

County Connections



The County of Grande Prairie No. 1

Spring/Summer 2008

Get connected to the world!



Get ready to enjoy the benefits of high speed internet access! Not only do you get high-speed access, but you also get to eliminate the frustration

of dealing with a dial-up connection, logging in, and slow surfing speeds.

Council has approved a plan to partner with GPN Wireless Solutions Ltd. to provide wireless high speed internet services in the County. The self-supporting internet towers will be located in unserved areas of the County where it is not financially feasible for service providers to deliver the internet. Our investment in these towers will ensure our residents receive seamless delivery in the future. The County does expect to recover most or all of the costs associated with this project.

Why get involved?

The County believes all our residents DESERVE access to the world. Whether doing research for school projects and homework, logging on to a live agriculture auction, or checking

the stock markets, the internet has become one of the most powerful communication tools. The power of the internet and its global reach provides businesses with an opportunity to explore their market potential to the maximum. The diversification of our rural area is one of the main factors that persuaded the County to deliver this important communication tool in the region. "This service clearly improves the quality of life for our residents, benefits businesses and industry and provides opportunities for economic development," said County Internet Committee Chairperson Richard Harpe. "Emergency services will also benefit by using the towers in areas that are currently outside of the range of radio signals."

How do I sign up?

If you are interested in wireless high speed internet service in your area, please visit www.cool.ca to register or call GPN at 882-6623. While the County is investing in the infrastructure to provide the service to remote areas, a fee will be charged to customers by the service provider, GPN Wireless Solutions Ltd.

For further information, go to www.countygp.ab.ca.

Wireless High Speed Internet Access for your Home RESIDENTIAL

- coolnet mega Ideal for most day to day Internet activities speed up to 2 Mbps \$49.99
- coolnet mega extreme For professional Net Users speeds up to 4 Mbps \$59.99

Each account includes 2 e-mail addresses and 10 MB mailbox size, Large 50MB mailbox for \$5 per month

- Site Survey is necessary prior any installation - \$0
- One time installation fee applies. \$100 with 3 year contract, \$400 without

Rural Addressing Project

Staff have begun the implementation of the rural addressing program in the County. The project is expected to take two to three years to complete. Watch the County website, www.countygp.ab.ca, and your mailbox for further information as the project progresses.



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Bringing our communities and region closer together

2008 Construction Projects

Hamlet/Subdivision Projects

1. Woodlake Estates Subdivision – Division #3

- The internal road will be resurfaced by County forces.

2. 97th Street in Clairmont – Division #2

- will be paved for access to the new school. Partially funded by Street Improvement Program & Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program.

Divisional Road Construction

2. Finch Road – Divisions #3 & #4

- Funds received through the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program will be used to complete approximately 3.2 km of reconstruction and widening of Twp. Rd. #704 from R.R. #63 west.

Additional Projects

- Funds received through the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program will be used to complete approximately 13 km of reconstruction of divisional roads (projects to be determined)

Other Construction & Other Current Projects

Rural Address Sign Program

- A rural addressing program will commence in 2008 and continue approximately two years or until the project is complete. Every county residence will have a sign installed identifying their rural address. This project is funded partially by the Muni-Sponsorship Program.

Resource Road Construction

3. 116 Street

- The final lift of asphalt will be completed in the early spring. The project is North of 132 avenue and continues to the future Hwy 43 bypass.

4. Pipestone Road

- The final lift of asphalt will be completed in early spring. This project is from the Town of Wembley, south on R.R. #82 for approximately 11.5 km.

5. Emerson Trail

- This road will be rebuilt to a gravel standard for 3.8 km beginning east of the intersection of Hwy 2.

6. Spring Lake

- This road will be reconstructed and asphalt surface from the intersection of Hwy 59 North to TWP 750.

7. Foster Road

- This road will be reconstructed from the Hwy 43 intersection approximately 2.4 km south.

Surfaced Road Construction/Rehabilitation

8. East of Highway 43 service road

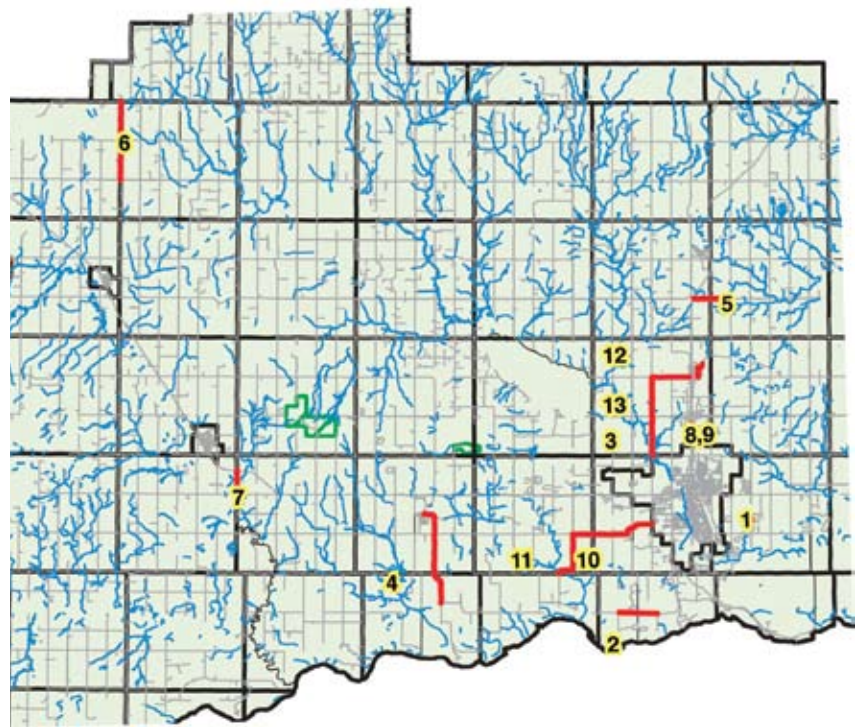
- Beginning at junction of 148th Ave and going north for approximately .9 km, ending just north of 156th Ave. This project will involve an asphalt overlay of the existing surface.

9. West Highway 43 service road

- This project begins at 148th Ave and goes north for approximately .25 km. The work will include grading and base work followed by asphalt concrete pavement.

10. Flying Shot Lake Road

- This project will have the final lift completed in early 2008. The project begins at the intersection of 116 st and continues west to the intersection of RR 71.



