

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS



FALL 2019

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## Reeve's Message



This fall feels like a season of new beginnings and exciting engagement, especially with a new CAO at the helm, leading County Administration. July 15 was a historic day at the County as Council and staff bid farewell to Bill Rogan after 24 years of dedicated and visionary leadership and officially welcomed Joulia Whittleton as the new CAO.

Joulia has already proven herself as a strong leader with a wealth of knowledge and experience. We're pleased to have her to usher in this new era for our municipality.

Over this past summer, County Council has had the opportunity to connect with many County residents at local community events. We appreciate hearing what's top of mind for you. Your ideas and feedback lay the foundation for the decisions and work of County Council and administration.

### BUDGET

A key area where your feedback and priorities help guide our decision-making is during County budget deliberations. This past spring, Council approved our 2019 budget. When we work through this exercise, we focus on a budget that maintains services, programs and partnerships with affordable tax levels, while continually investing in priority road and infrastructure projects to support growth.

We prioritize projects that serve our residents, as well as those who work in or visit the County. Total expenditures in our 2019 budget are \$149 million, of which \$82.6 million is directed to our operational budget and \$62.4 million for capital, with over 53 per cent of the total budget allocated to the County's transportation network. Industry activity is increasing, which is a direct reflection of the improving

economy. Permissions to oil and gas companies increased 69 per cent from 2017 to 2018, while drilling rigs, service rigs and well service moves combined increased 58 per cent. Our robust economy means increased traffic, and with that, the need to ensure our roads are safe and well-maintained for all who use them.

Funding for County programs and services comes from several sources, with property taxes making up the most significant portion at 59 per cent. While we saw a municipal tax revenue increase of two per cent, this equates to an increase of just \$34 to the average residential property owner. And as all municipalities are required to collect taxes on behalf of the provincial government, about 22.2 per cent of County residential taxes are collected for the Province to support education and 0.3 per cent for the Seniors Foundation.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTING

Thanks to those of you who were able to join us at our annual open houses. The first event was at South Peace Centennial Museum, with the other two taking place at new facilities in the County: Bezanson's Knelsen Centre and Clairmont's Whispering Ridge Community School. Having provided funding in support of both of these facilities, it's very rewarding to see them serving as central hubs bringing citizens together. The County is committed to continuing our support for important spaces like these, as they're good for the well-being of individuals and families, and the community at large.

In just a few short weeks, Whispering Ridge Community School will be a hive of activity as County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) staff welcome students to the playschool, now in its second year of operations. Council invested in an expanded playschool, upgrading from two to three programs which allowed an additional 15 students to register for the 2019/2020 school year.

As a Council we also continue to support facilities that have a long history serving as gathering places for community, maintaining our local heritage and enhancing quality of life in the County. This year, Council awarded more than \$2.35 million in grant funding to local sport, recreation, cultural organizations and facilities.

### COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW

Our new Community Standards Bylaw became effective in May. The bylaw sets guidelines around what it means to be a good neighbour – especially important as the County grows and becomes more urbanized. These standards aim to make our communities safer, more attractive and enjoyable.

We've included several articles in this newsletter to provide you with an easy-to-read overview of the bylaw. The bylaw addresses issues like orderly appearance of property, bullying, the use of recreational cannabis, and more.

### WATER/WASTEWATER INVESTMENTS

Investments into water and wastewater infrastructure are also investments into local quality of life, such as the waterline to Wembley, which provides the Town and Dimsdale with high-quality drinking water. This waterline can be extended west as needed to accommodate future development. The Clairmont Lagoon Discharge project, which connected Clairmont's wastewater system to the existing system in the City of Grande Prairie, is also complete, as is the Hawker Waterline, which services County industrial development in the east with access to the Aquatera system.

### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Since the spring provincial election, the County has focused on relationship-building with the new government. We've met with a number of MLAs, including Grande Prairie-Wapiti MLA Travis Toews, to ensure government awareness of the pressing issues impacting our area. We've discussed local highway construction and improvements; healthcare infrastructure; and avenues to support investment and sustainable development, to name just a few. For a more detailed list of County advocacy priorities, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/advocacy](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/advocacy).

### LOCAL COLLABORATION

Collaborative planning with our municipal neighbours continues on our IDPs – Intermunicipal Development Plans and ICFs – Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks. We were very pleased to finalize the ICF between Saddle Hills County and the County of Grande Prairie on April 24. For several years we have worked closely with Saddle Hills County, and our mutual commitment to work together has reaped benefits for both municipalities.

### CLOSING

I hope you have all enjoyed your summer and had a chance to take in some outdoor recreation, camping, or a few of the many local events. With students heading back to the classroom, that means lots of extra vehicle and foot traffic. I remind you all to be extra diligent, especially near schools. Enjoy the upcoming fall season.



## County Welcomes New CAO

This July, the County of Grande Prairie welcomed our new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Joulia Whittleton. Whittleton comes to the County from Saddle Hills, where she led the municipality as CAO. She brings to the position extensive leadership experience, with nearly 20 years serving rural municipalities across Alberta – 15 of those in the role of CAO and Assistant CAO.

"Joulia has the business acumen, management expertise and vision to lead the day-to-day operations of the County and to advance our growing municipality into the future," said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. "She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in municipal government and rural issues."

As a municipal leader, Whittleton has led a variety of initiatives including a new seniors' supportive living facility, an inter-municipal water study, rural potable water initiatives, and improved Council-community relations.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to build on the solid foundation already established and to enhance our municipality through leadership, team work, partnership and municipal best practices," said Whittleton. "I look forward to connecting with residents and community leaders, and getting to know more about our local priorities."

Whittleton takes over the position from long-time County CAO Bill Rogan, who retired this summer after serving in the role for 24 years. We wish him all the best!





# County Connector Makes Getting Around Easy

The County Connector is on the road making transportation easier around the Grande Prairie area. Operating on weekdays, Phase One of the public transit service connects Grande Prairie, Clairmont and Sexsmith. A second route, Phase Two, links Grande Prairie, Wembley, Beaverlodge and Hythe.\*

Since its launch last December, County and City residents are finding the service a convenient, easy and affordable way to access medical appointments, jobs, community services, shopping, recreation and more.

