

COUNTY CONNECTIONS



FALL 2022

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Reeve's Message



With the support of my fellow Councillors, I was honoured to be elected to serve as Reeve for the County of Grande Prairie during Council's annual organizational meeting in October. Our gratitude to Councillor Leanne Beaupre for the steadfast support and guidance she provided during her 10 years as Reeve, and in her ongoing role as Councillor for Division 3.

This is a challenging time for our economy. Prioritizing residents' needs by continuing to invest in critical projects and essential programs will remain my focus in this new leadership role. Earlier this year, Council approved the 2022 capital and operating budgets with no increase to the municipal tax rate.

Moving into this year's budget, we will consider inflation and the heightened cost of living as we strive again for a balanced budget that meets the needs of residents. Council will be holding 2023 interim budget discussions on December 7-9, and I encourage residents to attend or listen in virtually.

For County Council and administration, 2022 was exceptionally busy and I am pleased to share some highlights along with plans for the year ahead.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Congratulations to the Vavrek Family who were recognized as the 2022 Farm Family of the year during the Peace Country Agri-Show banquet.

There have been a diversity of initiatives, programs, and services this year to support our communities:

- The Emergency Coordination Centre was activated in response to the Bearhole Lake Wildfire in British Columbia. This proactive step saw County staff working with our neighbours to support residents and livestock operators, keeping our communities informed, prepared, and safe.

- Approval of the County's Indigenous Peoples Relationship Policy formally affirmed our commitment to expand our knowledge and continue to form positive, respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples and organizations.
- Recreational use of stormwater ponds in residential subdivisions continues this winter season. A program is being developed, similar to the existing Neighbourhood Ice Surface Program, where interested residents can apply to manage the ice surface on their local stormwater pond. The County will oversee the program and coordinate the training of volunteers. We also remind residents that grant funding is available for developing land-based neighbourhood ice surfaces.
- Council approved \$6.5 million in recreation, community, culture, library, seniors and special needs transportation, and FCSS grants to various organizations across the region.
- \$200,000 in capital funding was approved to support construction of a new Sunrise House Youth Emergency Shelter.
- The fourth annual Kids Can Catch event at the County Sportsplex Pond sold out again this year.
- \$25,000 was donated to the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation Mozart Mission for breast cancer screening equipment. Our hearts are with those who have been touched by this disease as we do our part to help ensure positive outcomes for more women.
- After a two-year delay due to the pandemic, we celebrated the grand opening of the La Glace Fire Hall and resumed our annual County Open Houses in June.

SUPPORTING OUR ECONOMY

- Feedback gathered in the fourth phase of the Business Retention and Expansion Survey will assist the County in identifying initiatives to support local businesses' needs.
- The approved Northeast Clairmont Area Structure Plan outlines the long-term future use and development of 3,300 acres of land. Find details at www.countygp.ab.ca/asp.
- A second successful job fair was held at Evergreen Park. Read about it on page 12.

PRIORITIZING ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

You could not drive far this construction season without encountering road crews and I appreciate your patience. Continuous investment in roads and infrastructure improves residents' safety and supports sustainable economic growth for our region, whether through County-driven projects or work completed in partnership with our neighbouring municipalities.

- Major projects included road surfacing work, bridge replacements such as the Rio Grande Bridge, and other rehabilitation projects.
- A new, natural trail system opened at Pipestone Creek Campground and Park with approximately seven kilometres winding through the Wapiti River valley.
- The County has applied for a federal Natural Infrastructure Fund grant to support funding a portion of the new four-kilometre gravel trail that will connect the County paved trail at Township Road 704A to the pedestrian underpass of the new Wapiti River bridge. The goal is to have majority of the trail constructed by Fall 2023 so that it can be connected to the new pedestrian underpass in Spring 2024 once Alberta Transportation has completed the bridge construction project.
- The recently commissioned Clairmont Regional Lift Station replaced three aging lift stations for improved wastewater pumping capacity. The infrastructure will help position our most populated hamlet for future growth. Funding was provided by Aquatera and the County of Grande Prairie along with provincial and federal government grants.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The County continues to work with the City of Grande Prairie and the MD of Greenview on several joint initiatives, including:

- Advocating for the Highway 40X connector between Highways 40 and 43, and continuing Highway 40 twinning from south of Township Road 700 to the Canfor Road.
- The five-year Regional Workforce Development Strategy is moving forward from the initial study to attracting skilled workers who can support our region's economic growth.