11. Spring Creek (RR#71)

- This project involves reconstruction of existing asphalt and new surfacing. The final lift will be completed in spring of 2008. The project ties in with the Flying Shot lake road project and continues South and West to the intersection of RR #62, tying into the existing surface and providing a continuously surfaced road into the Spring Creek area.

New Surface Road Construction

12. Clairmont Landfill Road

- This project involves application of asphalt concrete surface to approximately 3.2 km of roadway on Twp. Rd. #724 from Highway #2 west to R.R. #63.

13. R.R. #63

- This project may be completed in 2008. The work will include the grade and base pave of R.R. #63 from Twp. Rd. #722 to Twp. Rd. #724.

Water and Sewer & Landfill Projects

Clairmont Lagoon Expansion

- Expand the Clairmont Lagoon, to increase sanitary sewer capacity for the hamlet and surrounding development. This will accommodate the needs of the growing Hamlet and surrounding area.

Demmitt Landfill Transfer Station

- Construction of a Transfer Station for Demmitt area on the site of the existing landfill. Closure of the existing modified landfill to follow.

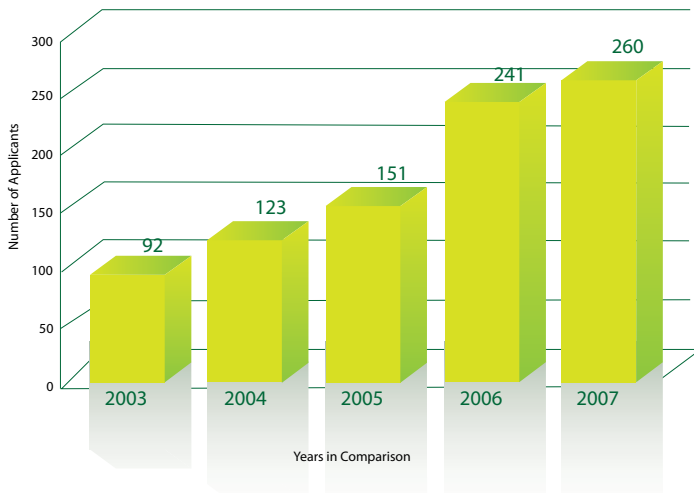
West Aqua Project

- Funding approval was recently announced for the installation of a waterline to provide service to residents in the Flyingshot/Dimsdale area. This funded was received through the CAMRIF Program.

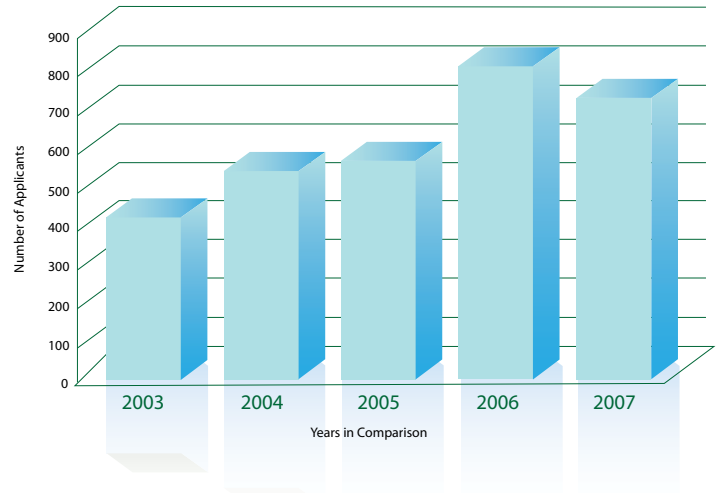
For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at (780) 532-7393.

Planning for our Future

Subdivision Applications



Development Permit Applications



The County continued to benefit from a strong economy in 2007. Over the past 3 years, nearly \$1 billion of building permits were issued in the County. This huge amount would be the envy of many other communities in Canada. Growth was seen in all areas, residential, commercial and industrial.

The number of subdivision applications has risen from 92 in 2003 to a staggering 260 in 2007, a 179% increase in the volume of applications in this 5-year time frame. In addition to the volume, the complexity of the subdivision application has increased as the Clairmont area urbanizes and residential areas in close proximity to the City increase densities as municipal sewer and water systems become available.

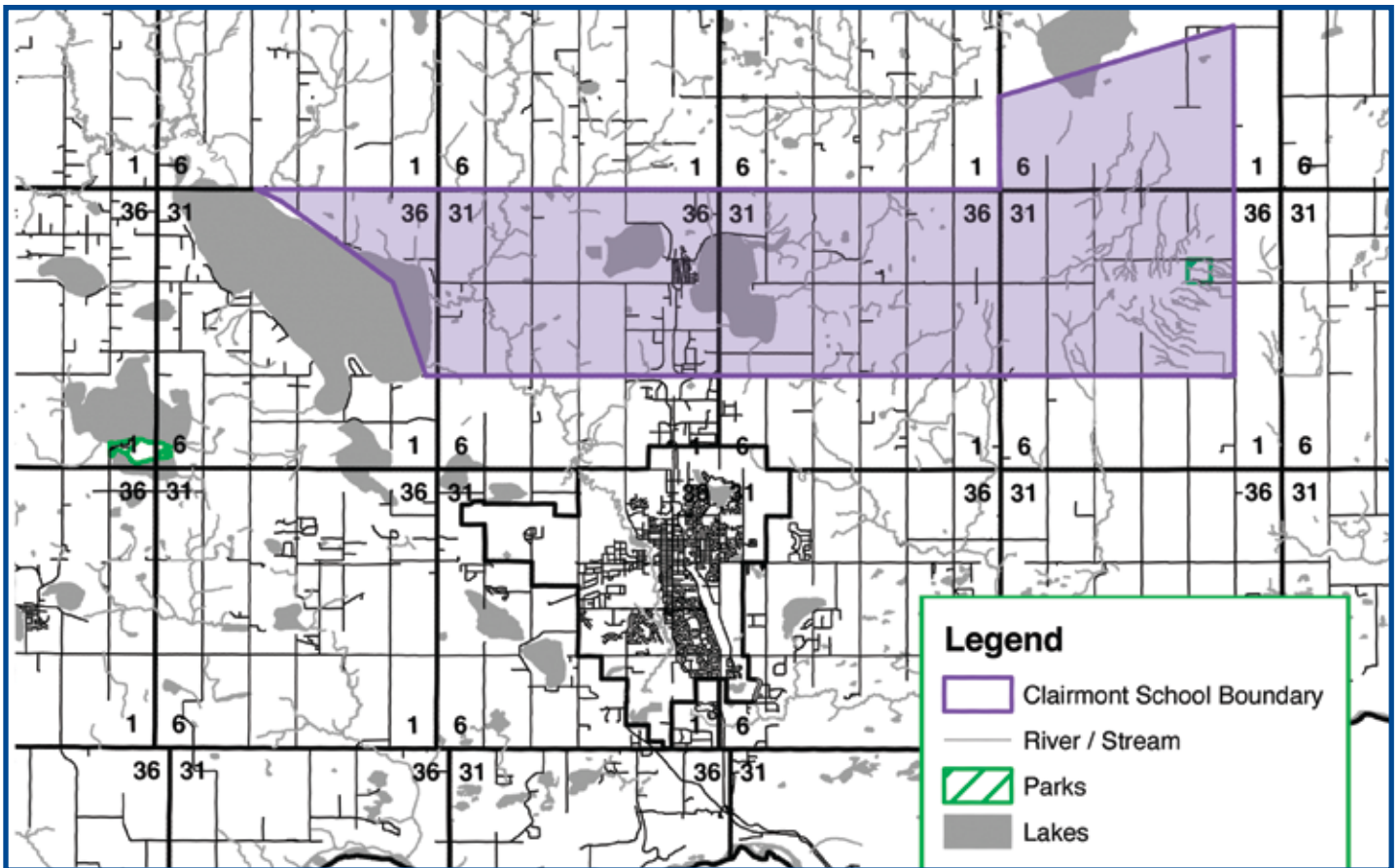
Development permits issued in 2007 totaled 723, a decrease from the record year in 2006 but well above the 5-year average of 613 permits and 74% ahead of our totals from 5 years ago. In the past 3 years, the County has issued over 1100 development permits for new single-family housing units. If each unit is occupied by an average of 3.0 persons per household, the County will have grown by approximately 3300 persons. This will put our population at nearly 20,000 persons, an increase of 33% since 2000.

