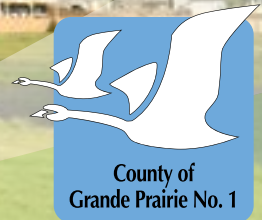


COUNTY CONNECTIONS



SUMMER 2017

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Reeve's Message



With the summer holiday season approaching, preparations are underway in communities across the County as residents gear up to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary. The County distributed \$100,000 in community grants to support a range of exciting events that

will bring people together, and several projects that will serve as long-term reminders of the spirit and people from this region that have helped shape our country. Indeed, lots to look forward to right in our backyard!

The County of Grande Prairie's Family and Community Support Services will also be marking a milestone this year, with the 50th anniversary celebration happening this month. We invite you to bring your family and friends to an old-fashioned picnic at Saskatoon Lake Community Hall on June 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to celebrate with us.

Thank-you to everyone for your patience and understanding over these past few months as our crews have worked to repair what was the worst year on record for damage to roads due to heavy rain and moisture. We can appreciate how important it is that you are able to travel safely on County roads year-round. Road maintenance and upgrades continue to be a priority for Council. This April, Council invested 40 per cent of our 2017 budget in road and bridge road projects and maintenance for the year. A month later in May, we committed an additional \$20 million in road

improvement projects across all nine divisions in the County over the next two years. By borrowing the \$20 million, we are taking advantage of low interest rates and good pricing that we may never see again as things get busier in our region.

We are seeing some very positive signs that the economy is starting to see some recovery, and this area continues to attract opportunity. The County is pleased to be working with our neighbours, the MD of Greenview and the City of Grande Prairie, to explore opportunities to develop a world-class industrial park in the Grovedale area. This partnership is a catalyst for major industrial development and will showcase the region's diversity across the globe. The project is built on shared goals between our municipalities, while supporting each municipality's autonomy and perspectives.

This month, we are pleased to host our annual County Open Houses on June 19, 21 and 22. County staff and council always appreciate the opportunity to personally meet with our residents and local business owners. It's important to us to be able to chat face-to-face about what's important to you, and it's a chance for you to meet with County staff to discuss questions you might have or discuss future direction for the County. Please drop by and see us from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Crystal Creek Community Hall on June 19, the Albright Community Hall on June 21, and the Clairmont Community School on June 22.

I hope to see you at one of the many events being held in communities throughout the County this summer! Happy Canada 150!



Crystal Creek Community Hall

Monday, June 19 5 pm - 8 pm

Located 14 km east on Hwy 670

Albright Community Hall

Wednesday, June 21 5 pm - 8 pm

Located west of Beaverlodge off Hwy 43,
south on Twp Rd 724A

Clairmont Community School

Thursday, June 22 5 pm - 8 pm

Located in Clairmont at 10407 - 97 Street



**Meet and talk to your Area
Councillor or staff members
from any department!**

For more information, visit our website or call 780-532-9722



countygp.ab.ca

2017

**Chamber of
Commerce** 
GRANDE PRAIRIE & DISTRICT

WHEN: Thursday, June 29, 2017
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

WHERE: ENTREC Centre, Evergreen Park

PRICE: \$30 + GST for Chamber members
\$40 + GST for non-members

STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS LUNCHEON

Join the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of
Commerce for the 2017 State of the County
Address Lunch, featuring County of Grande
Prairie Reeve Leanne Beaupre. Reeve

Beaupre will look back on the
past year, and share
Council's future vision
for the County of
Grande Prairie
and its
residents.

TO REGISTER

P: 780-532-5340 | **E:** info@gpchamber.com | **W:** grandeprairiechamber.ca

Have a Say in Our Future

.....

SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR THE GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The County of Grande Prairie invites residents and interested parties to have input into our Growth and Economic Development Strategy. This strategy is a once-in-a generation plan that will directly impact each one of you over the next 50 years.

Through this strategy, the County is proactively examining its current and future economic opportunities to supplement its rich agriculture, resource-based and tourism-based economy. It focuses on developing sustainable, socially-responsible growth paralleled by a diversified economy.

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

Thank-you to those who attended Community Input Sessions on April 25-27 in Clairmont, Teepee Creek and Wembley. Participants generated ideas around value-added business for existing industry that would create jobs and boost local economies. We have heard similar sentiments across the County and have also received valuable feedback through the online public engagement forum located at mycountygpc.ca – all of which will inform our research as we create the Strategy.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

We encourage those of you that have an interest in the growth and development of the County to get involved. There will be more opportunities to engage with us in person. Watch the County's social media pages as well as mycountygpc.ca for dates and locations of events. You can also join the discussion already started.

When you sign up for email notifications you will receive information about all new initiatives and updates including surveys, events, and project news. You can also contact Pamela Nordin, Planning and Development Project Manager, at 780-532-9722 or email pnordin@countygpc.ca.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

2017





OCTOBER 16

www.countygpc.ca

ADVANCED POLLS
October 7 & 14
10 am - 2 pm
Locations TBD



GET OUT AND VOTE!

Municipal Elections

.....

ALL RESIDENTS SHOULD CONSIDER RUNNING IN THE NEXT MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Area Councillors have an enormously rewarding and important job: they are responsible for working together to set the direction for the County over the four years of their term. This includes creating and implementing policies and programs that have a huge impact on our residents and the communities where we live.

That is why the County is strongly urging anyone who thinks they have the necessary skills and a passion for the job to consider running in the October 16 Municipal Election.

Prospective candidates can learn about the role by reading Council agendas and minutes, by talking to current members of Council, and by sitting in on some Council meetings.

An information guide for candidates considering running can also be downloaded at: www.countygpc.ab.ca/election.

Nomination Packages can be picked up at the County Administration Building located at 10001- 84th Avenue in Clairmont or can be downloaded at www.countygpc.ab.ca/election.

Nomination forms need to be filed with the Returning Officer between 10 a.m. and noon on Nomination Day, September 18, 2017.

Candidates intending to run in the election are required to register with the municipality prior to accepting any campaign contributions.

Anyone with questions can contact Sheryle Runhart, Returning Officer, at 780-532-9722.

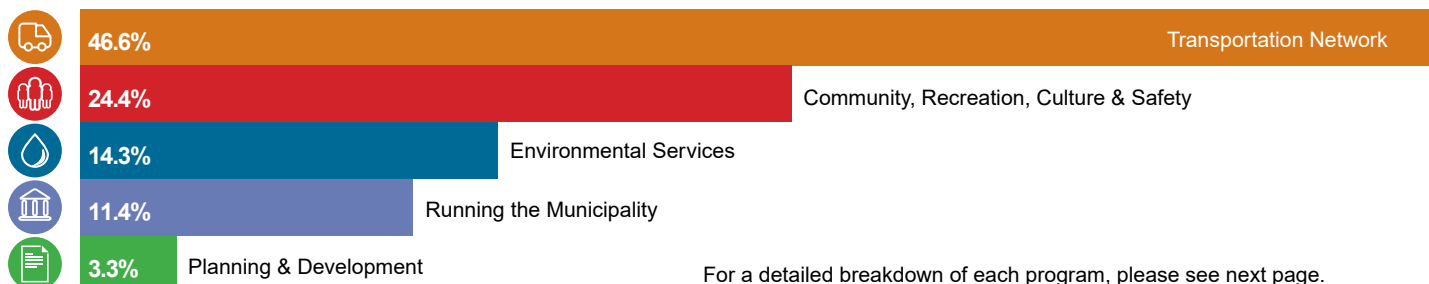
For further election information, visit www.countygpc.ab.ca/election.