Transportation is available to anyone, with fares set at \$5.00 per passenger (12 years and over) for a one-way trip. Children aged 11 and under ride free and must be accompanied by an adult. Bus fare can be paid with coins (no bills) or with a SUPERPASS reloadable tap-and-go smart card. Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/connector](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/connector) to learn how to purchase and reload a SUPERPASS card.

Want to bring your bicycle for transportation at the other end? No problem. Buses are bike-friendly and equipped with bike racks. Buses are also accessible: each has visual signs, makes audible announcements at each stop, and has two spaces for wheelchairs or walkers.

This Rural Transportation Pilot Program is a two-year program, with the possibility of extension, based on evaluation of the service and user levels. The County is proud to partner with the Province and our neighbouring municipalities on this important project.

For routes, schedules, fares, Where's My Ride? Bus Tracker, SUPERPASS card purchase locations and other information, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/connector](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/connector) or call the Citizen Contact Centre at 780-538-0300.

*\*The County Connector does not operate on statutory holidays and weekends.\**



## Testimonial from a County Connector User

### OLGA BREITKREUTZ

*Olga is a Senior from Wembley who does not drive. The County Connector is the only public transportation she can use to travel to and from Grande Prairie. Taking the County Connector is important to Olga as it has given her independence, and allows her*

*to access medical appointments and shopping. Olga rides the County Connector at least four times a month and knows she always has affordable transportation she can rely on.*

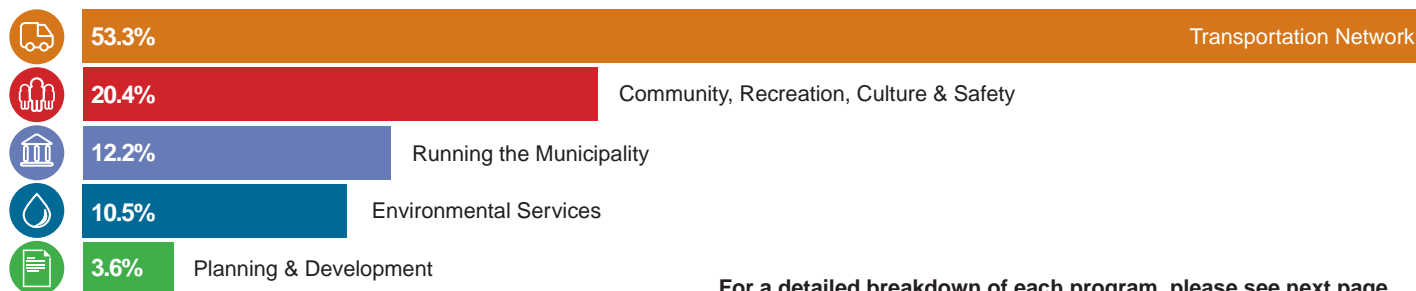


# Making Sense of the Budget

The budget for the County of Grande Prairie works much the same as the budget you create at home. Simply put, a budget is a plan for money coming in and money going out. When setting the County's budget, Council and Administration are guided by legislation and input from the public. Setting the budget is a four-step process.

## Step One: Set the Operating and Capital Budgets

Almost every program and service in the County has an associated cost. Every year, Council makes financial decisions by allotting money for each of them into the operating and capital budgets. Expenditures for 2019 will be \$149 million and include:



For a detailed breakdown of each program, please see next page.

## Operating Budget

In the same way that you pay bills to keep the lights on at your house, the operating budget goes towards the day-to-day costs required to keep everything running smoothly. Examples include enforcement and fire services, parks and recreation facilities, and County staff salaries.

**The 2019 operating budget has been set at \$82.6 million.**

## Capital Budget

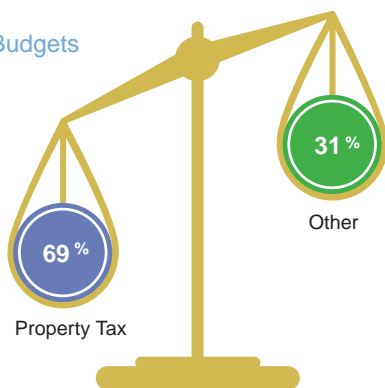
The County's capital budget is also similar to your household budget—it funds major fixed assets for the future. At home, capital costs include your home, vehicles and renovations. At the County, capital costs include machinery, vehicles, buildings and roads.

**The 2019 capital budget has been set at \$66.4 million.**

## Step Two: Funding the Budgets

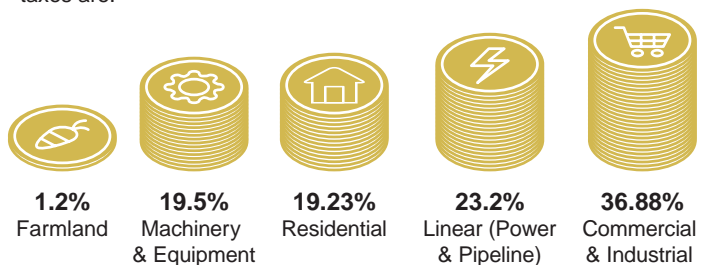
Funding for budgeted programs and services comes from several sources. Property taxes comprise the largest portion of funding.

For a detailed breakdown of other budget funding sources, please see next side.



## Step Three: Setting Property Taxes

After establishing how much money is needed to fund the budgets, the County determines how much revenue will be collected from external grants and funding sources. The difference between the two amounts is generated from property taxes. Assessment classes subject to property taxes are:

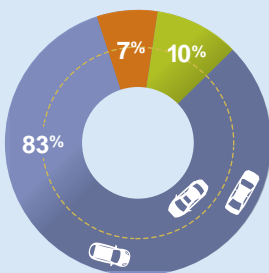


percent of property tax revenue

## Funding County Roads & Bridges

Maintenance of 3,600 kilometers of roads and 317 bridges and bridge culverts are some of our biggest expenses. In 2019, we budgeted \$30 million for new road construction, including 44.8 kilometers of road surfacing. This year, the County will receive a \$2.1 million Federal Gas Tax grant as well as a \$3.1 million Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant, which will assist us to build and revitalize our local public infrastructure.