In order to cope with the increased volume of activity, separate Municipal Planning Commission meetings have been scheduled. The MPC now meets twice a month to deal with the subdivision applications and development permits with the average agenda reaching 30 items or more. In addition to the preparation of the agendas reports and the minutes, approval notices and other legal requirements for notification of decisions have increased significantly as well.

These growth pressures have resulted in the County having to tackle new projects. These include: rural addressing, creation of provincial parks in the Dunes, Kleskun Hills and Saskatoon Mountain, expansion/creation of recreation facilities and personnel, building of the community school in Clairmont, updating all levy bylaws to ensure currency, development of a multiplex facility, pursuit of regional cooperation with the

City and other municipalities, ensuring that critical master planning is taking place including storm water master planning and transportation master planning and many other projects. All of these initiatives are over and above the regular workload and are a direct result of the growth the County is experiencing and in trying to match municipal priorities with ratepayer expectations.

In the upcoming year, the County will continue to position itself as a municipal leader in the region. The continued investment by the County in paved roads, water and sewer systems and high speed internet services will help provide the basic infrastructure systems we need to attract and retain business. This will help to ensure that our economic prosperity will continue to grow. The Planning and Development department will continue to develop policies and programs to meet Council's short-term priorities and long-term objectives.



Clairmont Community School Update

In September 2007, the Peace Wapiti School Division (see attached) set attendance boundaries for the Clairmont Community School. These are unchanged from the boundaries approved in principle and communicated in June 2007 to all families impacted by the decision. Construction is well underway on Clairmont Community School and it is anticipated that K-6 classes will commence in the school effective January 2009.

In preparation for classes commencing at Clairmont Community School in January, 2009 Clairmont Community School classes will be organized for the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. These classes will be staffed by the teachers who will be transferring to Clairmont Community School along with their students. Mr. Bob Stewart has been appointed as Principal of Clairmont Community School and is in the process of finalizing staffing for the school for the 2008-2009 school year.

For the period September, 2008 through December, 2008 these classes will be based in three locations:

- Kindergarten classes will be located in Clairmont Community Church,
- Grade 1 classes at Harry Balfour School (Grande Prairie),
- Grade 2 classes at both Robert W. Zahara and Harry Balfour Schools, and

- Grades 3-6 classes at Robert W. Zahara School (Sexsmith).
- Grades 7-12 students continue in their current schools (current Grade 6 students at Robert W. Zahara may enroll at Sexsmith Secondary School or Harry Balfour School for Grade 7),

Clairmont Community School will add a Grade 7 program in the 2009-2010 school year and will add Grade 8 in the 2010-2011 school year. Students in Grades 9-12 will be directed to Peace Wapiti Academy (Grande Prairie).

Please feel free to contact Dr. Rodney Lee, Deputy Superintendent directly at 831-3061 or by e-mail at rodneylee@pwsd76.ab.ca with any questions or concerns

In addition to school starting up in January 2009, the County funded community wing, recently named as the Wellington Resource Centre, will also be opening. This will house our three and four-year-old playschool programs and a new day care centre for children 18 months and older. The County will be advertising for a day care provider to operate the childcare centre. We are looking forward to having a facility that the whole community can enjoy for their learning and recreating needs.

Home Support

The Home Support Program is a partnership between the province FCSS (Family & Community Support Services) and the County of Grande Prairie. We believe our most valuable resource is our people. We offer services that allow people to develop their potential and contribute to their families and communities well being. We also provide information and referral on programs and agencies in the Grande Prairie area.

Our Home Support Workers are recruited for their ability to keep a clean and orderly home, to meet and interact with people, to treat them with respect and compassion and to work independently and confidentially. All home support workers have had criminal record checks for the protection of our clients.

Home Support Workers are caring, responsible persons providing practical in home care to families and individuals experiencing disruptions of normal family routine.

They can help in situations such as:

- Pre or post natal home care
- Supplemental care for seniors
- Pre or post hospitalization
- Home management assistance
- Emotional stress

Home support workers:

- Perform basic housekeeping
- Provide meal preparation
- Drive clients to appointments
- Provide respite for caregivers



Our staff is committed to providing you with high quality, non-discriminatory home support services. All staff members are trained, skilled workers who provide a high standard of care.

If you need assistance in any of these areas, please call Molly Weleski: 513-3962 or 518-3165.