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 2017 will be \$131.8 million and include:



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 leisure facilities, and County staff salaries.

The 2017 operating budget has been set at \$75.7 million.

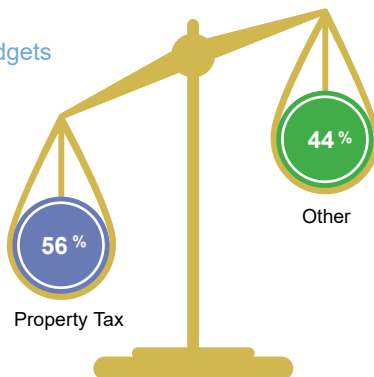
Capital Budget

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 2017 capital budget has been set at \$56.1 million.

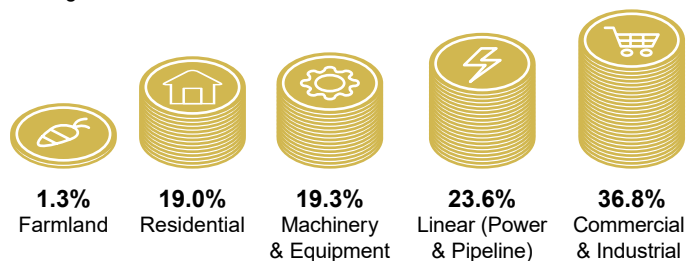
Step Two: Funding the Budgets

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 page.



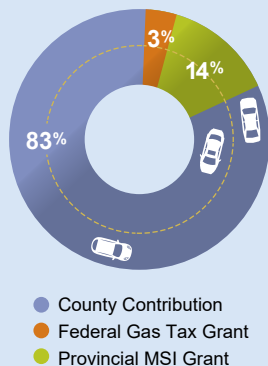
Step Three: Setting Property Taxes

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. Assets subject to property tax include the following sources:



Funding County Roads & Bridges

Maintenance of 3,600 kilometers of roads and 317 bridges and bridge culverts are some of our biggest expenses. In 2017, we budgeted \$34.4 million for new road construction, including 29.3 kilometers of road surfacing. This year, the County will receive a \$1.1 million Federal Gas Tax grant as well as a \$4.9 million Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant, which will assist us build and revitalize our local public infrastructure.



Step Four: Provincial Education & Seniors Foundation Taxes

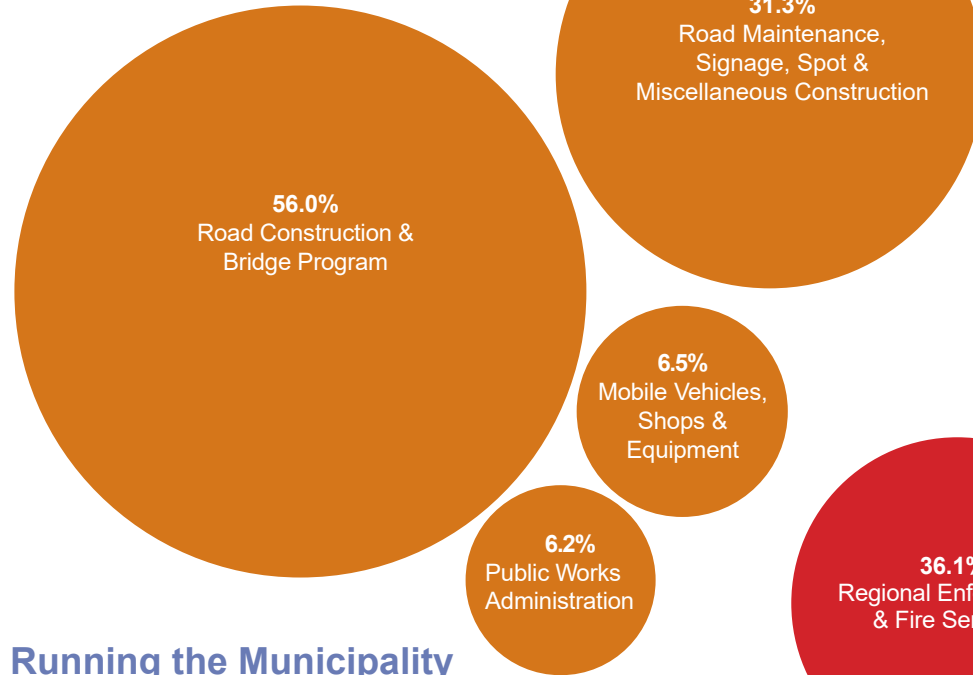
All Alberta municipalities are required to collect taxes on behalf of the Government of Alberta. Approximately 39% of County residential taxes are collected for the province to support education, and 0.7% is collected to support the Seniors Foundation.

Total Taxes Collected \$96.4M
Provincial Education \$22.3M
Seniors Foundation \$0.4M

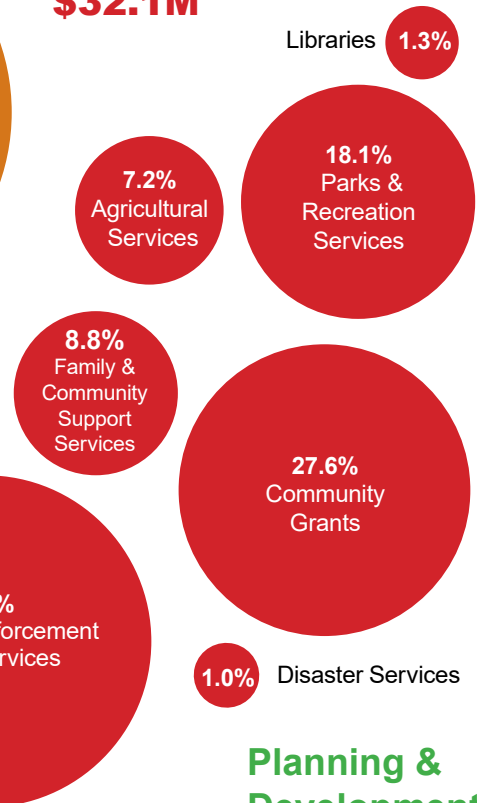


Step One: Detailed Operating and Capital Expenses

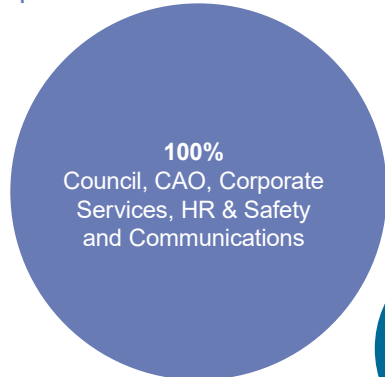
Transportation Network \$61.4M



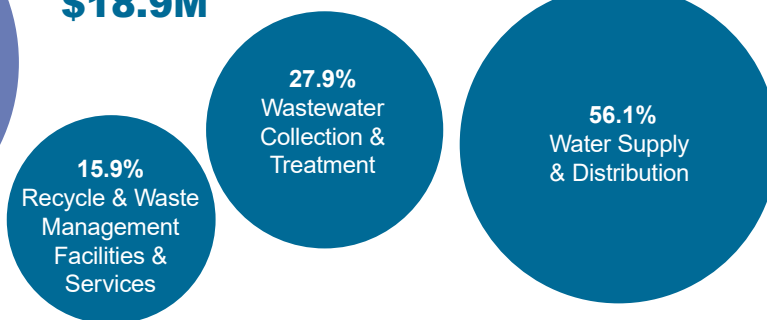
Community, Recreation, Culture & Safety \$32.1M