County Contribution    Federal Gas Tax Grant    Provincial MSI Grant



## Step Four: Provincial Education & Seniors Foundation Taxes

All Alberta municipalities are required to collect taxes on behalf of the Government of Alberta. Approximately 22.2% of County taxes are collected for the province to support education, 0.3% is to support the Seniors Foundation and 0.09% is for Designated Industrial Properties.

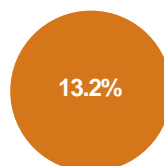
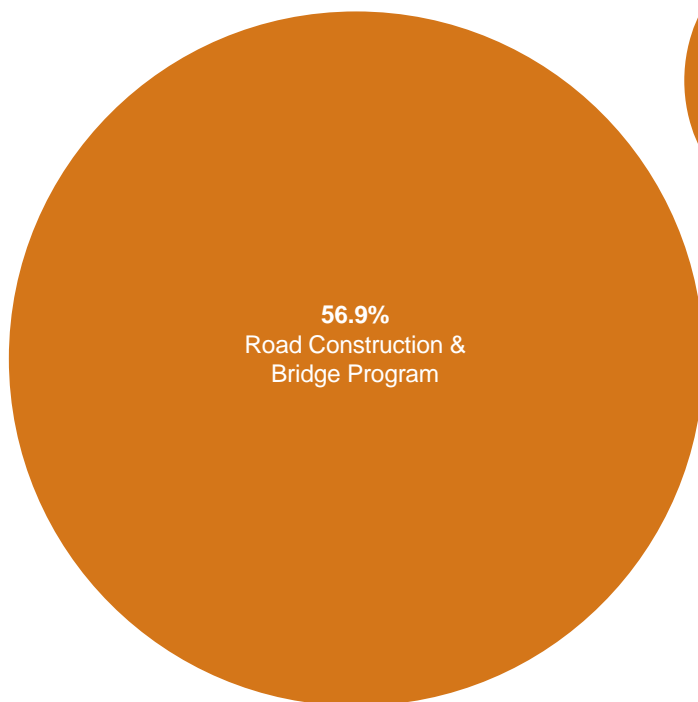
- Total Taxes Collected **\$106.7M**
- Provincial Education **\$22.5M**
- Seniors Foundation **\$0.3M**
- Designated Industrial Properties **\$0.02M**



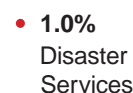
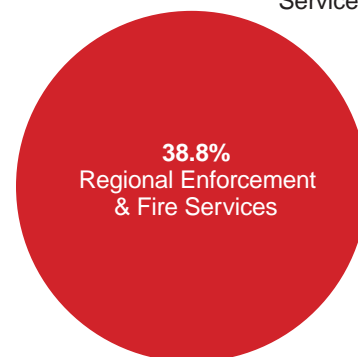
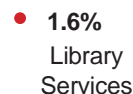
Step One: Detailed Operating and Capital Expenses

## Transportation Network

\$79.4M

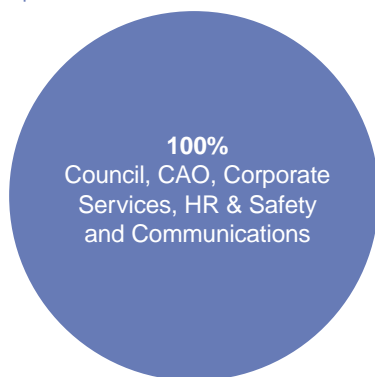


## Community, Recreation, Culture & Safety \$30.4M



## Running the Municipality

\$18.3M



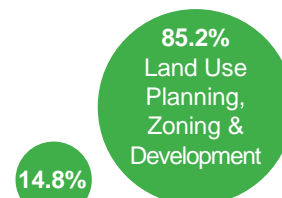
## Technical Services

\$15.6M

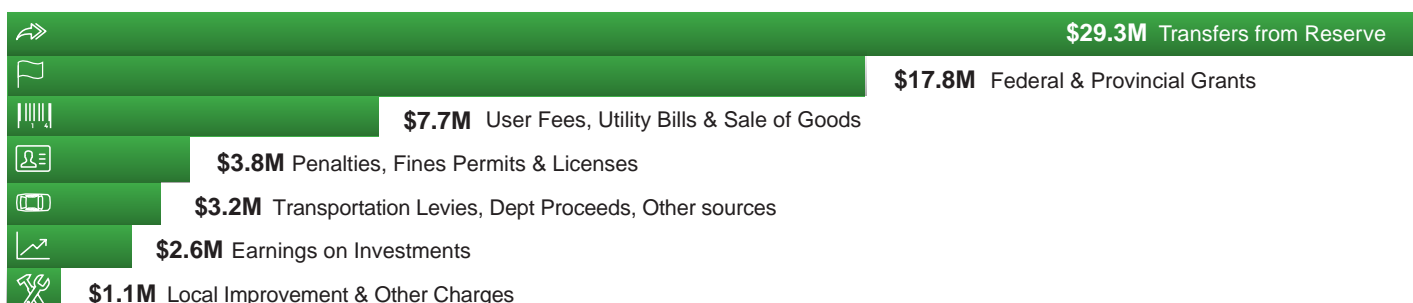


## Planning & Development

\$5.4M



Step Two: Detailed Breakdown of Other Funding Sources





# County's New Community Standards Bylaw Supports Community Vitality and Well-being

With our population on the rise throughout the County, a new County Community Standards Bylaw sets standards aimed at making our growing communities safer, and more attractive and enjoyable for all. The new bylaw became effective on May 13.

"The Community Standards Bylaw provides citizens with clear and consistent expectations that promote good neighbour relationships," said Superintendent Stuart Rempel, Regional Enforcement Services Manager. "It also provides officers with additional tools to be more proactive in addressing citizen concerns."

The Community Standards Bylaw includes the following sections:

- Addressing (rural and urban)
- Bullying and Hazing
- Cannabis
- False Alarms
- Fire Hydrants
- Graffiti
- Noise
- Nuisance
- Sidewalks
- Unsightly Premises
- Waste Management

Some sections of the bylaw are new and address emerging issues; other sections have been updated from existing bylaws to better accommodate the changing needs of residents and the County's growing communities. All of these updated and new standards have been combined into one new all-encompassing bylaw.

While new in the County, Community Standards Bylaws are very common in progressive communities in Alberta and Canada. Rempel noted, however, that each municipalities' bylaw reflects needs and priorities specific to their own communities.