- Hosted events in Calgary with potential investors and industry leaders to demonstrate our commitment to Alberta's energy sector, highlighting our many economic opportunities.
- The County and City equally shared the cost to install traffic signals at the intersection of 108 Street and 132 Avenue to accommodate higher volumes of traffic, improve connectivity between the municipalities, and improve safety for motorists and students walking from the Whispering Ridge area to St. John Paul II Catholic School.
- The three municipalities each contributed \$250,000 toward replacing the Regional Fire Training Centre.

ADVOCATING FOR THE COUNTY

Council is committed to bringing our region's concerns and interests to the province and in August, we approved three priority areas in our Advocacy Plan for 2022-2023.

- **Economic Development** – focusing on workforce and infrastructure development, talent attraction, and economic diversification.
- **Transportation Infrastructure** – seeking support for transportation projects to increase supply chain resiliency and public safety.
- **Health Care** – improving services to better meet local needs, including attracting and retaining healthcare professionals.

We are also asking the province to establish a new electricity pricing model that eliminates disparity across the province.

In September, Council brought forward local and regional concerns to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General regarding a provincial police force.

The County's 2021 Annual Report provides more details about the projects, programs and services undertaken over the past year. Council's new Strategic Plan identifies our six priorities and charts our path forward for 2022-2026. I encourage you to read both on the County's website or pick up copies during your next visit to one of our County offices.

As we look ahead to the winter months, I want to wish everyone an early season's greetings. I look forward to sharing another update from the County in the spring newsletter. For regular updates, follow the County on Facebook and Twitter.

Also, visit our website, www.countygp.ab.ca and sign up to receive news, alerts, and events in your email inbox at www.countygp.ab.ca/subscribe.





Interim Budget Meetings

Every December, County Council holds meetings to review financial plans for the upcoming and following years.

The interim budget meetings provide an opportunity for Council to review the planned budgets. Final budget meetings are held in the spring to finalize all the numbers. Meetings are available to the public via live stream. Find connection instructions and meeting agendas at www.countygp.ab.ca/events.

Interim meetings for the 2023 budget:

December 7, 8 & 9 | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Financial Services at 780-532-9722.



County Office Holiday Hours

County Offices will be closed from Friday, December 23, 2022 to Monday, January 2, 2023, inclusive.

All essential services will be maintained during office closures. Online services can be accessed at any time at www.countygp.ab.ca.

Regular office hours will resume on **Tuesday, January 3, 2023.**

Questions? Please contact **780-532-9722.**

**Wishing you a
happy holiday and
a joyful New Year!**

County Boards & Committees

Members of County Council participate on various internal and external boards, committees and task forces, representing the County of Grande Prairie and the voices of their constituents.

Each September, applications are open to public members to provide an opportunity to serve. Thank you to all residents who submitted applications. To find out who has been appointed to the County's boards and committees, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/boards.



countygp.ab.ca

Let it Snow



ALL ABOUT SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

Snow and ice control is the County's priority throughout the winter season. Dedicated equipment and crews work to keep everyone moving safely across paved and gravel roads, bridges, and trails.

Crews dedicated to snow removal operate 20 graders, five plow trucks, three large tractors, and three loaders to clear and maintain over 3,600 km of roads across the County.

After a snowfall event, crews follow a priority system for clearing to manage snow and ice on winter roads.

