



COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE No. 1

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County Planning and Development Services Director Set to Retire in New Year

County of Grande Prairie Planning and Development Services Director John Simpson has announced his retirement effective January 14, 2014. Simpson is well-recognized and respected throughout the region for his many accomplishments. During his 12 years of leadership in the Planning and Development office, the County went through its biggest growth period to date.

Simpson played a key role in several high profile projects such the County Sportsplex (chair of the committee), planning for the urbanization of the Clairmont area, and the coordination of future infrastructure such as water and sewer and transportation needs throughout the County. He was also a key player behind the community portion of the Clairmont Community School and driving the plan for the Wapiti Corridor.

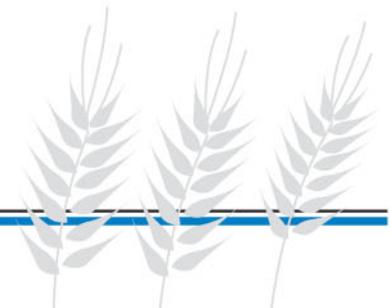
CAO Bill Rogan says the breadth of knowledge Simpson brings with him to the job will be missed.

“When the County reorganized 12 years ago, John came on board and developed the Planning Department to meet the needs of the community,” he says. “Subsequently the Department amalgamated with Economic Development, and he took over as Director of both departments. His leadership and experience will be sorely missed.”

Having been in the region for 34 years, Simpson says he has seen immense change and commends the County for its role in supporting the region’s growth and the changes that helped move the County from a rural to urban municipality.

“The County put together an incredible management team that responded to these growth pressures and together, with Council’s vision, were able to accomplish a lot to accommodate the growth and become a dynamic part of Alberta,” says Simpson.

While Simpson is looking forward to traveling with his wife Betty who retired last year, he says he will miss the people he works with each day.





“The County is like a family. I credit my success to the people I work with,” he says. “We’ve had great Councils who have helped establish the vision and funded it through investment in roads and other infrastructure.”

The recruitment process to find a replacement for Simpson will commence soon.

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