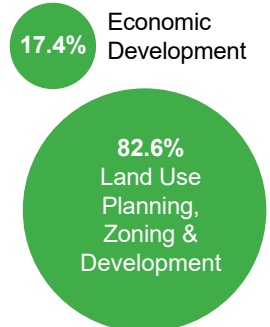
Running the Municipality \$15.0M



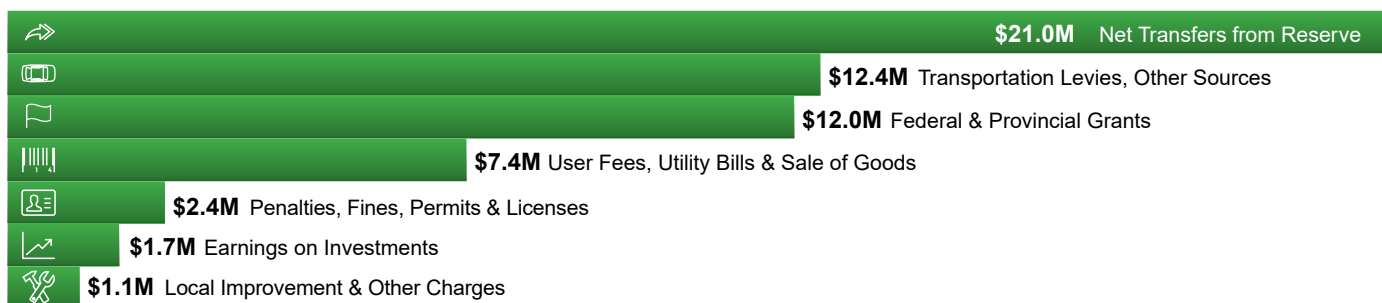
Environmental Services \$18.9M



Planning & Development \$4.4M



Step Two: Detailed Breakdown of Other Funding Sources



For comprehensive information about the County's budget, please refer to the "2017 Budget Highlights Booklet" at www.countygp.ab.ca/budget

Approved Budget Focuses on Value



The 2017 Final Budget was approved by Council this April. The budget is based on the strategic plan that outlines the vision, values and direction of the County. The details of the budget are explained in the two-page overview called “Making Sense of Budgeting” included in this edition of County Connections. The impact to taxes on the average home with a 2016 assessed value of \$415,000 is about \$45 dollars per year.

The focus of the budget is on providing value.

Council and senior administration put significant effort into developing the annual budget and carefully managing the money we get from ratepayers.

“Developing a sound budget is critical,” said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. “Our focus is to create the best possible value for the residents and communities we serve while keeping taxes as low as possible.”

The County of Grande Prairie strives to offer a high quality of life for residents. Each investment in infrastructure, partnerships, programs and services contributes to ensuring the County continues to be an ideal community to live work and play, now and in the future.

For more information about the value the County provides to the community watch our brief animated video at www.countygp.ab.ca/value. Everything you need to know about the County of Grande Prairie – all in one place!

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

When considering value for your tax dollar, it is helpful to look at the budget from the outcomes or benefits. Every dollar the County spends contributes to offering a high quality of life in one of the best communities to live, work and play.

So what value are you getting for each of the major budget items? The County of Grande Prairie is...



ACCESSIBLE & RELIABLE

- Building and maintaining a 3,600 km road system connected by over 300 bridges so we can travel with ease, even in the harshest conditions
- Investing in innovative technology like solar panels at the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management
- Providing easy public access to information via the Public Web Map and Open Data catalogue on the County website



SAFE & CARING

- Providing top-notch fire and enforcement services to keep us safe and secure by:
 - Educating and interacting with residents and community organizations
 - Responding 24/7 as needed
- Reaching out and caring about our neighbours with Family and Community Support Services to help those who need it most and by providing community grants to several non-profit, sports, recreation and culture and community groups annually
- Providing waste management and recycling facilities to keep our County clean and environmentally responsible



AN ACTIVE DESTINATION

- Creating and sustaining parks, recreation and cultural activities that reflect the majesty and diversity of our County while keeping us active and engaged
- Attracting visitors to explore our beautiful County and contribute to our local economy



GROWING & VIBRANT

- Proactively planning to meet our current and future needs and ensure the ongoing health and prosperity of our community and region
- Actively leading with a Council and Administration that listens, cares and engages its residents
- Supporting a strong agriculture community that creates great livelihoods for residents



A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

- The County works collaboratively with other municipalities to jointly deliver many services that contribute to a good quality of life for all residents including regional fire and enforcement services, emergency planning and response, the regional landfill, libraries and development/safety permitting

Tailored Insurance Program for County Facilities Operated by Societies and Non-Profits

An opportunity exists for societies and non-profit organizations located in the County with buildings under their care that need to be properly insured at an affordable price. It is available through the County and is tailored specifically toward rural communities.

"Community buildings generally have unique features, such as age, that can make them difficult or costly to insure," said Justin Brown, Insurance and Risk Management Coordinator. "Our insurance provider understands the risks involved with these older buildings."

The benefits of working through the County often means that the administration associated with this activity is almost eliminated. In addition, the County will bill the organization at a time that works best for them and their business cycle, and the organization will have access to better insurance rates and more appropriate coverage.

As the County's Risk Manager, Brown is also able to provide advice on actions an organization can take to address areas of risk in their facility. Often, this can lead to a further reduction in insurance rates.

Along with the traditional meeting, Brown is available to attend community meetings. Just recently, he gave a presentation to residents in Teepee Creek regarding future plans for the rodeo grounds.

"There is a lot of confusion and 'jargon' surrounding insurance and I felt like I was really able to help them make some good decisions," added Brown.

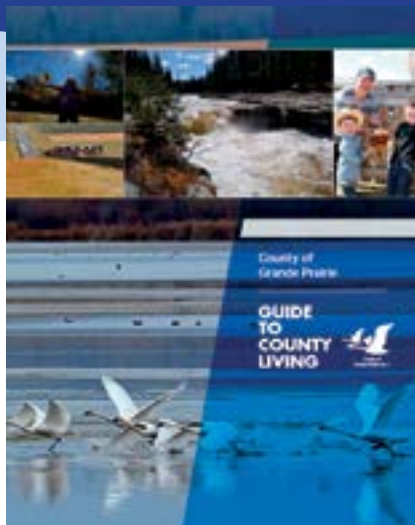
Buildings that may qualify for this program include community and seniors facilities, arenas, rodeo grounds, museums, churches; the list is endless. The key is they are located in the County and are operated by a society or not-for-profit organization.

"This is a specialized program directed to a specific market, and the provider cannot be a retailer," said Brown. "We are looking for groups and societies that fit this niche."

For more information, contact Justin Brown by phone at 780-532-9722 or by email at jbrown@countygp.ab.ca.



Guide to County Living



Have you ever wondered about what is accepted at our recycling and waste management facilities? Or maybe you are interested in learning about building permits, County campgrounds, or our bylaws for pet ownership. The recently published Guide to County Living contains a huge amount of helpful information about what life is like in the County, and it answers all of these questions plus so much more!

The Guide is a must-read for all residents, even those of us who are lucky enough to have lived in the County for a long time. New residents and those considering making the move here will also find the Guide particularly useful as it provides answers to all of those questions that inevitably come up after relocating to a new area.

Specific topics that are covered in the Guide include:

- Governing in the County of Grande Prairie
- Education
- Careers and Employment
- Leisure and Recreation
- Libraries
- Staying Informed in the County of Grande Prairie
- Living in a Rural Community
- Weed Control
- Emergency Preparedness
- Road Maintenance
- Health and Emergency Services
- Family and Community Support Services
- Senior Citizens
- Animal Control and Bylaws
- Housing in the County of Grande Prairie
- Home-based Businesses
- Recycling and Waste Management Services



To learn everything you need to know about life in the County of Grande Prairie, download the Guide at www.countygp.ab.ca/guide. To get a print copy, visit the County's Administration Building located at 10001 – 84 Avenue in Clairmont or stop by Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Office in Centre 2000 in Grande Prairie.