- ✱ High-volume and high-speed roads (also known as arterial or hard-surfaced roads) are cleared first, once 3 - 4 cms of snow has collected.
- ✱ Less busy paved and local gravel roads are cleared second, once 10 - 15 cms of snow has collected.
- ✱ Intersections, curves on roads, and hills are salted, sanded, and/or gravelled, also starting with priority roads.
- ✱ Hamlets and residential subdivisions are cleared by a dedicated crew once 10 - 15 cms of snow has collected. Within these areas, high-volume (main) roads and school zones are priority.

WHAT ABOUT LARGE SNOWFALL EVENTS?

Crews aim to clear all rural roads within five days of significant snowfall, and hamlets and residential subdivisions within 12 days. Multiple snowfalls in a short period of time, or frigid temperatures, may affect this cycle. Crews work as efficiently as possible.

Want to learn more? The Winter Road Maintenance policy is available at www.countygp.ab.ca/snowremoval.


SUBSCRIBE TO STAY IN THE KNOW ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SNOW REMOVAL

Hamlets and some residential neighbourhoods in the County are cleared by a specific crew and equipment. Neighbourhoods with curb and gutter along the streets have temporary parking bans put in place throughout the winter to allow crews to clear snow safely and efficiently. Areas include:

- The Hamlet of Clairmont, from 100 Avenue to 116 Avenue
- Subdivisions of Whispering Ridge & Westlake Village in the Hamlet of Clairmont
- Subdivision of Wedgewood
- Subdivisions of Maple Ridge & Taylor Estates
- The Hamlet of Hythe

Watch the digital signage at the entrance to your neighbourhood. When the No Parking sign is lit, a temporary parking ban is in effect and vehicles must be moved from roadways between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. for snow removal.

Live in one of these neighbourhoods? Make sure to subscribe to the new notification process to stay in the know about residential snow removal.

 News

Stay up-to-date on County of Grande Prairie news

<input type="checkbox"/> Committee of the Whole Highlights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential Snow Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency and Public Safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Council Highlights	<input type="checkbox"/> Latest News	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic and Roads

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/subscribe and sign up to Residential Snow Removal news. Subscribers receive notifications on residential snow removal progress and temporary parking restrictions directly to their email inbox.



WHAT ABOUT OTHER NEIGHBOURHOODS LIKE CARRIAGE LANE AND GOLDEN ROD ESTATES?

The residential snow removal process with temporary parking restrictions is in place in areas with a concrete curb and gutter and street parking. Rural residential areas and subdivisions with ditches are cleared separately. For questions about clearing in those areas, contact Public Works at 780-532-7393.

CLEARING PAVED TRAILS

County crews also maintain the network of paved trails through the winter season with snow and ice control. Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/trails for up-to-date status reports on trail conditions and maintenance.

PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS

Clearing snow from primary and secondary highways is done by Alberta Transportation. For updated highway reports, call or visit 511 Alberta.

DO YOUR PART FOR SAFE SNOW REMOVAL

To ensure we can clear snow quickly and safely, residents and businesses are asked to do their part.

- During periods of heavy snowfall or other extreme weather conditions, please have patience as crews work to clear snow from your area as quickly as possible.
- Please use extreme caution and reduce your speed when approaching plows, graders, and other snow removal equipment.
- Remember to keep snow and ice off roadways. County bylaws prohibit pushing snow onto or across roadways, or onto any other property other than your own. If windrows freeze, they can cause accidents, or damage County equipment and private vehicles.

SENIORS SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

Residents aged 65 or older or individuals with disabilities, who live on two or more acres of land and have difficulty clearing their driveway, can apply to the Senior Snow Removal Program. Following a snowfall event, once County roadways are cleared, crews will clear the driveways of the more than 400 residents who are supported by this program. Private driveways cannot be cleared upon request, so make sure to register for the program if you qualify.

Age 65+

To register, complete the online form at www.countygp.ab.ca/seniorsnowremoval or contact Public Works at 780-532-7393.

Residents with a Physical Disability

Contact Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) at 780-532-9727 to register.



Be a Good Neighbour this Winter

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FOLLOW THE COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW

The County's Community Standards Bylaw lays out rules for homeowners and residents to make sure our communities are safe for everyone during the snowy season.