The County of Grande Prairie would like to thank these employees as well as the other Home Support Workers for their hard work and dedication to the program.

Meet two of our home support professionals



My name is Shelley Sallis. I have worked for the County of Grande Prairie Home Support program for the past 2 years. I have lived in the Teepee Creek area for 28 years with my husband Robert raising our three daughters that are all grown

now. I have volunteered with the Alberta 4H Club for the past 16 years. I also enjoy quilting and traveling.



My name is Simonne Schultz. I moved to Grande Prairie in the late 70's to attend the Early Childhood Program at the college. I later met my husband, Don and have lived in this area ever since. I live on a farm south of Huallan where we raised our sons that are all grown now. Two of which are married, both to wonderful women! I have also been blessed with two beautiful grandbabies. I love the outdoors, nature walks, my garden and flowerbeds. I enjoy animals, the birds, my cats, dogs and of course riding my horses. I also like entertaining,

Bar-b-ques and get-togethers, summer or winter, it's all good! In 2000 I started working for the County of Grande Prairie's FCSS Home support Program. Though not everyone is suited for this type of work, I find it rewarding.

RURAL BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM



Each year the County of Grande Prairie holds a Rural Beautification event to recognize and honour County residents for their tremendous efforts in beautifying our county.

Calling for Nominations

Nominate a worthy candidate within the County of Grande Prairie No. 1. This year we will be accepting nominations for locations West of Highway 724. So clip and return the completed nomination form and help us recognize those that work hard to make our rural spaces beautiful. Nomination forms can also be downloaded off our website at www.countygp.ab.ca or obtained at the County office. Nomination forms must be returned by 4:00 pm June 27th, 2008. Businesses are encouraged to participate.

Annual Bus Tour - July 18th, 2008

You are invited to join us on the annual bus tour to admire the beautiful yards and green spaces nominated within the east portion of the County. Lunch and snacks will be provided. To register for the bus tour, please call the Agricultural Service Board at 513-3955 no later than July 4th, 2008.

It's time again for Communities in Bloom!

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility, and beautification through community participation and a challenge of a friendly competition. It is much more than "flowers". To participate in this wealthy program please contact your area CIB rep as follows:

Teepee Creek
Gordon MacKey at 568-3334

Valhalla Centre
Irene Ouellette at 356-2053

For more information about Communities in Bloom please call Mary Lupwayi at 513-3955 or visit the CIB website at www.communitiesinbloom.ca.



Name of Nominee

Mailing Address

Phone

Address or Land Description of area nominated

Qrt. _____ Sec. _____ Twp. _____

Rge. _____ Meridian _____

Name of Nominator

Signature of Nominator

Phone

Clip and return this portion to:
County of Grande Prairie No 1

Agricultural Service Board, 10001—84 Avenue,
Clairmont, Alberta, T0H 0W0

Fax # 532 4273

Application Deadline: June 27th, 2008





Riparian Areas – Nature's Buffer

Water will soon be abundant as a sure reminder that spring has returned.

Pussy willows re-appear, green cattails and sedges suddenly emerge from last year's brown stalks. Aside from signaling that spring has arrived should we even be concerned about those willows, cattails, sedges, grasses and trees? The answer is: YES!

Each creek, pond stream river and wetland is surrounded by a transitional area of modified soil and lush, productive diverse vegetation known as a riparian area. What do riparian areas do and why are they so important?

Healthy riparian areas improve and maintain water quality in several different ways. Plants trap and store sediment, nutrients and contaminants, especially during runoff when the soil is frozen. Vegetation builds and maintains banks and shores by allowing roots to hold the soil together and can help to reduce erosion during flooding. This contributes to improved water quality over entire watersheds.

Unfortunately, many activities such as livestock grazing, logging, clearing, cultivation, drainage, development and recreation can seriously affect the health of riparian areas. Unhealthy riparian areas are characterized by loss of habitat, shelter and shade for fish, wildlife and livestock, increased weeds, more sediment reaching the water, increased erosion resulting in slumping.

Planting willow cuttings in the spring is one way to help mother nature re-establish the woody growth, bind the soil, reduce erosion and provide a vegetative buffer that will filter contaminants from entering the watershed.

The good news is that riparian plant communities are fairly resilient and can recover from past disturbance with some beneficial management practices. Maintaining a 30 meter buffer around wetlands creeks and streams is also a major way to lessen the impacts.

Cattle access to the river and the banks can also be limited by fencing, rotational grazing and providing offsite watering. This will allow the banks to rest and regrow to be on the way to becoming healthy and functioning once more.

If you would like to learn more about these and other beneficial management practices that minimize agriculture's impact on the environment, please feel free to contact Jill Henry, Rural Extension Officer at 513-3955.

Rental Equipment Available

The County of Grande Prairie has the following equipment available for rent:

- Scraper ● Tree Planter ● Truck-mount Sprayer

These rentals are on a first come first serve basis. We also have magpie traps available for sale. To find out details and pricing visit our website at: www.countygp.ab.ca/agriculture/equipment or contact the Agriculture Department at 513-3955.

Herbicide Application Begin in May 2008

The County's right-of-way spray program consists of spot spraying noxious and restricted weeds and brush with registered herbicides. The spray program is implemented to control the spread of noxious and restricted weeds to the adjacent farmland. The County also controls brush for better visibility and water drainage in the ditch. Please note that we do not spray in the direct vicinity of a house unless it is requested. We would like to inform the public that herbicide application will commence first week of May 2008 (weather permitting) and all Country roads are subject to herbicide application in accordance with the Environment Protection and Enhancement Act.

Did you know



Did you know that there is a disease of canola called Clubroot? This disease was declared a pest to Alberta's Agricultural Pests Act (APA) in 2007. Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease of canola. Early infection at the seedling stage can result in wilting, stunting and yellowing of canola plants in the late rosette to early podding stage. Although there were no reports of this disease in the County of Grande Prairie #1 and the Peace Region last year, the County's Agricultural Service Board has a strategic plan for this disease in place. The plan includes:

- Clubroot policy and Management plan
- Public education
- Clubroot Inspections

If you see suspicious signs of wilting, stunting and yellowing of canola please call the Agricultural department for proper diagnosis.