FCSS 50th YEAR PICNIC

The County of Grande Prairie's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is turning 50!

Celebrate with us on:

June 17, 2017

11 am – 3 pm

Saskatoon Lake Community Hall

Cost to attend: FREE



Join us for an old-fashioned fun filled afternoon for people of all ages!

- Old-fashioned picnic games
- Horse drawn wagon rides
- BBQ burgers, hot dogs and refreshments
- Pie eating contest
- Live music
- Connect with friends, family, neighbours and FCSS Staff

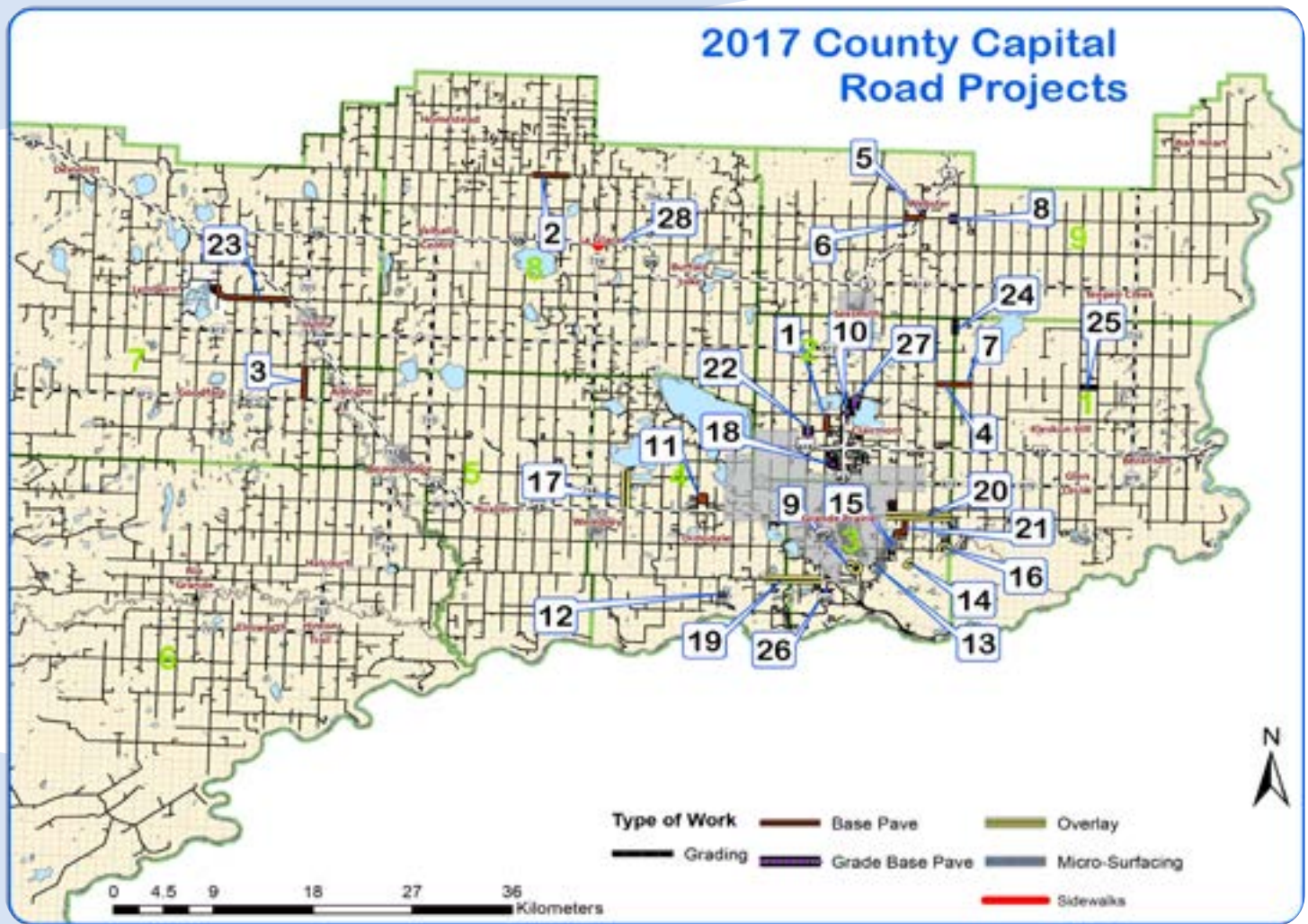
We hope to see you there!

**For more information, visit our website
or call FCSS at 780-532-9727.**



countygp.ab.ca

2017 Road Construction Projects



Another busy road construction season has begun in the County. Council has approved approximately \$34.4 million to go towards road construction projects for 2017.

The proposed new construction includes 29.3 km of road surfacing including the paving of gravel roads, surfaced road overlays, and re-construction, with divisional road projects to be determined. Grant funding for road projects is estimated at \$6 million, including a \$1.1 million Federal Gas Tax Grant and \$4.9 million in funding from Provincial Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) Grant.

Safety is the County's number one priority. Residents and commuters in the region are reminded to practice extreme caution and reduce speed when near construction zones and equipment. The County would like to thank residents and commuters for their patience over the construction season.

The following is a list of activities on County roads that will be underway over the 2017 construction season. The

projects are labelled from 1 to 28 and show on the 2017 Road Projects Map. An interactive map is also available to view at www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction. Small projects including the re-grading and re-building portions of local roads, as well as bridge upgrades and replacements are not included on this map; however, will also be underway over the construction season.

An additional \$20 million is being invested on improving roads in all nine of the County's divisions over the next two years. The specific roads and time frame for each of their completion is yet to be determined, and will be posted on the County's website as information becomes available.

Information regarding project timelines and any potential traffic impacts and detours caused by the County's road construction projects will be posted on www.countygp.ab.ca as information becomes available.

| REF# | ROAD PROJECT | TYPE OF WORK |
|------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Range Road 62 from Township Road 723 North to Township Road 724 | Base, pave 1.6 km |
| 2 | Township Road 750 and intersection from Range Road 85 West to Range Road 91 | Base, pave 3.2 km |
| 3 | Range Road 111 from Highway 671 North to Township Road 730 | Base, pave 3.2 km |
| 4 | Mercer Hill (Township Road 730) from Range Road 51 West to Range Road 52 | Base, pave 1.7 km |
| 5 | Range Road 53 from Township Road 744 North for 1/2 mile | Base, pave 0.7 km |
| 6 | Township Road 744 from Range Road 53 North to Range Road 54 | Base, pave 1.9 km |
| 7 | Township Road 730 from Range Road 50 West to Range Road 51 | Base, pave 1.6 km |
| 8 | Township Road 744 (Webster Road) from Range Road 51 West for 1/2 mile | Grade, base, pave 1 km |
| 9 | Wedgewood Phase 2 | Overlay 1.7 km |
| 10 | Clairmont West Phase 2 | Grade, base, pave 0.8 km |
| 11 | Lakeview Estates | Base, pave 2.9 km |
| 12 | Spring Creek | Base, pave 0.85 km |
| 13 | Pine Valley Estates | Microsurface 1.6 km |
| 14 | Bear Ridge Estates | Overlay 0.7 km |
| 15 | Sandy Ridge Estates | Microsurface 2 km |
| 16 | Arthur Lane | Overlay 1 km |
| 17 | Saskatoon Island Provincial Park | Overlay 3.9 km |
| 18 | Whispering Ridge School Sidewalks and Road Extension | Grade, base, pave 0.34 km |
| 19 | Correction Line Township Road 710 from Highway 40 West to Range Road 65 | Overlay 5.2 km |
| 20 | Township Road 714/ Richmond Avenue | Overlay 5.8 km |
| 21 | Range Road 53A, Township Road 712 and Range Road 54 | Base, pave 2.7 km |
| 22 | Range Road 63 and Bauman Road Intersection | Grade, base, pave 1.1 km |
| 23 | Horse Lake Road/Township Road 734 from Highway 43 to Range Road 120 | Base, pave 7.5 km |
| 24 | Range Road 51 from Township Road 733 North to Township Road 734 | Grade 1.6 km |
| 25 | Township Road 730 from Range Road 35 West to Range Road 40 | Grade 1.6 km |
| 26 | Range Road 62 from River Road Estates Entrance South to Township Road 704A | Grade, base, pave 1.5 km |
| 27 | Clairmont Parkway Phase 1 | Grade, base, pave 2 km |
| 28 | La Glace Sidewalk Improvements | Sidewalks |