CLEAR YOUR SIDEWALKS WITHIN 24 HOURS

Once snow falls, you are responsible for keeping a clear sidewalk in front of the property you own or rent.

- Property owners and occupants must remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24-hours of a snowfall.
- Keep the snow on your property. It is illegal to clear snow onto roads as it can freeze and create a major safety hazard.

KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR & ACCESSIBLE

When responding to a fire, access to water can make the difference in saving homes and lives.

If you live next to a fire hydrant, you are responsible for keeping it clear of snow and accessible for emergency services personnel.

"The time it takes our crews to dig out a snow-covered hydrant could save your house or your neighbour's," says Deputy Fire Chief Bart Johnson. "It's essential that we can work as quickly as possible once we are at the scene of a fire."

DIRECT YOUR DRAINAGE

Sump pumps, eavestroughs and any type of pump drainage on your property must drain within your own property lines. To avoid creating ice patches and other hazards, do not drain onto trails, sidewalks or other public lands.

Failing to follow this rule can lead to fines or other penalties for repeat offenses.

REPORTING

Concerned that the Community Standards Bylaw or other County bylaws are not being followed? Report an incident to Regional Enforcement Services at 780-532-9727 or online at www.countygp.ab.ca/report using the "Report an Occurrence" form.

Read more about the Community Standards Bylaw at www.countygp.ab.ca/csb.



Community volunteers leading recreation on stormwater ponds with new program

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Residents living in subdivisions with stormwater ponds can apply to manage the ice surface on a volunteer basis. The program provides the option for neighbourhoods to maintain their local storm pond surface as a winter recreation opportunity, following last winter's pilot project. More information about the program and process for volunteers to apply is available at www.countygp.ab.ca/stormwaterponds.

OHV Winter Safety Reminders



Thoughts of zooming through snow drifts on open fields and travelling endless miles of trails will bring a glint to the eyes of snowmobile riders in the County of Grande Prairie and across Alberta.

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs), such as snowmobiles, side-by-sides, amphibious vehicles, and quads, can be fun to use in fall and winter – when safety is top of mind. Here are some reminders and resources to ensure your rides are safe and enjoyable.

1. Using a helmet while driving an OHV in Alberta is the law. Wear one that is an appropriate size with face and eye protection.
2. No child/youth under 16 should operate an adult OHV.
3. Refuse to carry or be a passenger on a single-rider snowmobile or other OHV.
4. Alcohol, drugs, and OHVs don't mix. It's illegal and dangerous.
5. You can maximize your fun and enjoyment by taking an operator safety course. Visit www.albertasnowmobile.ca to access information on training, safe operation, memberships, club listings, trails, and more.
6. Unsafe and illegal operation of OHVs can lead to serious injuries and result in significant penalties such as:
 - Illegally consuming alcohol - **\$300**
 - Illegally conveying alcohol - **\$120**

- Operating an unregistered OHV - **\$162**
- Operating an uninsured OHV - **\$324**
- Stunting - **\$567**
- Failing to wear a safety helmet - **\$162**
- Equipment violations (headlights, stop lights, brakes, exhaust) - **\$81**
- Trespassing on private property - **\$600**
- Operating an OHV on designated Environmental Reserve land, developed trails, and outside Designated Usage Zones and/or roadways - **\$300**

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/bylaws for details on the County's Off-Highway Vehicle Bylaw 3023. To report a violation, call 780-532-9727 or visit www.countygp.ab.ca/report.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OHV LAWS AND SAFE PRACTICES

- www.alberta.ca/off-highway-vehicle-helmet-law.aspx
- <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Alberta/Pages/all-terrain-vehicle-atv-safety.aspx>
- www.transportation.alberta.ca/3278.htm
- www.alberta.ca/motorized-recreation-on-public-land.aspx

TIPS FOR WINTER RIDING

- Plan your trip and pack emergency and first aid supplies.
- Tell someone where you're going and the route.
- Make sure your machine is safe and running properly.
- Travel with others when possible and be familiar with the terrain.
- Take extra caution when riding in low light and inclement weather.
- Ensure that you are properly dressed for the weather.
- Respect private land – ask before you access. It may appear to be an empty field; however, trespassing on private rural properties can result in the loss of snow-covered unharvested crops, among other issues.



