading, a bylaw that would restrict the spread of small signs on roadways in municipal elections campaigns passed Council Tuesday.

The bylaw, which bans signs smaller than 1.49 metres, had been sent to administration twice over the past month and a half as councilors prodded loopholes in the minimum and maximum sizes of signs. The final draft, passed at the last council meeting before summer break, establishes minimum and maximum height levels of the signs.

Issues of safety related to distraction on roadways were raised following 2012's provincial election and municipal by-election. Phil Meagher, Jane Stroud and Al Vinni voted in opposition.

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