Fifty-five Community Groups Benefit from County Grants

Approximately \$183,078 in operating assistance grants has been awarded by the County of Grande Prairie to numerous non-profit organizations and volunteer groups and \$683,785 in grants to 31 sports, recreation and cultural facilities to cover utility and other general operating expenses.

"We have witnessed and experienced the immense benefits that sports, culture and recreation has on individuals, families and our communities. The local non-profit organizations that provide these opportunities are the backbone of our community which is why we remain committed to supporting them," said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. "We thank them for their hard work and dedication to quality of life."

The grants provide operating assistance to non-profit organizations and volunteer groups that provide recreational or cultural services to their community. These groups must be open to County residents, provide proof of volunteerism and fundraising, and achieve identified goals. Applications are available through any of the six area County recreation boards to eligible community-based volunteer groups, non-profit organizations, municipalities, schools and sports clubs.

Operating assistance grant monies were allocated to:

- Beaverlodge-Elmworth-Hualien Recreation Board - \$25,100
- Clairmont-Bezanson Area Recreation Board - \$36,038
- Grande Prairie Recreation Board - \$36,080
- Hythe-Demmitt-Valhalla Recreation Board - \$26,270
- Sexsmith-La Glace-Teepee Creek Recreation Board - \$31,848
- Wembley-Dimsdale-Saskatoon Lake Recreation Board - \$27,740

Grants for General Operations

- Beaverlodge Pool - \$279,915

The following indoor ice arenas will receive \$39,720 each:

- Beaverlodge Arena
- Clairmont Arena
- Hythe Memorial Arena
- LaGlace Igloo
- Sexsmith Arena
- Wembley Arena

The following curling rinks will receive \$10,610 each:

- Beaverlodge Curling Club
- Bezanson Curling Rink
- Grande Prairie Curling Club
- Hythe Curling Club
- LaGlace Curling Club
- Sexsmith Curling Club
- Mountview Curling Club

The following community halls will receive \$4,240 each:

- Albright Community Hall
- Hinton Trail Community Hall
- Rio Grande Sports Assoc.
- Goodfare Community Hall
- Bezanson Memorial Hall
- Clairmont Community Hall
- Crystal Creek Hall
- Five Mile Hall
- Demmitt Hall
- Lymburn Community Assoc.
- Homestead Hall Assoc.
- Valhalla Heritage Society
- Teepee Creek Hall
- Webster Community Hall Assoc.
- Dimsdale Hall
- Saskatoon Lake Hall



The Grande Prairie Children's Festival Committee is very grateful for the County's contribution. The grant allowed us to host the first ever arts festival for children in Grande Prairie and reduce participation costs for students in County schools to attend. Children got to experience puppetry, pottery, dance, musical variety, ventriloquism, authors, Aboriginal Storytelling, Francophone performers and more! Students also toured several important facilities and sites in the Grande Prairie including the Centre for Creative Arts, Montrose Cultural Centre, Prairie Art Gallery, the Royal Canadian Legion, Grande Prairie Live Theatre and more.

- Aum Nicol
Grande Prairie Children's Festival



This grant has helped the Grande Prairie Piranhas Swim Club purchase new timing equipment for our electronic timing system. This is a huge impact for the way that we are able to run our competitive swim meets. Thank-you County of Grande Prairie.

- Dian Sedore
Grande Prairie Piranhas Swim Club



Grants in previous years has helped the Homestead Hall Association make important upgrades and additions to their facility and grounds including paving pathways to increase accessibility, building an outdoor family pavilion, upgrading the playground and more.

Throughout the years the County has been a champion of our community making it possible for this facility to put an addition on the hall, upgrade the playground, install paved pathways for handicap users and build an amazing outdoor family pavilion. Now, with the 2017 operating assistance grant of \$2,000, the Board will be able to provide facility users the opportunity to play volleyball. All improvements to the Homestead Hall Association facility add to the appeal and diversity of this great community-gathering place.

- Linda Johnson
Homestead Hall Association



County Funds 150th Celebrations Across Region!

Council awarded \$100,000 in Canada 150 grants to community groups within County of Grande Prairie boundaries who plan to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation with an event, program or legacy activity.

"These grants will ensure that residents are able to celebrate this Canadian milestone along with the rest of the country, and the projects will be remembered for years to come for their unique contributions to the spirit of the County," said Reeve Leanne Beaupre.

The following 14 groups will receive Canada 150 grants:

- \$10,000 to Bezanson Community Groups for a Canada 150 wood carving monument
- \$10,000 to the Clairmont & Area Seniors Centre and Agricultural Society for enhanced Canada 150 celebrations at the Clairmont Fall Fair
- \$10,000 to the Homestead Hall Association for a Pioneer Honour Wall in Valhalla Centre
- \$10,000 to the Rio Grande Sports Association for a legacy Canada 150 flag pole and fireworks at Rio Grande Rodeo



- \$10,000 to the Wembley Parks & Recreation Society for enhanced community Canada 150 celebrations
- \$7,800 to South Peace Regional Archives to design the legacy publication of the Olwen Sanger-Davies hand painted diary
- \$6,800 to the Borderline Cultural Foundation & Demmitt Cultural Society for a special Canada 150 Anniversary concert
- \$6,400 to the Town of Beaverlodge for a Canada 150 legacy mural project
- \$6,000 to the Canada 150 Emergency Services Ball Committee (consisting of County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire and Enforcement Services, City of Grande Prairie Enforcement Services and Fire Department, Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership, Alberta Health Services and Emergency Medical Services) for the joint emergency services Canada 150 Regimental Ball
- \$6,000 to the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum for a Century of Paleo in the Peace Country stairwell graphic
- \$5,500 to the La Glace & District Agricultural Society for enhanced Canada 150 fireworks and entertainment at Go & Show Days
- \$5,000 to the Red Willow Boys & Girls Camp Society for enhanced Canada 150 celebrations to commemorate the new kitchen launch
- \$4,000 to the City of Grande Prairie for enhanced pyromusical fireworks
- \$2,500 to the Dimsdale Recreational Society for a Canada 150 Family Fun Day

All projects will take place within the County in the 2017 calendar year. For further information about the Canada 150 grants, visit www.countygyp.ab.ca/canada150.