Curbside Waste & Recycling Collection Holiday Schedule

County residents should note that there will be no changes to the schedule for waste cart and blue bagged recyclable collection during the holiday season. If you have any questions, please call the Landfill Information Line at 780-513-3967. For more information on the County's recycling and waste management facilities and programs, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/recycleprograms. Further holiday waste and recycling information continues on page 10.





Got your Waste Card for the new Clairmont Centre Access Program yet?

Have you visited the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management lately? We launched a new Access Program and Waste Card on November 1, 2022, that changes the way you and your household move around the Centre!

CLAIRMONT CENTRE ACCESS PROGRAM

Under the new Access Program, each County household will now be able to dispose of up to 1,000 kg of waste for free each calendar year.

This new program provides a standard level of access for all residents.

While there's no limit to the overall amount of waste that you can bring to the Clairmont Centre each year, anything above 1,000 kg will be subject to standard tipping fees. Tipping fees for a load of waste will vary depending on weight. The minimum tipping fee is \$10.

There's also no limit to the amount of recycling that County residents can dispose of for free. Make sure to reduce, reuse, and recycle!

NEW WEIGHT LIMIT

If you're wondering what 1,000 kg of waste looks like think of it this way – 1,000 kg is about 2,200 pounds, which is equal to 156 black garbage bags or 52 full rolling curbside waste bins. Essentially, it's the same amount collected from a household each year through the curbside waste collection program.

The annual weight limit will reset for all Waste Card holders on January 1 each year.

It's important to know that you cannot roll over any of your 'unused' waste limit from year to year. The new program launched in November to allow you the chance to get used to the program and track your waste for two months before the limit resets for 2023.



CLAIRMONT CENTRE WASTE CARD

To keep track of your waste, you're going to need a new Clairmont Centre Waste Card. The new Waste Cards are wallet-sized and will replace the old rear-view mirror Access Tag. Each household will receive one complimentary Waste Card and additional cards can be purchased at the scale-house for \$20 each.

Residents with an existing account under the old Landfill Access Tag Program can get a new Waste Card by simply confirming their name and residence with scale-house staff on their next visit. New residents, or those without an existing account, will need to fill out an application form and bring identification on their next visit to the Centre, including Photo ID and something that shows proof of residence or land location (i.e., utility bill, tax notice, etc.).

MOVING AROUND THE CENTRE

Once you have your Waste Card, simply stop and scan on your way in when talking to the scale house attendant. Then stop, scan, and verify with the attendant on your way out. Scanning each time you drive over the scale will accurately weigh your waste.



Because recycling isn't included in the annual waste limit, there are two options for accessing the Clairmont Centre when you bring in both waste and recycling on the same trip. You can either:

- **Scale in and out TWICE on the same trip.** Tap your card to drop your recycling off first, then tap your card out and come back around to weigh only your waste. This will allow scale-house staff to ensure that the weight of your recycling isn't deducted from your annual weight limit; or
- **Include recycling in your total weight.** Recyclables are often light and will not significantly impact your household waste total.

If you have questions about how to access the Clairmont Centre under the new Access Program, talk with our friendly site staff members! They can help.

BENEFITS OF THE NEW PROGRAM

The County is committed to being an environmental steward and to introducing processes that encourage positive environmental practices in our community.

The Clairmont Centre Access Program is a proactive step to reduce waste production and extend the life of our landfill cells to reduce capital costs over time. The newest landfill cell at the Centre cost \$4.7 million to develop in 2021.

By individually reducing our waste, we can see benefits within our own households and the overall environment.

Take a moment to consider the waste your household generates. Are there things that could be recycled instead of thrown away? Could you compost your organics instead of tossing them in the trash? Do you have gently used household items to drop off at the Shelve and Share instead of kicking them to the curb?