For more information on this disease please contact: Mary Lupwayi at 513 3955

clubroot

SALARY AND BENEFITS DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

COUNTY COUNCIL	Division	2007				2006
		Salary (1)	Benefits(2)	Travel Costs & Allowances (3)	Total	Total
Reeve - E. McDonald	1	46,793	9,493	36,730	93,016	79,819
Councillor - K. Balderston	2	24,503	6,543	10,740	41,786	56,917
Councillor - S. Nelson	2	8,230	2,122	3,282	13,634	—
Councillor - L. Beaupre	3	41,440	8,921	23,783	74,144	62,417
Councillor - J. O'Toole	4	39,890	9,871	26,947	76,708	77,602
Councillor - P. Jacobs	5	32,445	7,435	17,815	57,695	56,276
Councillor - D. Longson	6	30,977	3,108	23,100	57,185	66,578
Councillor - L. Dueck	6	7,130	1,737	2,940	11,807	—
Councillor - B. Smith	7	26,400	7,060	21,136	54,596	67,004
Councillor - F. Lowen	7	7,048	1,619	3,863	12,530	—
Councillor - R. Harpe	8	35,238	9,347	31,671	76,256	80,608
Councillor - M. Eckstrom	9	34,265	4,370	12,991	51,626	55,423
Total		\$ 334,359	\$ 71,626	\$ 214,998	\$ 620,983	\$ 602,644

(1) Salary includes regular base pay, gross honoraria and any other direct cash remuneration.

(2) Employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, health care, dental coverage, vision coverage, group life insurance, accidental disability and dismemberment insurance, long term disability, registered retirement savings plan contributions, and employment insurance.

(3) Travel allowances and travel costs including mileage and airfare.



Tax Notices Coming Soon!



Annual assessment and tax notices will be mailed at the end of May. Notices are sent to the owner listed on the property at the time of mailing. If you do not receive a tax notice, please contact the County's Tax Department to discuss verification of title and payment of taxes. If you would like a tax installment plan or change of address form, it is available for download off our website at www.countygp.ab.ca/finance/taxes or contact the Tax Department at (780) 513-3968 for further details.

2007 Financial Highlights (in 000's)

2007 CONSOLIDATED

OPERATING & CAPITAL REVENUE	Total	%
Net municipal property taxes	\$37,974	54.5
Government transfers	18,675	26.7
User fees and sale of goods	6,789	9.7
Investment income	2,269	3.2
Penalties and costs of taxes	278	0.4
Oil well drilling taxes	156	0.2
Insurance proceeds	164	0.2
Development levies	1,855	2.7
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	122	0.2
Other	1,542	2.2
Total revenue	\$69,824	100.0

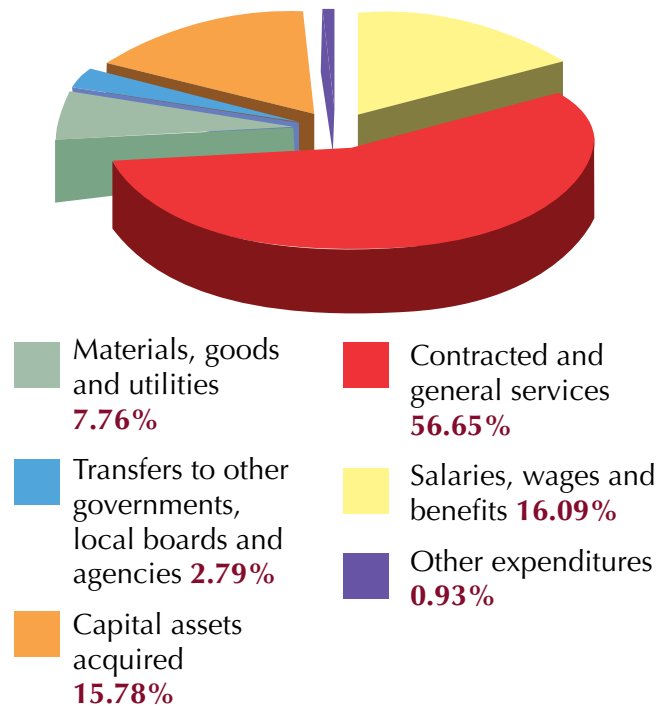
2007 CONSOLIDATED

OPERATING & CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	Total	%
Legislative	\$690	1.0
Other general - tax revenue transfer to City of Grande Prairie	209	0.3
Administration, Finance & Assessment	3,612	5.2
Protective services	3,018	4.3
Transportation and field services		
Operating repairs and maintenance	13,212	18.9
Road construction and rehabilitation	22,980	32.9
Water and wastewater services	352	0.5
Solid waste management and recycling	773	1.1
Other environmental - Mountain Pine Beetle	8,674	12.4
Family and community support services	805	1.2
Planning and development	844	1.2
Agriculture services	989	1.4
Economic development	256	0.4
Recreation, cultural and park services	2,102	3.0
Net reserve transfers	14,841	21.3
Net capital debt (issued) / repaid	(14,523)	-20.8
Capital expenditures	10,968	15.7
Total expenditures	\$69,802	100.0
Net Increase to Operating Fund	\$22	

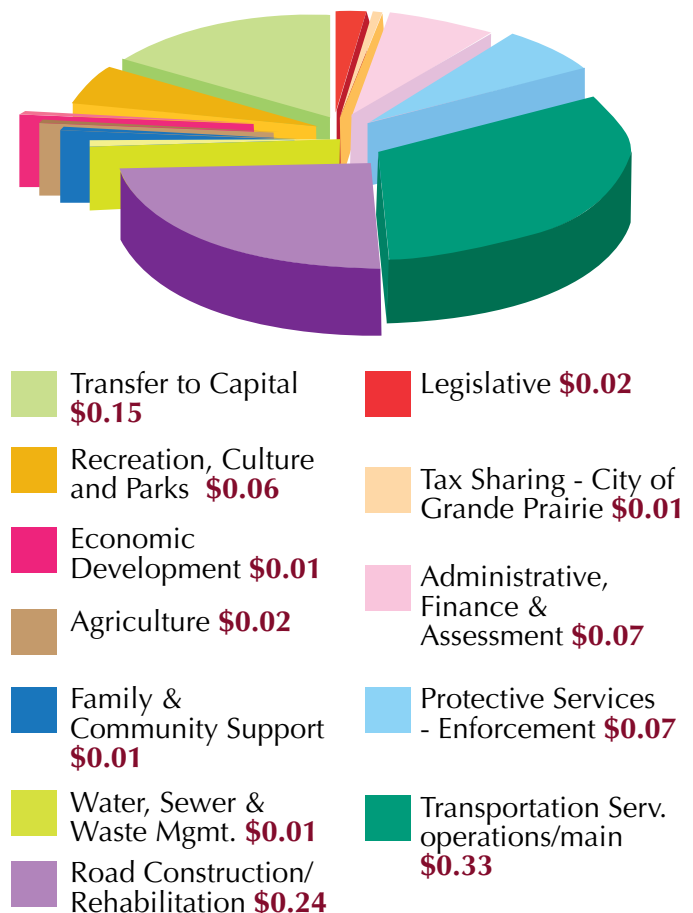
ASSETS	2007	2006
Cash and temporary investments	\$48,533	\$40,363
Taxes and grants in place of taxes	1,151	1,071
Trade and other receivables	8,141	4,620
Loans receivable, prepaid expenditures and investments	5,328	3,921
Physical assets	45,184	36,813
Total assets	\$108,337	\$86,788