Early Childhood Development

The County of Grande Prairie FCSS department offers a variety of early childhood development programs for families throughout the County. Currently, there are Playschool programs in Bezanson, Clairmont, Elmworth, La Glace and Valhalla Centre. In January 2018, the County will open a new playschool in the Whispering Ridge School. If you are interested in your child attending one of our programs, contact the instructor in your area for more information.

The County also runs Parent and Tot programs in Bezanson, Clairmont and Beaverlodge. For more information on these, please contact the program in your area or visit www.countygp.ab.ca/fcss.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS PLAYSCHOOL PROGRAMS

| PROGRAM | INSTRUCTOR | CONTACT | DAYS/TIME | START DATE |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Bezanson Playschool | Theresa McLeod | 780-518-0981 bps@countygp.ab.ca | Monday, Wednesday 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. | October 2 |
| Clairmont Playschool | Tracy Johnston Karen Gamache | 780-567-3553 cps@countygp.ab.ca | Three programs. Varying days and times | September 5 |
| Elmworth Playschool | Angie Sanderson | 780-354-6538 eps@countygp.ab.ca | Monday, Wednesday 12:15 - 3:30 p.m. | October 2 |
| La Glace Playschool | Elissa Moe | 780-505-0785 lps@countygp.ab.ca | Monday, Wednesday 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. | October 2 |
| Valhalla Playschool | Reanna Stockman | 780-354-2576 vps@countygp.ab.ca | Tuesday, Thursday 1:00 - 3:40 p.m. | October 3 |
| Whispering Ridge | To be determined (TBD) | jnellis@countygp.ab.ca | TBD | Projected start date January 2018 |

PARENT AND TOT PROGRAMS

| PROGRAM | INSTRUCTOR | CONTACT | DAYS/TIME | START DATE |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Bezanson Parent and Tot | Pam Rintoul | jnellis@countygp.ab.ca | Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | September 12 |
| Clairmont Parent and Tot | Pam Rintoul | 780-567-2843 wrc@countygp.ab.ca | Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | September 14 |
| Beaverlodge Little Tykes | TBD | 780-354-2204 thodges@countygp.ab.ca | TBD | TBD |



Nominate a Kind Heart Today



Kind Heart Awards are given to County residents who deserve to be recognized for their good deeds or altruistic acts. Recipients willingly give their time and energy to help others in need, without being asked or paid.

Eligible acts of kindness can include any good deed. Examples range from helping a farmer clear a crop, mowing the neighbours lawn, to bringing a warm meal to a senior or family experiencing hardship.

The awards were created to honour those who go out of their way to help others and create community spirit.

The County would like to thank the following award recipients for their contributions to the communities in which they live.

NORMA STEEVES

Norma was nominated by Mary Drysdale for being a wonderful homemaker, mom and neighbour. For the last two years, Norma has kept Mary's walkway and driveway clear of snow and ice. In the summer, Norma mows Mary's lawn. Norma is known to drop by with her famous cinnamon buns, or a meal whenever it is needed. Norma and her family are the neighbours who will always do whatever they can to help somebody. Norma just offers this help, and shows up when she sees a need.

STEPHEN BOYNE

Nominated by Carla Boyne, Stephen is a long term resident of the County who is always shovelling neighbours driveways, even after a long work shift, lending his trailer and helping load or unload moving boxes, changing oil, watching pets assisting with yard projects, repairing equipment, and most recently helping out with a flooded basement. He never asks for anything in return and is always willing to share a smile, Girl Guide cookies and conversation.

KRISTA UMBLE

Nominated by Eva O'Handley for having a Kind Heart, Krista is known for popping in with a hot meal, sweet treats and often shovelling the driveway over the winter. Even after moving out of the neighborhood she continued to bring fresh garden vegetables, a supportive ear and a hug. On Easter Sunday the neighbours were surprised with a complete Easter dinner. She is always donating her time, and energy to the community, who all benefit from having her around.

SETH EIFERT

Carol Mayer nominated Seth for having a Kind Heart. He is a young man who is always ready to lend a hand to his family, friends and neighbours. He is wonderful with seniors and often accompanies his father when he visits seniors in their homes and the hospital. He is quick to help those in need when it comes to problems with technology and is always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need.



Area Councillor Daryl Beeston presenting the Kind Heart Award to Norma Steeves.



Reeve and Area Councillor Leanne Beaupre presenting the Kind Heart Award to Stephen Boyne.



Deputy Reeve and Area Councillor Ross Sutherland presenting the Kind Heart Award to Krista Umble.



Area Councillor Bob Marshall presenting the Kind Heart Award to Seth Eifert.

To learn more about the Kind Heart Awards Program or to nominate a deserving person, go to www.countygp.ab.ca/kindheartprogram or contact Family and Community Support Services at 780-532-9727.



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

Council Approves Modernized Animal Control Bylaw

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County of Grande Prairie Council has approved revisions to the Animal Control Bylaw focused specifically on dogs.

"The revised bylaw incorporates stronger penalties for vicious and nuisance dogs, a wider, more comprehensive approach to dog bylaws, and modernized fines," said Reeve Leanne Beaupre.

The most significant changes to the bylaw include removing all breed specific references; therefore, eliminating restricted dog breeds, and increasing the amount of dogs allowed on 10 acres or less from two to four.

Other revisions include removing the classification of "running at large" should the County build any designated off-leash parks; safeguarding dogs in vehicles; and banning dogs from recreational playing fields and school playground areas.

In addition, the minimum penalty for infractions has increased from \$50 to \$100. These increases reflect those of other municipalities as well as recent court decisions.

"The old bylaw was written in 1997 for a primarily rural municipality with a smaller population," said Stuart Rempel, Manager of Regional Enforcement Services. "The updated bylaw reflects the growth of the community. As well, the vast majority of the feedback and concerns stem from the more populated areas."

The bylaw does apply to hamlets within in the County which includes Bezanson, Buffalo Lakes, Clairmont, Demmitt,



Dimsdale, Elmworth, Goodfare, Halcourt, Huallen, La Glace, Lymburn, Teepee Creek, Valhalla Centre and Wedgewood. It does not apply to the Towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, Wembley and the Village of Hythe which are independent municipalities who have their own bylaws.

The new bylaw was also created with a wider, more comprehensive approach in mind with the hope that surrounding communities will eventually adopt it. This consistency in legislation will make relocating between communities easier for those who have dogs, and will help ensure there is an understanding throughout the area of what is and is not permitted.

For more information on the revised Animal Bylaw, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/animalcontrol or contact Regional Enforcement Services at 780-532-9727.



IT'S SUMMER! THE COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST IS IN FULL SWING!

The County of Grande Prairie and Watson's Foto Source want you to be a winner! Enter the 2017 Summer Phase Photo Contest for your chance to win exciting prizes and to be featured at the County's 14th Annual Photo Contest Evening.

Categories include:

- **Scenes of the County**
Includes outdoor scenes and sites
- **People at Work**
Includes people ACTIVE at work sites, in the office or field, or at employee parties and celebrations
- **People Engaged in Agriculture**
Photos of individuals and families ACTIVE in farm work, including gardening, farming, harvesting, loading bales, sheep shearing, animal feeding and 4-H events
- **Sports, Recreation and Culture**
Photos of indoor and outdoor sports, recreation and cultural activities, events and festivals

Upload your photos quickly and easily on the County's website at www.countygp.ab.ca/photocontest

You can also submit your 4"x 6" photos by mail to:

County of Grande Prairie
Photo Contest
10001 - 84 Avenue
Clairmont, AB T0H 0W0

For more information, go to www.countygp.ab.ca/photocontest or contact Hetti Hula, Economic Development Coordinator at 780-532-9722.