The County's Bottle Donation Trailer at the Clairmont Centre is another great way to dispose of your refundable bottles while supporting local non-profit and charitable organizations.

By keeping waste out of the landfill, we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help sustain the environment for future generations.

We all win by weighing waste!



Christmas Tree Disposal Available for Curbside Recycle and Waste Collection Customers



Just like last year, residents who receive curbside recycle and waste pickup services and are billed through an Aquatera utility bill, will be able to dispose of their Christmas Trees until January 14, 2023. It's simple: place your tree(s) one metre from your waste cart on your regular collection day.

Prior to Christmas Tree collection:

- Only include live trees, not artificial trees (pre-lit artificial trees can be recycled in the e-waste program)
- Ensure all decorations, tinsel and lights are removed
- Cut your tree down to lengths of four feet or less to fit in collection trucks
- Place out no more than two trees per household

County residents without curbside waste and recycle collection services, or with artificial trees to dispose of, can bring their trees to the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management free-of-charge by showing their Clairmont Centre Waste Card. Don't have a Waste Card? Find out how to get one at www.countygp.ab.ca/wastecard.

Recycling and Waste Management Facility Holiday Hours

Please note that the County landfill/transfer station holiday hours between December 24, 2022 and January 1, 2023 are as follows:

CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

OPEN: December 27 - 30 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CLOSING EARLY: December 24 & 31 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CLOSED: December 25, 26 & January 1

DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION

CLOSED: December 25 & January 1

ELMWORTH TRANSFER STATION

CLOSED: December 25 & January 1

Note: Closing at 3 p.m. on December 24 & 31

TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION

CLOSED: December 25 & January 1

Note: Closing at 3 p.m. on December 24 & 31

Regular hours of operation will resume January 2, 2023.

WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL

OPEN: December 27 - 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CLOSING EARLY: December 24 & 31 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CLOSED: December 25, 26 & January 1, 2

Regular hours of operation will resume January 3, 2023.

Recycling and Waste Management Facility Regular Hours of Operation

CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL

Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION

Tuesday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ELMWORTH TRANSFER STATION

Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION

Tuesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/recyclingprograms to learn more about the County's recycling and waste management facilities and various recycling programs. For landfill and transfer station information, please call our Landfill Information Line at 780-513-3967.

How to Discard Used Batteries

Batteries are a prime example of something that should always be properly recycled – not discarded with household waste.

Most batteries contain harmful heavy metals like lead, mercury, copper, zinc, and lithium, to name a few. These elements are extremely hazardous to the environment and human health and can contaminate the ground and water sources if thrown into the landfill.

Lithium batteries are especially hazardous. They are used to power cell phones, laptops, and power tools, and are extremely unstable. They can ignite if they are punctured or crushed causing a fire not only in the landfill or transfer station, but also in the collection truck that hauls it for disposal.

In the event of a fire at a waste facility, the root cause is often items that don't belong in the landfill – like batteries – leading to spontaneous combustion.

The best defense against the hazards of batteries is to ensure they are properly disposed of, avoiding potential fires and other risks.



Lithium batteries can catch fire when damaged.

WHAT IS THE PROPER WAY TO DISPOSE BATTERIES?

There are several options to dispose used batteries safely and properly:

- Batteries of all sizes are collected in the recycling area at the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management
- Some stores, such as Canadian Tire and Home Depot, will accept used batteries

Thank you for keeping our environment, our waste facilities and staff safe by disposing of batteries properly.



Apply to the County's Vendor Prequalification Program

Looking for an opportunity to work with us? The County of Grande Prairie relies on a variety of vendors to supply a wide range of products and services. To apply to be considered for our list of prequalified vendors, complete our Contractor and Vendor Prequalification Package and find more information at www.countygp.ab.ca/bidding.



Unused Internet Tower? We'll Take It!