LIABILITIES AND MUNICIPAL EQUITY	2007	2006
Accounts payable, accrued liabilities and landfill (post)/closure costs	\$6,803	\$6,439
Deposit and trust liabilities	1,679	1,616
Due to Aquatera Utilities Inc.	119	592
Deferred revenue	7,432	9,868
Long-term debt	26,395	11,986
Operating fund	250	228
Reserve fund	42,809	27,916
Equity in Aquatera Utilities Inc.	4,858	3,562
Amounts to be recovered	(21,811)	(9,962)
Equity in capital assets	39,803	34,543
Total liabilities and municipal equity	\$108,337	\$86,788

What Types of Expenditures did the County Incur?



Where was each Municipal Tax Dollar Spent?

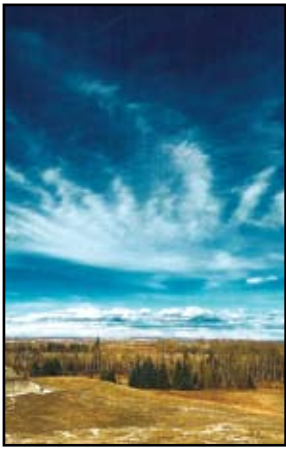


For a complete copy of the audited annual financial statements please contact our office at (780) 532-9722 or visit the County website at www.countygp.ab.ca.
Departments, Finance & Systems, Annual Financial Reports

County Photo Contest

The County of Grande Prairie No. 1 and Watson's Photo Source are preparing for the fifth annual photo contest. Once more "Scenes of the County" will provide photographers with the opportunity to capture many of the beautiful sights and scenes within the County and be recognized and rewarded with special prizes and gift certificates. A second category recognizing "People at Work in the County" will allow for photographer creativity while recognizing the outstanding contributions Albertans are making to make the County a better place to live. The County of Grande Prairie and Watson's Photo Source would like to congratulate the 2007 winners. The successful entries can be viewed at the County Office or on our website at www.countygp.ab.ca.

Scenes of the County



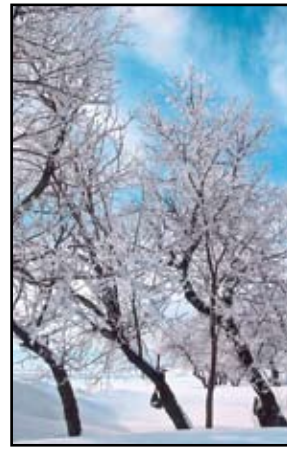
1st Katalin Ormay



2nd Jamie Mann



3rd Andrew Bailey



4th Andrew Bailey

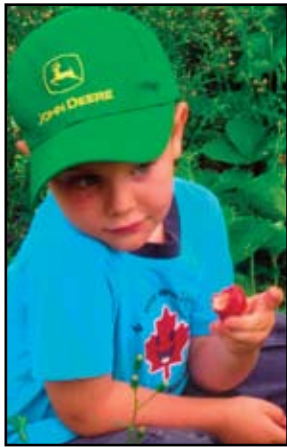


5th Gary Rynsburger

Children of the County



1st Gary Rynsburger



2nd Curtis Witmore



3rd Michelam Russell



4th Mary Dahr



5th Buddy McBride



Dr. Paul McNeil

River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Centre



Work on the River of Death and Dinosaur Discovery Centre continues to progress. Paleontologist Dr. Paul McNeil has been hired by the Grande Prairie Regional College as their Paleontology Instructor as well as the Research Coordinator for the College and the Centre. Dr. McNeil has also agreed to use his engineering background to help guide the development of the Centre as the overall Project Manager.

Katalin Ormay, President of the Peace Paleontology Society, will organize and implement a communications and promotion program for the Centre. Thanks to the province of Alberta, funds have been put in place to hire a full-time fundraiser whose responsibilities will be to raise the capital required to build the new interpretive and research centre.

The region will be buzzing with paleontological activities this summer. Organizers are busy planning summer camps, field trips, guest speakers and scientific research activities.

Watch the County website www.countygp.ab.ca for a schedule of activities!

History of Schools in the County

Archivist Mary Nutting and the County of Grande Prairie are in the process of compiling a publication recording a brief history of every school district that operated within the County from 1910 to approximately 1960.

The book will contain information such as the schools location, a short history of interest, as well as highlighting important events, teachers, and people who played a role in the development and operation of that school.