"Much of the County's bylaw addresses priorities and concerns raised by residents that are fielded by enforcement officers, and County staff and Councillors," said Rempel.

Rempel noted that the approved bylaw was a collaboration of insights and feedback from subject matter experts, County staff and Council, and the local public. Consultation was held earlier this year, inviting the public's feedback on a draft of the bylaw.

A public education program is underway to raise awareness of the bylaw and support people's understanding of how it impacts them. Penalties may apply to those in violation of the bylaw, with each violation reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Pages six to ten of this newsletter provide a general overview of some sections of the County's Community Standards Bylaw. For details about the new bylaw, including penalties, and to view a copy, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/csb](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/csb).







### HOW DO I REPORT A COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW VIOLATION?

To report a bylaw violation to County Enforcement Regional Services:

**Phone:** 780-532-9727

**Email:** [enforcementservices@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:enforcementservices@countygp.ab.ca)

**Online:** [www.countygp.ab.ca/occurrencereport](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/occurrencereport)

**In person:** Community Services Building  
10808-100 Avenue, Clairmont

Open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closed 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. and statutory holidays.

**Occurrence Reporting Form:** Pick up a pamphlet at any local municipal office, complete and submit it.

**Secure Fax:** 888-779-5895

For graffiti-in-progress, contact the RCMP non-emergency line at 780-830-5700

## Safer Sidewalks

The County of Grande Prairie is much safer when roads and walkways are clear of snow and ice. County crews are responsible to clear over 3,600 kilometres of snow and ice from County roads throughout the winter, as well as from other public areas throughout the County.

Property owners or occupants are responsible for clearing snow or ice-covered sidewalks, which can create slip and fall hazards and force people to walk on the road. The Community Standards Bylaw (CSB) aims to keep sidewalks safe and accessible for all – especially those such as the elderly, those with mobility issues, and for strollers and wheelchairs.

- Property owners and occupants are required to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24-hours of the completion of substantial snowfall.
- When clearing sidewalks: (1) snow must not be placed on roads as it creates driving hazards; (2) sidewalks must not be damaged while clearing snow.
- Remember, it is illegal to deposit snow, ice and other material onto roads, right-of-ways, ditches or property other than your own.
- For more information visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/csb](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/csb).



[countygp.ab.ca](http://countygp.ab.ca)



# Cannabis Now Legal in Canada: What Legalization Means for the County of Grande Prairie

On October 17, 2018, recreational cannabis became legal in Canada. While federal and provincial regulations are in place, municipalities are key partners in supporting the implementation of the legislation.

Each level of government plays an important role in ensuring that all aspects of community well-being are considered. As such, consumption bylaws for municipalities will be specific to each, so it is important to know the regulations in the County and understand how they impact you.

As this is a new area for the County, public input has played an important role in the development of the cannabis section of our Community Standards Bylaw (CSB).

Residents and visitors of the County must follow guidelines for consuming cannabis set out by the province along with the Alberta Cannabis Framework.

The Alberta Cannabis Framework and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act set the stage for the legal and responsible use of cannabis by Albertans. Residents and visitors of the County must follow provincial guidelines for consuming cannabis. Both sites are linked through the County's website at [www.countygp.ab.ca/csbhighlights](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/csbhighlights).

Information below presents some key highlights relevant to County residents.

## MINIMUM AGE

Individuals must be 18 years or older to purchase, possess or consume recreational cannabis.

## POSSESSING CANNABIS

Adults 18 years or older can possess up to 30 grams of cannabis in a public place, in line with the federal possession limit.

When cannabis is in a car, it must be secured in closed packaging and not within reach of occupants.

## DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING

Drug-impaired driving is still impaired driving, and carries the same consequences as driving while impaired by alcohol. New impaired driving laws are now in effect.

## CONSUMING CANNABIS IN THE COUNTY

Recreational cannabis use is illegal in public locations in the County, unless exemptions apply (see exemptions on the next page).

Recreational cannabis use is permitted on private property only with consent/permission from the owner of that property. This includes rental units, which may have their own building rules and/or lease agreements around cannabis use/growth.

To protect children and limit second-hand exposure, public smoking or vaping of cannabis is prohibited in the same areas tobacco is restricted, plus:

- on any hospital property, school property or child care facility property
- In or within a prescribed distance from a playground; sports or playing field; skateboard or bicycle park; zoo; outdoor theatre; or outdoor pool or splash pad
- in any motor vehicle except those being used as temporary residences, such as parked RVs

Cannabis cannot be consumed at any cannabis retail outlet.

## EXEMPTIONS

*Medical Cannabis:* Individuals entitled to possess medical cannabis will not be subject to the bylaw, but must produce a copy of their documentation upon request by an officer. These individuals must adhere to provincial consumption regulations, and can smoke and vape cannabis in public spaces not prohibited under the Alberta Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act.

*Temporary Permits:* Temporary permits may be issued by the County authorizing recreational cannabis use in public





places during special events. For information about applying for a Temporary Special Events License, contact Regional Enforcement Services at 780-532-9727.

Possible permanent exemptions may be approved in the future by County Council.

### Recreational Cannabis in County Campgrounds

Recreational cannabis use is permitted in individual campsites and in parked/set up recreational vehicles and tents. Recreational cannabis will not be permitted in common areas within campgrounds such as playgrounds, kitchen shelters, washrooms, parking areas or roads and trails within our campgrounds. Cannabis smoke from a neighbouring campsite that causes offense to others can be considered as a nuisance under the County's Community Standards Bylaw. If you have a concern, please speak with the campground hosts.

County of Grande Prairie Regional Enforcement Services as well as the RCMP have the authority to enforce penalties to those who fail to adhere to the CSB for cannabis consumption.

To review the CSB, and to access links to provincial and federal regulations, visit the County website at [www.countygp.ab.ca/csb](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/csb).

For information about the County's cannabis business regulations visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/cannabis](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/cannabis).

## Managing Noise in Our Growing Community

The Noise section of the Community Standards Bylaw (CSB) supports the health and safety of County communities. Regional Enforcement Services receives a variety of complaints related to noise.