Do you have an internet tower on your property that is not being used? Have you purchased property with an internet tower that you do not need? If you answered yes to either of these questions, please contact the County. We remove internet towers at no charge!

For more information and to schedule a removal, contact the Information Systems department at 780-532-9722 or email servicedesk@countygp.ab.ca.



Second Job Fair A Success

More than 200 job seekers attended the fall job fair hosted by the County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network at Evergreen Park to help address the worker shortage in the region. The September job fair featured 45 vendors ranging from municipalities to representatives from the retail, oilfield, transportation, education and health sectors. Vendors provided positive feedback on the quality of resumes received and the overall value of the event.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IS KEY

Register for the Blue Pin Program

The County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network has partnered with Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) to offer the Service Excellence Blue Pin Certificate. Thanks to support from Alberta Labour and Immigration and the Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association Destination Marketing Fund, funding is still available for employers looking to certify their frontline staff. To become certified, participants complete courses on customer service topics designed to be balanced with a full workload and life. For certification and funding details, visit www.countygpp.ab.ca/bsn. In addition to the funded option, the program is also offered as an ongoing course at NWP.

County Offering Immediate Retail, Industrial Investment Opportunities

The County is undertaking an Investment Attraction Strategy to show business owners and investors what the County has to offer.

The local economy has weathered challenges, such as the oil and gas sector slowdown and the COVID-19 pandemic, partly because of its diversity in primary sectors, including agriculture, forestry, oil, and gas, which are supported by a skilled workforce.

The region acts as a hub for health, education, retail, and services, and benefits from its status as the northern trading centre serving both the Northern Canada and Alaska regions. Alberta's provincial sales tax policies have also added to the region's status as a shopping destination of choice for nearby communities located in British Columbia.

With an average age of 36.1, the County's growing population is younger and more highly paid than the average Albertan or Canadian.

Other positives of the region include the new Grande Prairie Regional Hospital and Northwestern Polytechnic, a strong regional education centre. Clairmont is currently home to more than 500 commercial and industrial businesses, bringing traffic into the area.

Satisfaction is high among County business owners regarding the zoning application process and the availability of water and sewer infrastructure.

The Strategy's short-term actions will focus on improving and raising awareness of the County's value, while long-term efforts will seek to raise the County's profile as an investment destination.

THE COUNTY HAS IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Retail Investment Opportunities:

- Althen Corner Area Structure Plan: Adjacent to Whispering Ridge and Westlake Village
- Balisky Hodges Area Structure Plan: Includes properties at the southeast corner of Highway 2 North and 156 Avenue, and on 102 Avenue adjacent to Whispering Ridge
- CRD Properties: 320 square foot end unit
- Travel Centre Plaza: Along Highway 2 North
- Boulet Lands: Northwest corner of Highway 43 and Township Road 724
- Clairmont Heights: Close to the Clairmont and Northfield Landing development

Industrial Investment Opportunities:

- Althen Corner: Southwest corner of Highways 2, 43 and 43X
- Crossroads North: Northeast corner of Highways 2 and 43
- Crossroads South: Southeast corner of Highways 2 and 43
- Hawker Business Park: East on Highway 43
- Dimsdale: West on Highway 43
- Emerson Trail: North on Highway 2
- Resource Road Industrial: South on Resource Road (RR 60A)

Economic Development Team Launches 'Business Walk & Talk' Initiative

As part of their business retention and expansion efforts, the County's Economic Development department has launched a new initiative to meet with County business owners.

Business Walk & Talks are informal drop-in meetings conducted over the course of a single day. In July, the team completed a walkabout in the South County Industrial Park and then focused on the Clairmont area in September.

If you own a business in the County, you can benefit from these meetings by sharing your workforce issues with the Economic Development team and discussing the type of training that would benefit your organization. The team can help you assess your current and future staffing needs, and provide resources, including extending an invitation to attend upcoming County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network events.

SAVE THE DATE



February 22-23, 2023

Watch for the schedule and list of guest speakers.

www.growingthenorth.com

Here to Help – Contact Economic Development Today!