Photo Credit: Judith Ann Standing

Deadline: August 30, 2017

Helmets Mandatory for OHV Riders under Provincial Legislation



Photo Credit: Dan Wever

DID YOU KNOW?

From 2002 to 2011, 147 people died from off highway vehicle (OHV) accidents in Alberta. Failing to wear helmets and alcohol consumption were the prevailing causes of serious injuries or death.

- Of the 147 who died while riding an ATV, 68 per cent were not wearing a helmet at the time of their death.
- Of the children (16 years and under) who died, 43 per cent were not wearing a helmet.

Source: Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research (ACICR) 2002-2011

Neglecting to follow these conditions could also lead to even greater consequences such as **injury** and **death**. Don't be another statistic!

The provincial government has passed a law making helmets mandatory for drivers of off-highway vehicles (OHV). The laws requires helmets be worn by anyone riding in, on, or being towed by an OHV on public land.

WHEN HELMETS ARE REQUIRED

Helmets are required for anyone driving, operating, riding in or on, or being towed by, an OHV. An OHV is any motorized vehicle built for cross-country travel, including:

- Dirt bikes, motorcycles, mini-bikes and related 2-wheel vehicles
- All-terrain vehicles (atvs)
- Utility terrain vehicles
- Miniature motor vehicles
- Amphibious vehicles
- Snow vehicles, including snowmobiles and snow bikes

EXEMPTIONS

Helmets are not required when using an OHV:

- On your own property
- On private property with permission of the owner
- On first nations reserve or metis settlement lands, unless they have a law requiring it
- When performing farm and/or ranch work
- If you wear a turban as a member of the Sikh faith, or have received an exemption from Alberta Transportation

Helmets are not required in vehicles that:

- Have manufacturer installed rollover protective structures and seat belts, which have not been modified and are being properly worn
- Meet standards for motor vehicles designed for use on a roadway and has seat belts. (e.g., unmodified 4x4 trucks, SUVs and jeeps)

FINES

The fine for not wearing a helmet is \$155. The fine for wearing a helmet that is not Canadian Standards Association (CSA) compliant is \$93. This is the same penalty as riding a motorcycle without a helmet.

If you witness an OHV user violating conditions in Bylaw #3023 and the Alberta Traffic Safety Act, don't hesitate to report it to the RCMP at 780-830-5700 or the County's Regional Enforcement Services at 780-532-9727 or online at www.countygp.ab.ca/occurrencereport.



How to Make Requests for Sponsorship

Are you a community group or organization looking for support whether it is through sponsorship for a fundraising or community event? If so, the County may be able to help you. In order for your request to be properly processed and possibly granted by the Recreation Advisory Committee and County Council, the following steps must be completed:

- Complete the Council Meeting Sponsorship and Silent Auction Items Request Form available online at www.countygp.ab.ca by searching "Event Sponsorships", or by grabbing a hard copy at the Community Services Building located on Township Road 724, 1.6 km west of Highway 2.
- Submit the completed form by email to www.parksandrecreation@countygp.ab.ca or in person to the front reception of the Community Services Building between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. excluding the lunch hour on weekdays excluding holidays.
- Requests will only be accepted quarterly. Submit the request form for sponsorship, or silent auction items/door prize items by the deadlines:

| EVENT DATE | REQUEST FORM DEADLINE |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| October November December 2017 | September 1, 2017 |
| January February March 2018 | December 1, 2017 |
| April May June 2018 | March 1, 2018 |
| July August September 2018 | June 1, 2018 |

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation department at www.parksandrecreation@countygp.ab.ca or 780-532-9727.

County's Open Data Portal Upgrades More User-Friendly



A fresh look is adding to a bounty of ever-expanding data at the County of Grande Prairie's Open Data Portal. Open Data is self-service portal that allows the public to download a variety of information that is managed by the County right from their own computers.

All County of Grande Prairie open data is now available in a one-stop-shop. The new look has also created a more user-friendly portal.

The Open Data platform provides data free-of-charge to industry, the public, and research organizations on web-based devices anytime and anywhere with an internet connection.

The open data portal has many uses, including:

- Alberta Health Services (AHS) for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and regional 911 dispatch
- Canada Post for address verification
- Generation of flood plain mapping
- Sharing common data sets like roads, points of interest, addresses, and trails
- Base data for developers and engineering companies
- RCMP crime analysis
- Graphic Information System (GIS) programs by schools and university students

There are currently 50 different datasets in the catalogue, with recently added ones including:

- Firearms restricted areas
- Fire guardian zones
- Fire permit zones
- Elections
- Job openings
- Growth information

A complete explanation of Open Data is available through an online video at www.countygp.ab.ca/opendata or on the County's Open Data site at opendata.countygp.ab.ca



Online Reservation System Makes Camping Convenient at Pipestone Creek



Campers heading out to Pipestone Creek Campground can now reserve their spot online ahead of time from their computer or smart device. The online reservation system, being piloted by the County for the 2017 camping season, will bring a new level of convenience and eliminate the need for campers to arrive early to secure a spot and pay for nights they don't actually stay there.

The online reservation system allows guests to:

- View a map that shows the location of each available site
- Read about individual site sizes, available amenities, and the maximum occupancy
- Select and reserve a campsite according to personal needs and preferences
- Create an account for future return visits
- Pay online via credit card

For more information and to book a spot at Pipestone Creek Campground, go to www.countygp.ab.ca/pipestone

Pipestone Creek Campground was selected as the pilot site for the online reservation system to increase camper convenience and because it is the busiest of the County campgrounds.

The campground is surrounded by stunning natural beauty, is close to the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, the Wapiti River and other wonderful attractions, and has a full list of amenities including:

- An onsite caretaker
- A day-use area with a dinosaur themed playground
- Horseshoe pits
- Outdoor restrooms
- Free showers
- Fire pits
- Free firewood
- Walking trails to a dinosaur bonebed
- Picnic tables
- A sani-dump

If the reservation system is as successful as anticipated, the County is considering rolling it out at other key campgrounds in the future.

For further information about the online reservation system, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/pipestone or contact Parks & Recreation at 780-532-9727.



Preventing the Spread of Weeds



HEADLAND WEED CONTROL

Weeds on your headlands create a constant seed source for your fields. Although managing these weeds requires extra effort, it is time well spent. If you have grassy headlands and use herbicides, you may apply an herbicide with residual action that will help control the weeds for up to two to five years. This then removes the seed source, and can save time and money on weed control.

INSPECTING FOR PREVENTION

County Inspectors are out in the fields again this summer, working to prevent the spread of weeds. We understand that weed control is difficult, particularly in non-cereal crops; however, whether you are growing cereals, oilseeds or pulses, if our inspector identifies weeds in your crop, he/she will follow up with you by leaving an information package left at your residence or will mail it to you. You are then required to contact us to discuss your control plans and your file will be closed, with a final check on the date you have indicated weeds will be dealt with. If you do not contact your weed inspector, you may be issued a weed notice.

ACREAGE OWNER HERBICIDE PROGRAM

Do you live on a rural acreage and are looking for an effective herbicide to address regulated weeds on your property? Because many legal herbicide mixtures are not available to smaller landholders, the County's Acreage Owner Herbicide Program provides an opportunity for acreage owners to obtain effective herbicides to control noxious weeds through a course specifically designed for them and their needs

To be eligible, the County must first determine whether regulated weeds are present on the property. Following an online course and successful completion of an exam, acreage owners will receive certification, which, when taken to the County Agricultural Fieldman, will allow the owners to access two of the more effective herbicides for weed control. For more information, contact the Agriculture department at 780-532-9727, or visit the Lakeland College website and search for "Pesticide Applicator Certification" under "Services and Facilities."