Drawing on public feedback, as well as on research on what has been effective in comparable communities, this section of the County's CSB seeks to mitigate unreasonable noise, regardless of the cause.

Reports of unreasonable noise will be assessed on a case-by-case basis based on factors listed in section 7.3 of the bylaw, which include, but are not limited to:

- distance from the sound to sleeping facilities, whether residential or commercial;
- the time of day or night the sound occurs;
- the duration and volume of the sound; and
- whether the sound is recurrent, intermittent or constant.

The bylaw sets "Quiet Hours" between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., as a way to prohibit noise from machinery and equipment that disturbs others. It is important to note that there are exemptions to this bylaw, which include: agricultural operations; emergency vehicles; emergency work to protect life, health, or property, including that conducted by Aquatera and the County; permit holders for events; Peace Officers; and work conducted by the provincial or federal government. Other noise (such as trains) may be covered under federal or provincial regulations.

Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/csb](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/csb) for more in-depth detail about this section of the bylaw.

## Every Second Counts



In a fire situation, every second counts. Firefighter's access to water can be the difference in saving a structure and protecting people's lives. If you own or occupy property adjacent to a fire hydrant, you are responsible to keep it clear of obstructions so it is accessible for firefighters – winter and summer.

The Community Standards Bylaw (CSB) requires property owners or occupants to:

- clear snow from the hydrant.
- cut weeds or grass around the hydrant to ensure visibility from the point on the street closest to the fire hydrant.

The CSB also sets standards when a fire hydrant is equal distance between two properties, informing who is responsible for maintaining the area around the hydrant. It also sets penalties for those who damage, interfere or tamper with fire hydrants.

For more information about keeping fire hydrants clear of obstructions, and for details on penalties visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/csb](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/csb). Should you notice that a hydrant is not visible or accessible, help us keep our neighbourhoods safe by calling Regional Enforcement Services at **780-532-9727**.



## Nuisance Section of CSB Promotes Overall Quality of Life

The nuisance section of the Community Standards Bylaw (CSB) addresses public safety, health and overall quality of life by prohibiting behaviours that violate the rights of others. Many of the offenses addressed in the bylaw were included due to complaints from the public received by the County or RCMP.

“Our primary goal is to make it easier for people to address these common concerns by providing standards that promote good neighbour relationships,” said Stuart Rempel, County Regional Enforcement Services Manager.

Standards set in this section of the bylaw include:

- Causing a disturbance by fighting, screaming, shouting, swearing, molesting, or using insulting language at or near a public place is prohibited.
- Urinating, defecating or depositing any human waste on the private property of another person, or in any place the public can access is prohibited.
- Idling a motor vehicle in a residential area for longer than 30 minutes, except when temperatures exceed minus thirty (-30) degrees Celsius, is prohibited.
- Offensive odours, such as composting, firepit smoke, cannabis, and animal feces, may be considered “nuisance” if they are disturbing someone.
- No person shall have an electric fence at or near any public place where any other person is likely to make contact with it. Exceptions do apply. The distance of the fence from the public, type and amount of warning signage in place, and the type of animals being contained will be considered.
- No person, at or near a public place, shall display any pictures, words, or graphic images of any type that promote violence, hatred, and offend, or is likely to offend, any other person.
- No person shall throw or propel an object that is likely to startle or cause injury to another person, or damage property.
- No person shall pump water, or otherwise direct or cause any water to flow onto someone else’s property. This applies to sump pumps and eavestroughs; however, it does not apply to other property drainage such as melting snow that has been legally piled, normally flowing rain water, or any natural flooding type of events.

Agricultural operations are exempt from this section of the bylaw. Specific details about this section of the bylaw can be viewed at [www.countygp.ab.ca/csb](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/csb).

## Waste Management Regulations Promote Community Beautification and Safe Roads

Attractive and safe communities are a priority for County residents and business owners. As our communities grow, the County is fielding an increasing number of complaints from residents regarding waste containers and waste left out on roads for extended periods.

The County’s Community Standards Bylaw (CSB) establishes regulations to support the use of proper waste collection containers and practices in the County. These regulations will help ensure our neighbourhoods are clean, will help avoid hazards related to exposed garbage and will keep communities safer (for example, garbage cans which are typically brought in after collection day that are left out for a week can invite criminal activity).

1. All waste designated for pick-up by a waste management company must be in well-maintained containers.

Households in the neighbourhoods of The Dunes, Maple Ridge Estates, Taylor Estates, Carriage Lane, Wedgewood Estates, Whispering Ridge in Clairmont, Westlake in Clairmont, and some other areas of Clairmont are currently using rolling waste carts as part of the Residential Waste Cart Collection Program.



2. Owners or occupants of a residential dwelling shall set waste containers out for collection no earlier than 6:00 p.m. on the day before collection and remove them within 24 hours from collection day.
3. It is the responsibility of the owner or occupant to pick up any waste that has become dislodged from, or spilled onto the road, from their container.

The bylaw is not in place for those who, for example, forget to retrieve their waste container on a certain week. Rather, it is aimed at offenders who consistently violate the bylaw. While penalties can be applied, exceptions and discretion will apply.

Those individuals unable to collect their waste containers in a timely manner are encouraged to make alternate arrangements, such as having a friend or neighbor collect the container. Residents also have the option of using County Recycling and Waste Management Facilities at [www.countygp.ab.ca/recyclingprograms](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/recyclingprograms).

For definitions of “waste” and “waste containers,” and to learn more about this bylaw, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/csb](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/csb).



# FCSS: Improving the Well-being of County Residents

Through a partnership with the Province of Alberta, the County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) offers programs and services that contribute to the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Our FCSS Department works closely with affiliated FCSS offices in the City of Grande Prairie, the towns of Sexsmith, Wembley and Beaverlodge, the Village of Hythe and the M.D. of Greenview.