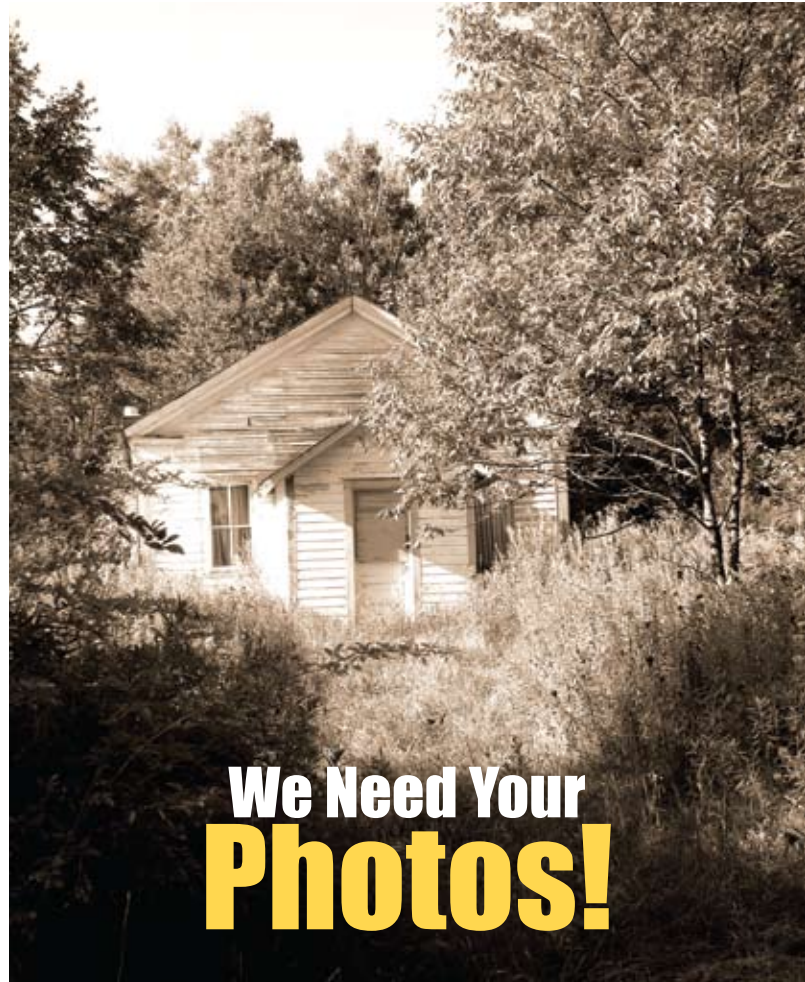
If you have any special stories or good photographs that could be included in the publication, please contact Mary Nutting at the South Peace Regional Archives at 830-5105 or Economic Development Officer Walter Paszkowski at the County office at 513-3956.

The following is a list of schools which there are no photos of in the archives:

Aldergrove, Badheart, St. Marys Beaverlodge, Canor, Cariboo, Chatham, Craigellachie, East Kleskum, Glass Lake, Happy Valley Itipaw, Kemble, Klondyke Trail, Mountainside, Mountain Trail, Mount Saskatoon, North Sexsmith, Percy, Riversvale, Saskatoon Lake, Sexsmith, St. Marys Sexsmith, St. Johns Luthern, Steeprock, Sylvester, Wellington, Wembley and West End.

All donors will be recognized.

The book should be available for purchase in late 2008 or early 2009.



**We Need Your
Photos!**



Enforcement Services

The Enforcement Services Department currently consists of 8 Community Peace Officers, 2 Administrative Support and 2 Contracted SPCA Peace Officers for animal protection and control. The primary mandate of the Enforcement Services Department is dual – Traffic Safety and Road Protection. The department also enforces select regulatory bylaws and remains contracted to the communities of Sexsmith, Beaverlodge, Wembley and the Municipal District of Greenview. The County of Grande Prairie also contracts the services of 2 RCMP Constables under the Enhanced Policing program. This program was recently reviewed and while there will be some administrative changes; County Council has reaffirmed their support for continuing and even expanding this program.

Traffic Safety: Committed to the principles of Road Safety Vision 2010, the department conducts regular patrols and compliance checks and participates in joint forces operations with other enforcement agencies. The 2008 Traffic Safety Plan Calendar sets the framework for coordinated areas of concern known as STEP (Selected Traffic Enforcement Program).

The Alberta Traffic Safety Calendar was developed using targets from the Alberta Traffic Safety Action Plan, collision information and the public's perception of issues. In 2007, an RCMP lead community study known as "Community Harms" found both statistically and perceptually traffic related issues rated in the top 3 policing concerns. The 2008 Grande Prairie and district RCMP strategic action plan found that traffic concerns again were in the top 2 areas of community concern.

Alberta Traffic Safety Calendar Up and Coming Priorities:

March	Occupant Restraint
April	Speed
May	Young Drivers
June	Commercial Vehicle Safety
July	Motorcycle Safety
August	Impaired Driving
September	Back to School

Did you know



Enforcement Services

- A traffic collision occurs in Alberta every 5 minutes
- On average, at least one person will be killed and 65 injured every day in Alberta due to motor vehicle collisions.
- Motor vehicle collisions take 6 times more lives than homicides, 8 times more lives than AIDS, and 100 times more lives than meningitis.
- In Alberta, the overall cost of motor vehicles collisions to society is conservatively estimated to be at least \$4 billion per year! That is about \$12 million every single day!



Fire Protection

On February 15th, 2008, the Protective Services Department, which includes Fire Protection, moved from the main County Administration building in Clairmont to the new County Protective Services and Parks Building on SR 668. The building was formerly known as Minhas Trucking. The Grande Prairie Regional Partnership Emergency Services Option Plan was presented to the partners in mid January. There is ongoing work with regard to the recommendations contained in the report. The tendering process for the north Protective Services, Parks and Ag. building is ongoing.

Negotiations have begun as our mutual aid contracts with our regional partners expire at the end of 2008. The County not only looks forward to continuing our relationship with our regional partners but also working towards enhancing the service provided by the partners to our customers and creating even closer synergies in the areas of fire suppression, fire prevention, fire inspection and training.

The Fire Fighter of the Year 2006 award was presented at the Fire Fighters Ball, held in Sexsmith in November. The recipients for the individual departments were:

LaGlace Fire Department	Todd Mogridge
Teepee Creek Fire Department	Sharon Rollins
Beaverlodge Fire Department	Stan Berry
Hythe Fire Department	Max MacAulay
Sexsmith Fire Department	Everett Cooke
Wembley Fire Department	Kelly Peterson
Bezanson Fire Department	Harold Bulford

Before You Burn It, "Get a Permit"

From January 1 to December 31, notification of burn is required within the County of Grande Prairie for ALL open fires. If you want to burn with the County boundaries, you MUST notify the County Fire Protection Office BEFORE lighting the fire. If you require further information or to obtain a free permit, please call 513-3953.

The County then reviews the submissions from the individual departments and selects the County Fire Fighter of the Year. Congratulations go out to Harold Bulford as he was the County Fire Fighter of the Year for 2006.

Everyone is reminded that as spring arrives there is a need to keep an eye on burns that have been done during the winter season i.e. Brush Piles, Root Piles, Brush Windrows as they can contain hold over fires. It is especially important to check those that are in areas that are not often visited.



