

It's the May Long Weekend!

Victoria Day is traditionally the first weekend of camping after a long winter season. It is an opportunity for families and friends to get together and welcome the first hints of summer if the weather is favorable. This weekend, local RCMP officers as well as Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Tourism Parks and Recreation and County of Grande Prairie officers want to ensure public safety and reduce the environmental impact of public recreation during the long weekend.

Getting to and from your destination safely over the long weekend is a priority for law enforcement. RCMP and County of Grande Prairie Enforcement Services remind the motoring public that there is typically a higher volume of traffic and roadway use during the weekend. The motoring public can anticipate coordinated Checkstops beginning Friday May 21st.

If camping in the Province is part of your long weekend, check out the Alberta Parks website at www.tpr.alberta.ca for information on cost, recreational activities and liquor regulations. To ensure Alberta's parks are safe and enjoyable places for everyone, temporary liquor bans will be in place at ten provincial parks and recreation areas during the May long weekend. Be sure to be well informed about the regulations in place at the park where you visit. At parks where there is no ban, liquor is prohibited on roads, trails, beaches, washrooms, cook shelters, picnic sites and county parks. The County of Grande Prairie owns and operates eight parks and campground facilities within its boundaries, seven of which offer overnight camping, while one offers day use facilities only. Check out the County website at <http://www.countygp.ab.ca/parks/info> to familiarize yourself with rules and regulations.

If you will be making use of your off highway vehicle on public land, ensure that it is properly equipped which includes headlights, tail lights and a visible license plate. Ensure you are able to produce your documents (valid registration and insurance) upon demand. Additionally, all off highway vehicles must be free of debris and equipped with a functional muffler and spark arrestor. The public is also reminded a child/youth under 16 years of age should not operate an adult off high way vehicle. Ensure your child rides an off highway vehicle that is appropriate for their age, weight and maturity.

visit: www.srd.gov.ab.ca/lands/usingpublicland/recreation/headingout.aspx

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development will be ensuring compliance to promote stewardship and prevent the destruction of public land.

We look forward to working with the public to ensure a safe, responsible and enjoyable long weekend.

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