## Here are some of the ways County FCSS serves County residents:

- The Kind Heart Program, which fosters community spirit and encourages residents to help others, honoured four County residents this year. Read more about the deserving recipients on the next page.
- The County's Mega Awesome camps are an opportunity for local youth to socialize and take part in constructive and free activities during breaks from school. This year the Wellington Resource Centre hosted a Mega Awesome New Year's Camp with 30 participants and a Mega Awesome Spring Fling camp with 12 participants.
- FCSS hosted six summer day camps this season in Teepee Creek, Rio Grande, La Glace, Dimsdale, Five Mile Hall and Clairmont.
- The Wellington Resource Centre hosted 80 seniors and 40 grade six students from Clairmont Community School for an Intergenerational lunch during Seniors' Week in June.
- Six volunteers help operate the Clairmont location of the Sexsmith and Area Foodbank.
- Seventeen local organizations received FCSS grant funding for 2019, totaling \$250,759.
- The Seniors and Special Needs Transportation Operating Grants provided \$149, 802 in funding to 11 organizations providing transportation to seniors and persons with special needs.
- One hundred five children attended playschool programs in seven locations throughout the County during the 2018/2019 school year.
- FCSS offers St. John Ambulance Babysitting Courses, with 14 certificates awarded so far this year.

## • FCSS has programs for parents and children:

- Clairmont Parent & Tot  
Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
From September to June  
Wellington Resource Centre
- Bezanson Parent & Tot  
Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
From September to June  
Knelsen Centre
- FCSS facilitates the Triple P program, which offers parenting information and support to families in the County.
- One hundred and ten Grade 4 and 5 students graduated from the Home Alone courses delivered at Clairmont Community School and Bezanson School during the 2018/2019 school year.
- Our 13 Home Support program staff visited 170 client's homes thousands of times, providing more than 4,300 hours of Home Support to our residents from January to June of this year.
- Our Beaverlodge FCSS office assisted residents in completing 167 tax returns with the Community Volunteer income tax program between March and April 2019.
- One hundred and ten people attended the annual Beaverlodge FCSS volunteer awards.
- Our seven Community School Liaison Counsellors work with students in 12 Peace Wapiti School Division schools and the Valhalla Charter School to provide a safe place to seek information and support. During the 2018/2019 school year, our counsellors worked with 267 individual students and 572 students in various group settings.

To learn more about how FCSS can support you or your family, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/fcss](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/fcss).



# Nominate a Kind Heart Today



## NOMINATE A KIND HEART IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Kind Heart Awards honour those who go out of their way to help others, contribute to their community and build community spirit. Any good deed, from helping a farmer clear a crop, mowing a neighbour's lawn, bringing a warm meal to a neighbour or clearing someone's driveway, is worthy of a nomination.

Thank you to the following Kind Heart Award recipients for your contributions to our community:

### Len Girard

Len was nominated by Ellen for being an exceptional neighbour. When Ellen's husband Ivan got sick, Len took it upon himself to make things easier for the couple. He built a ramp into their house so that Ivan could come home from the hospital on weekends; plowed snow; hauled away garbage; and installed medical aides throughout their home. Len even went as far as modifying their quad by installing a left-handed gas trigger so that Ivan can maintain his independence. Thank you for being such a great neighbour, Len!

### Frank Vantereve

Frank was nominated by his neighbours Lisette and Dale for selflessly helping out whenever there is snow. After a snowfall, Frank is the first person outside using his equipment to clear nearby driveways. Frank's willingness to help out is a huge benefit to his community. Thank you for being such a great neighbour, Frank!

### Gord Rintoul

Gord was nominated by his neighbour Darrell for selflessly helping out during in the busiest part of farming season, making the workload much easier. Gord's willingness to help in any situation is greatly appreciated by his community. Thank you for being such a great neighbour, Gord!

### Carol Rayburn

Carol was nominated by her neighbour Leigh for her positive and happy disposition, efforts to keep her neighbourhood clean and sharing extra produce and groceries with her neighbours. Thank you for being such a great neighbour, Carol!

To learn more about the Kind Heart Awards Program or to nominate a deserving person, go to [www.countygp.ab.ca/kindheartprogram](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/kindheartprogram) or contact FCSS at 780-532-9727.



## Fun for Everyone!

Fun should be accessible for everyone! As part of our commitment to providing inclusive programs to families and individuals, the County's Recreation Fee Assistance Program helps ensure facilities are more accessible to our residents.

Qualifying low income individuals and families living in the County may be eligible to receive a \$200 per-person subsidy to apply to the cost of accessing one of the following recreational facilities of their choice:

- Crosslink County Sportsplex
- Beaverlodge Recreation Centre
- Eastlink Centre



To learn more, or to apply or refer an individual or family to the program, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/rfa](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/rfa) or contact FCSS at 780-532-9727 or by email at [fcssreg@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:fcssreg@countygp.ab.ca).



# Fire Prevention Week

**October 6 –12, 2019**

Help the County celebrate Fire Prevention Week! This year's theme, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!" educates people about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

## **Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!**

Plan ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.



## **DID YOU KNOW**

- Most home fire fatalities take place between 2 and 4 a.m., while occupants are asleep. It is critical to develop an escape plan, because you need to react quickly.
- An entire home can be engulfed within five minutes.
- Most people are killed by smoke inhalation, not the flame of the fire.

These are some reasons why it's important to develop and practice an escape plan!

## **SAFETY TIPS**

- **MAKE** a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- **KNOW** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- **HAVE** an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- **PRACTICE** your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- **PRACTICE** using different ways out.
- **TEACH** children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- **CLOSE** doors behind you as you leave.

## **IF THE ALARM SOUNDS ...**

- If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- **CALL** the fire department from outside your home.

**Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/fireprevention](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/fireprevention) to learn more about developing and practicing a fire escape plan.**



# What Can I Recycle and Where?

Take a look at this handy guide that will help plan your next trip to the local recycle and waste management facility. Cut it out and post it where you can refer to it often.

	CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT	WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL	DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION	TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION	ELMWORTH TRANSFER STATION
Electronics & Appliances	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Propane Tanks (Under 100lb)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Refundable Bottles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cardboard & Boxboard	✓	✓	Visit <a href="http://www.countygp.ab.ca/recycleprograms">www.countygp.ab.ca/recycleprograms</a> for a map of community recycle bin locations!		
Vehicle Batteries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fluorescent Bulbs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pesticide Jugs	✓	✓		✓	✓
Tires	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Metal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clothing	✓				
Agricultural Plastics	✓	✓			
Rechargeable Batteries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paper, cardboard, tin, glass & plastics 1, 2, 4 & 5	✓	✓	Visit <a href="http://www.countygp.ab.ca/recycleprograms">www.countygp.ab.ca/recycleprograms</a> for a map of community recycle bin locations!		
Drop n Swap program	✓			✓	
Concrete	✓	✓			
Used Oil	✓		✓	✓	✓
Household Hazardous Waste & Paint	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

There are also 14 recycling bins that accept paper, cardboard, tin and glass located throughout the County.