Did you know



The County of Grande Prairie has a new permanent Empty Pesticide Container site.

The site is located at Clairmont landfill. This site was built to accommodate the increased demand for empty pesticide container disposal. The other permanent site is located at the Regional Landfill at S1/2 -22-73-9-W6.

Please practice due diligence when disposing these empty containers by reading the signs posted such as:

- Dispose only triple rinsed jugs
 - Dispose only agricultural empty pesticide containers.
 - No industrial or oil containers allowed
- Please see posted signage or if you require further information contact our office at 513-3955.

100th Anniversary Celebrations in 2009

The year 2009 will be the 100th anniversary of the Survey of the region now known as the County of Grande Prairie!

This is a significant event in the history of the province. Prior to the survey people were only squatting on the property they hoped to acquire. Once the survey was completed, settlers could then acquire their own piece of property. The Peace River country was one of the world's last regions that were suitable for agriculture production to be settled. The survey enabled the unprecedented land rush of 1909-1914 to take place and thus open up some of the most productive agricultural land in Canada.

A committee of key stakeholders has been established to organize and coordinate plans to recognize and celebrate this important development in 2009. Residents will be encouraged to participate in all of the activities.

Clairmont Arena

Skating at the Clairmont Arena continued until March 30th. Although it was an abbreviated season, the ice user groups all appreciated the efforts made to get it open. The upgrades/renovations are still ongoing with the latest being the excavations around the building to provide adequate drainage. We have had to wait on this one for the ground to thaw sufficiently. We look forward to beginning a successful season this fall!

Mountain Pine Beetle

Work on controlling the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) is mostly done for the winter of 2007 – 08. At the peak we had over 90 surveyors in the field and up to 15 control contractors. Control procedures included logging, standing peel, chipping, mulching and conventional logging to salvage infested trees.

Work in the County of Grande Prairie focused on both private and crown land in the area along the Wapiti River including the Dunes and the North Wapiti Grazing Lease. We also have responded to all call ins from private land owners through out the County. To date we have found 6,554 infested trees on 471 parcels of private land in the County. Most of the trees have now been controlled, but work, especially on private land, will continue in April and May.

The weather over the last 9 months including the several cold spells during the winter has not been favourable for beetle development in northern Alberta. Although cold weather can have a significant impact on beetle mortality and future population levels, we also know that a 97.5 % mortality rate will still maintain populations at current levels.

However, this is what we do know:

1. The cool, wet summer in 2007 (especially after the end of July) was not favourable for beetle flight and development. This made the beetle more susceptible to temperature variations and cold weather.



Have Your Say on Possibility of Provincial Parks

The County has entered into discussions with the Province of Alberta to study the feasibility of establishing provincial parks/recreation areas in the Wapiti Dunes, Kleskun Hills and Saskatoon Mountain Areas. Council has formed a committee consisting of Reeve Everett McDonald and Councillors Leanne Beaupre and Pat Jacobs to work with administration to bring forward ideas. Public meetings will be held in the coming months to seek input from user groups, ratepayers and Alberta government departments.

Historical Resources Partnership Program

The third stage of the historical resources partnership program is now in its final stages. Consultant Robert Buckle of Heritage Collaborative, a premier heritage research company in Alberta, has been hired to research and properly record the historical importance of twenty historic sites located within the County. The information will be presented to Council for approval and then forwarded to the province who will establish the level of designation.

2. The first cold snap in early December was sudden and followed an otherwise mild fall. Surveys indicated that in some areas this sudden drop in temperature caused significant beetle mortality.
3. Temperatures below -40° were recorded for several nights in early February. Again, it is expected that these low temperatures caused additional beetle mortality.
4. Mortality surveys will be conducted in late April and May to determine winter mortality and projected population levels.
5. Overall, the level and intensity of infestation appear to be lower this year as compared to the winter of 2006-07.

This is all good news. However, this is not the time to be complacent about the current infestation. In fact, we should take advantage of the favourable weather conditions and be even more aggressive in our approach to control the MPB. This beetle has been around for thousands of years and is one of the most destructive forest insects in North America. The beetles are very good at their job, which is, surviving and then attacking and killing pine trees. We need to continue to monitor and control the MPB in the County and the South Peace Municipalities.

If you have any questions about the Mountain Pine Beetle, please contact as soon as possible: South Peace Municipalities Mountain Pine Beetle Project, Grande Prairie, Alberta Ph. 539-7205, fax 539-7294 or toll free 1-866-539-7205 email: mpbproject@telus.net

Tell Us What's On Your Mind!

Questions, concerns or comments? Email your Councillor or Senior Administrative Staff and we will post some of the responses in the next edition of the County newsletter.



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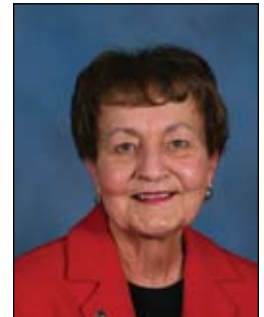
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Senior Administrative Staff

From left to right sitting:

Mary Lupwayi – Agricultural Fieldman

Bernie House – Director of Protective Services and Parks

Kathleen Turner – FCSS Director

Dianne Nellis – Legislative Services Manager

Standing:

Bill Rogan – Administrator

John Simpson – Planning Director

Herb Pfau – Superintendent Public Works

Barry Donovan – Chief Assessor

Noreen Vavrek – Finance and Systems Director

Contact information next page.

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Noreen Vavrek, Finance Director 780-513-3961

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John Simpson, Planning Director 780-513-3951

Protective Services & Parks

Bernie House, Protective Services & Parks Director
780-532-9727

Public Works

Herb Pfau, Superintendent 780-532-7393

Contact Information

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Address: 10001-84 Avenue Clairmont, AB T0H 0W0

Phone: (780) 532-9722

Website: www.countygp.ab.ca

Office Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Note: The County Office is open from Noon to 1 pm for Bill Payments ONLY



County Parks Open May 15th!

The County of Grande Prairie owns and operates 8 parks and campground facilities within its boundaries, seven of which offer overnight camping (beginning May 15th), while one offers day use facilities only. The campgrounds offering overnight camping include Pipestone Creek, Hommy, Kleskun, Demmitt, Bear Lake, Redwillow and Valhalla. Saskatoon Mountain Park is open for day use activities only. For further information, please call the Parks department at 532-9727



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