100 Year Farming Policy Changes

The County recently made changes to our 100 Years of Farming Policy, to recognize the significant contributions of our century farmers. There are now two streams for the 100 Years of Farming Award – The Heritage Farm Award and the Pioneer Farming Award.

The Heritage Farm Award still relies on proving continuous ownership of homestead lands, and always having farmed them. The new Pioneer Farming Award recognizes farming families who have been continuously farming in the County of Grande Prairie for 100 years, either on lands they own or on rented lands. We welcome applicants for these awards. For criteria and applications, visit the County of Grande Prairie website under “Departments” then click on “Agriculture” and “100 Years of Farming.”

The Kirkham Family, 100 Years of Farming Award past recipients.



Equipment Rentals Available

The County's Agriculture department's Rental Equipment Program has commenced for the 2017 season. Three skid-mounted sprayers that fit in the back of a pick-up, a tree seedling planter and a plastic mulch applicator are available on a first-come, first-serve basis to County rate-payers. For more details, such as insurance coverage required or equipment required to use these items, visit our website under “Departments,” then click on “Agriculture” and “Equipment Rentals.”





Come Play!

The Crosslink County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

780-830-7407

info@cgpsportsplex.com
crosslinkcountysportsplex.com

GET FIT WHILE HAVING FUN!

Come and try out our FitMom Boot Camps on Monday and Wednesday mornings, Oilfield Power Hour on Tuesday and Thursday lunch breaks, or Seniors' Zumba Gold on Thursday mornings. Sign up or drop in today for one of these exciting programs offered at the Sportsplex:

- Summer Camps
- Seniors' Zumba Gold
- FitMom Boot Camps
- Stick and Puck
- Learn to Skate
- Fieldhouse activities
- Adult Shinny and Stick and Puck
- Lunch Time Stick and Puck
- Tender Tots
- Bouncy Castle Days
- Seniors Walk and Talk
- Ball Hockey
- Yoga
- KnockerBall
- 13 and Under Shinny
- Lacrosse
- U5, U8 and U11 Soccer League
- Learn to Skate
- Adult Non-Contact Hockey League – Register your team for the next season!
- Indoor batting cage

For more information about these programs and drop-in activities, including class descriptions, times and locations, go to our website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Canada Day, Heritage Day & Labour Day

On Saturday, July 1; Monday, August 7; and Monday, September 4, we will be hosting several drop-in programs that are fun for everyone! Check for drop-in schedules on our website.

Kids' Themed Summer Camps

Make sure your kids have an active and fun-filled summer break enroll your five to 12 year-old children in our Themed Summer Break Camps. The nine camps take place from July 4 - September 1, 2017.

Camps include indoor and outdoor play, crafts, activities and games! Discounts are available for two or more children. Register for a full or partial week, or even for single days. We have early drop-off times and late pick-up times to accommodate working parents.

For more information or to enroll your child, call **780-830-7407** or go to **crosslinkcountysportsplex.com**

Hockey Camps

Join our professional instructors on the ice! For more information or to register, visit the following websites:

Blades of Steel – bladesofsteelhockey.com

Your Hockey – yourhockey.com

Grande Prairie Storm – Development Camps
grandepraiestorm.ca

Perfection Hockey School – perfectionhockeyschool.com

Sully Sports – Tommy Sullivan
rockymountain@poweredgepro.com

Learn To Skate & U4, U6, U8 & U11 Indoor Soccer Fun Leagues

These popular programs will resume in the fall – stay posted on dates by visiting crosslinkcountysportsplex.com

Book Your Next Party or Event at the Sportsplex!

The Sportsplex is the place to be for your next party or event! Book the ice rink, fieldhouse, dry floor, meeting room, KnockerBalls or a Bouncy Castle! And leave the catering to us – choose from a wide variety of food and drinks from either the Over-Time Family Sports Lounge or Tito's Concession. Contact the Sportsplex for more information about party costs and packages, to view menus, and to secure your booking.





Summer Day Camps

Discover your next adventure this summer by participating in the museum's summer camp programs. Beginning in early July, children aged four through 10 are invited to explore, learn, and play in a variety of activities that will take them through our galleries and into the great outdoors. Learn more about the programs we offer or sign up at www.dinomuseum.ca/summercamp.

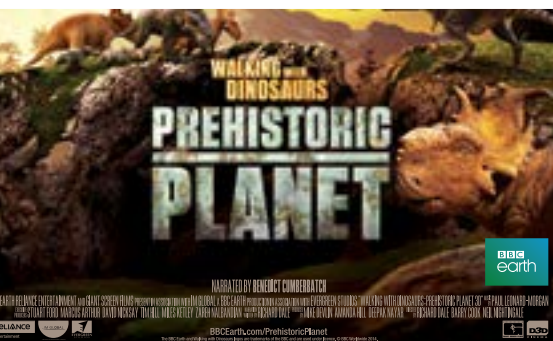


Community Day

Attention all dinosaur enthusiasts: the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum's Summer Community Day – an opportunity to visit and explore the museum's world-class gallery free of charge – is currently in active planning stages! Keep a close eye on the museum's website and social media channels for more details as they are announced.

Bonebed Tours

This summer, the museum is offering interpretive tours of the Pipestone Creek bonebed, one of the densest dinosaur fossil sites in the world. Learn how a chance fossil find led to one of the biggest dinosaur discoveries in history, then explore the area yourself – and possibly uncover the next palaeontological breakthrough! Contact www.visitorservices@dinomuseum.ca or phone **587-771-0663** for more info or to sign up.



Free Lecture Series

Learn about the ins and outs of palaeontology straight from the experts at the museum's monthly lectures. Dates and topics for this summer's lectures are available at www.dinomuseum.ca/events/lecture-series

New at the Theatre

Now at the Aykroyd Family Theatre: National Geographic's Extreme Weather and BBC Earth's Walking with Dinosaurs: Prehistoric Planet.

Extreme Weather

"Weather has always been one of the most dynamic and complex forces shaping our planet, but now it's intensifying in varied and complex ways. Extreme Weather takes us to the frontlines where few have gone."

Walking with Dinosaurs: Prehistoric Planet

"On a thrilling ride, we spin back in time to an extraordinary prehistoric world: the Cretaceous period, 70 million years ago – the last great flourish of the dinosaur era. Come on a journey through the seasons, and experience a year in the life of dinosaurs fighting, feeding, migrating, playing, and hunting."



Jurassic World Q&A

Experience Hollywood's dinosaur adventure Jurassic World on the big screen again at the museum's Aykroyd Family Theatre on Saturday, September 23 starting at 3 pm. After the film, Derek Larson, the museum's palaeontologist and assistant curator, will host a question and answer session on the dinosaurs of the movie and other fascinating dino facts. Keep an eye on the museum's website and social media for more details!

Visit www.dinomuseum.ca/events for more information.





TOP ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Councillor Corey Beck, Councillor Harold Bulford, Councillor Daryl Beeston, Councillor Peter Harris, Councillor Karen Rosvold

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Councillor Brock Smith, Reeve Leanne Beaupre, Deputy Reeve Ross Sutherland, Councillor Bob Marshall

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10001 – 84 Avenue
Clairmont, AB T0H 0W0

WEBSITE:

www.countygp.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 Services, Regional
Enforcement Services, Regional Fire
Service, Parks & Recreation

780-532-9727

 Follow us on Twitter

 Watch us on YouTube

 Like us on Facebook

Return undeliverable
Canadian addresses to:
The County of Grande Prairie No. 1
10001 – 84 Avenue, Clairmont, AB T0H 0W0