Recycling some of your household waste means you can feel good about protecting our environment, reducing waste in our landfills and helping to reduce air and water pollution.

For more information about recycling and waste management visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/recycleprograms](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/recycleprograms).



# Finding Your Way Around the Clairmont Centre for Recycling & Waste Management

Are you looking to make a trip to the Clairmont Centre for Recycling & Waste Management to drop off various items you no longer need like concrete, tires, wood, household appliances, household hazardous waste, electronics, or recyclables? Refer to this map or seek a landfill attendant to help find your way around the facility.





# PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

## Upcoming Exhibits, Programs & Events

Visit [www.dinomuseum.ca/events](http://www.dinomuseum.ca/events) for more information.

### Endless Discoveries Await!

There are plenty of wild and wonderful activities and experiences for all ages at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum. Check out what's happening below and mark your calendars!

### Dinosaur Evolution

Come and see dinosaur fossils in their many weird and wonderful forms. View the results of millions of years of evolution in real dinosaur fossils discovered right here in Alberta, and compare our amazing prehistoric diversity to Earth's modern animal life.

[www.dinomuseum.ca](http://www.dinomuseum.ca) / Social Media @CurrieMuseum

### PD Day Camps

Discover your next adventure with our PD Day Camps for kids in Grades 1 to 6, available during those long days from school. Learn about dinosaurs hands-on! Take exciting trips through our galleries, create cool crafts, get outside to explore nature, and much more!

For info or to register, visit:

[www.dinomuseum.ca/pd-day-camps](http://www.dinomuseum.ca/pd-day-camps).

### Watch for Our New Youth Lecture Series

Coming this fall! Join us at the museum for exciting lectures and activities featuring scientists.

Find details as they become available at

[www.dinomuseum.ca](http://www.dinomuseum.ca), or [visitorservices@dinomuseum.ca](mailto:visitorservices@dinomuseum.ca).

### Aykroyd Family Theatre

#### A National Geographic Experience

Experience dinosaurs, nature, history, and more on the big screen at the museum's Aykroyd Family Theatre – the only National Geographic-licensed theatre in Canada. Follow Alex Honnold on his quest to climb El Capitan in Free Solo, journey back 80 million years in Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure, dig deep into the world of palaeontology in Dinosaurs Alive, and much more!

Find film info and show times at

[www.dinomuseum.ca/movies](http://www.dinomuseum.ca/movies).

### Al Lakusta Day

October 27, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate Al's discovery with free admission to our gallery, \$2 movies, a special Al Lakusta Day menu, and of course, some of Al's fossil discoveries!

There will be an Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) sponsored lecture at 3:00 p.m. in the Aykroyd Family Theatre on creepy crawlies.

In theme of the creepy crawlies, we will be holding a costume contest at 1:00 p.m.! Come dressed in your creepiest or cutest outfit to win a Family Pass to our museum.

For more information on this exciting day, visit

[www.dinomuseum.ca](http://www.dinomuseum.ca).

### Dino Story Time

Join us the last Friday of every month at 2:30 p.m. for a fun activity and live reading of a story hand-picked by our Dino Team. This event is by donation and geared towards kids ages 0-6.

Visit our website at [www.dinomuseum.ca](http://www.dinomuseum.ca) to pre-register.

### Brunch at the Museum

Enjoy Weekend brunch at the DINE-O-SAUR café! Brunch is served every Saturday & Sunday from 10 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

### Holiday Parties

Celebrate the holidays Cretaceous style! Book your company holiday party at our unique venue this season. With amazing catering options from our Red Seal Chef, party favour options from our gift shop and, access to the museum gallery, you can give your team an amazing experience that they won't forget! Book your holiday party today!

Visit [www.dinomuseum.ca/events/privatefunctions](http://www.dinomuseum.ca/events/privatefunctions) for details.





## Dino-Santa visits the Museum

Visit the Museum to meet Dino-Santa and have your picture taken! This year pets are also invited to visit Dino Santa on a special day this holiday season.

Stay tuned to our website and social media for details.  
**[www.dinomuseum.ca](http://www.dinomuseum.ca) / Social Media @CurrieMuseum**

## Birthdays at the Museum

Looking for a dino-rific way to celebrate a special birthday? We have two packages available for the perfect party!

Did you know you can also rent out our theatre for a gaming party? Bring your own console and games and play on our big screen! Reserve a table and pre-order in our restaurant for a total party experience.

Book your celebration today  
**[www.dinomuseum.ca/birthdays](http://www.dinomuseum.ca/birthdays).**

## A great Christmas gift: Palaeontologist for a Day

Looking to give someone an incredible experience? Give them the gift of becoming Palaeontologist for a Day in summer 2020!

Do you have a family member who would love to join our Palaeontology team in a hands-on hunt for dinosaur fossils in the Pipestone Creek Bonebed? Purchase a gift card for our newest summer program, which includes a day-long expedition with two meals from the Dine-O-Saur Restaurant, Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum swag, and a behind-the-scenes tour of our facility. Will you find the next prehistoric breakthrough?

Contact [visitorservices@dinomuseum.ca](mailto:visitorservices@dinomuseum.ca) or call **587-771-0662** to purchase the perfect gift.

## Volunteer

Are you passionate about your community? Support your museum by volunteering in our gallery, fossil prep lab or through community outreach and events.

Apply today at **[www.dinomuseum.ca/volunteer](http://www.dinomuseum.ca/volunteer).**





The Crosslink County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

780-830-7407 | [info@cgpsportsplex.com](mailto:info@cgpsportsplex.com) | [www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com](http://www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

### **U4, U6, U8 and U10 Indoor Minor Soccer Fun Leagues**

Register your children for these fun-filled Saturday leagues that accommodate all skill levels. Participants will be split into age groups (3–4, 5–6, 7–8 and 9–10), and all will have fun with the drills and games we have planned! Registration includes a t-shirt and a season-ending medal. Parents who coach or assistant coach will receive a \$30 refund at the end of the session. This session runs from Saturday, September 14 to Saturday, December 7, 2019.

### **Introduction to Hockey**

Designed for aspiring young hockey players this program focuses on the fundamental skills of skating and explains the game of hockey in simplest terms. Age and skill-appropriate drills focus on power skating, puck handling, and passing and receiving. Participants should be able to skate forward, and fall down and get up without assistance. Full hockey equipment is required.

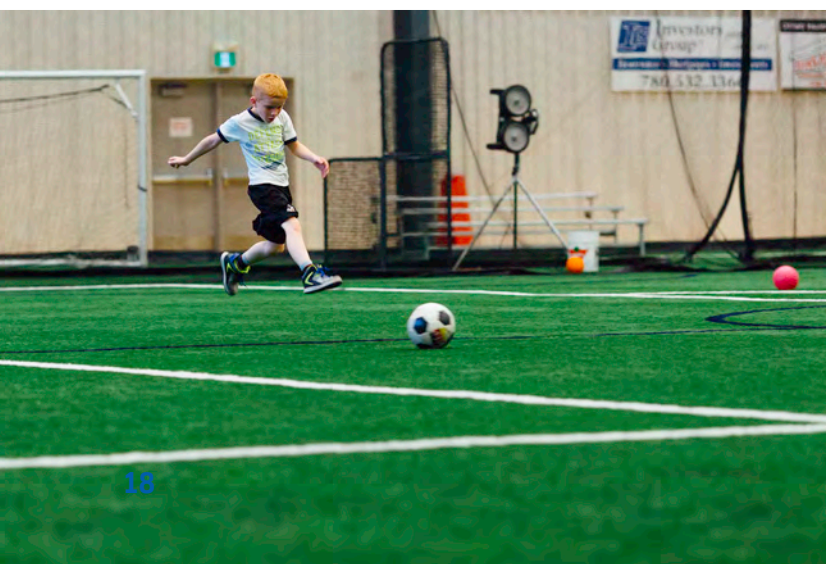
### **Hockey 101**

The Hockey Fundamentals program is designed for players who are new to the game of hockey as well as first year house league players. This program improves overall skills, teaching proper technique in power skating, puck control, and passing and receiving.

Check our website for updated schedules for both Introduction to Hockey and Hockey 101 programs at [www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com](http://www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com).

### **Tender Tots**

Come play in the Trican Fieldhouse from 9:00 a.m. to noon every weekday. Walk the track or socialize with friends and/or other parents while your child plays with our variety of toys and balls on the indoor turf field. Bring the kids in for extreme fun on the bouncy castles on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Also, no school on Fridays? Join us on Fridays until 2 p.m.





### Other Programs that are Offered at the Crosslink County Sportsplex

- Adrenaline Athletics – Tumble/Cheerleading
- Active Tots – Montessori Sports Academy for 3–5 year olds
- Be Yoga Fly – Aerial Yoga for all ages

For more information, call the Crosslink County Sportsplex at **780-830-7407**.

### Book Your Next Party or Event at the Sportsplex!

The Crosslink County Sportsplex is the place to be for your next party or event. You can book the ice rink or fieldhouse with the option of adding the KnockerBalls and/or bouncy castles. Leave the catering to either Tito's or the Over-Time Family Sports Lounge, which is now featuring Mama and Papa's lunchtime menu. Contact us at **780-830-7407** or email [info@cgpsportsplex.com](mailto:info@cgpsportsplex.com) for more information about party costs and packages, and to secure your booking.

For more information about the Sportsplex and the programs and events available, visit [www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com](http://www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com) email [info@cgpsportsplex.com](mailto:info@cgpsportsplex.com) or **780-830-7407**



### GET FIT WHILE HAVING FUN!

Sign up or drop in today for one of these exciting programs offered at the Crosslink County Sportsplex:

- Parent & Tot Skate
- Public Skate
- Adult Stick & Puck/Shinny
- Lunch Time All Ages Stick & Puck
- 13 & Under Stick & Puck
- Learn to Skate
- Introduction to Hockey
- Hockey 101
- 3 on 3 Hockey League
- 4 V 4 Youth Hockey League
- U4, U6, U8 and U10 Indoor Minor Soccer Fun League
- Fieldhouse Drop-In's
- Tender Tots (weekday parent & tot program)
- Bouncy Castle Days
- Indoor Batting Cage
- Knockerballs
- Seniors Walk & Talk  
(Free on Thursdays from October to May 2020)

For more information about these programs and drop-in activities, including class descriptions, times and locations, visit [www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com](http://www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com).



[countygp.ab.ca](http://countygp.ab.ca)



Return undeliverable  
Canadian addresses to:  
The County of Grande Prairie No.1  
10001 – 84 Avenue, Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2



**TOP ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Councillor Harold Bulford, Councillor Bob Marshall, Councillor Peter Harris, Councillor Corey Beck

**FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Councillor Linda Waddy, Councillor Daryl Beeston, Reeve Leanne Beaupre, Deputy Reeve Ross Sutherland, Councillor Karen Rosvold

## SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

**Joulia Whittleton**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
780-532-9722  
jwhittleton@countygpr.ab.ca

**Nick Lapp**  
Planning & Development  
Services Director  
780-532-9722  
nlapp@countygpr.ab.ca

**Dan Lemieux**  
Community  
Services Director  
780-532-9727  
dlemieux@countygpr.ab.ca

**Dale Van Volkingburgh**  
Public Works Director  
780-532-9722  
dvan@countygpr.ab.ca

**Dawn Sauvé**  
Corporate Services Director  
780-532-9722  
dsauve@countygpr.ab.ca

## COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

### EMAIL:

info@countygpr.ab.ca

### ADDRESS:

10001 – 84 Avenue  
Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

### WEBSITE:

www.countygpr.ab.ca

### OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Closed from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.  
and on statutory holidays

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS

Administration, Assessment,  
Economic Development, Finance  
& Systems, Communications, Human  
Resources, Public Works, Planning &  
Development Services

**780-532-9722**

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDINGS

Agriculture, Family and Community  
Support Services, Regional  
Enforcement Services, Regional Fire  
Service, Parks & Recreation

**780-532-9727**

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