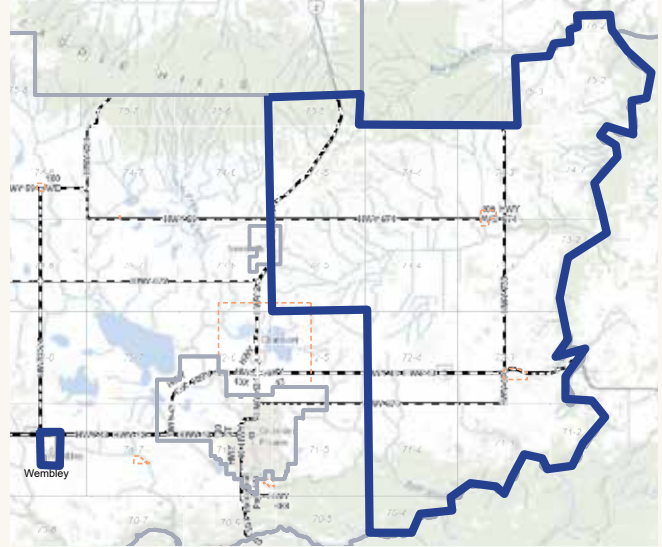
For additional information on these resources and more, or to schedule a Business Walk & Talk, contact Jordan Tidey, Economic Development Manager.



jtidey@countypg.ab.ca



780-532-9722



Ranges 2 to 4, the north portion of Range 5, and the Town of Wembley

Property Re-Inspections Begin March 1

As part of their standard five-year cycle, County Assessors will be conducting property re-inspections in a section of the County beginning March 1 until approximately July 1. Properties are assessed to determine their estimated market value, which is then used to calculate property taxes.

WHAT PROPERTIES WILL BE RE-INSPECTED?

In this cycle, County Assessors will be focusing on Ranges 2 to 4, the north portion of Range 5, and the Town of Wembley, as indicated on the map. Residents with properties due for re-inspection will receive a letter and Request for Information in January asking them to self-report any changes to their property.

HOW CAN I SELF-REPORT CHANGES TO MY PROPERTY?

- Complete the online form. The letter includes a link to the online form.
- Complete and then mail the questionnaire to the Assessment department.
- Email or call in your responses to the Assessment department.

WHEN WILL ASSESSORS BE IN MY AREA?

Assessors only conduct re-inspections during regular business hours, starting March 1, 2023. If you are not at home, Assessors may leave a call-back card on your front door.

HOW WILL I RECOGNIZE THE ASSESSOR?

Staff will be wearing a County ID badge and driving a County vehicle. They may take exterior photos of your property and ask you some questions to verify information already on file.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Assessment department at 780-513-3952 or visit www.countypg.ab.ca/inspections for more information.



countypg.ab.ca

Welcome, District Chief Matt Smith

The County of Grande Prairie is pleased to welcome Matthew Smith to the position of District Chief. He stepped into the newly created position in August and works with fellow District Chief Bryan Hall to manage fire services for all County rural fire stations.

"We share responsibilities across the County. I manage the fire stations in my area including Hythe, La Glace and Wembley, and coordinate with the fire chief in Beaverlodge," says Smith.

The new position expands his previous role as Wembley Fire Chief through a shared service agreement between the Town and the County.

The agreement is part of the County's Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework (ICF) with the Town of Wembley to ensure municipal services are provided to residents efficiently and cost effectively. The County provides additional fire trucks and equipment, as well as administrative support to ensure residents in the region continue to receive high quality fire protection.

"All the equipment is standardized, training is centralized, and we can coordinate responses to 911 calls throughout the County," says Smith. "This has resulted in the quickest, most effective response to any situation."

Smith brings a wealth of experience to his new position having started his career in 2007 as a volunteer and third-generation firefighter with the Amherst Fire Department in Nova Scotia. In 2008 he graduated from Holland College's Atlantic Police Academy with a professional firefighting certification and worked with the Amherst Fire Department until 2012 when he moved to the Grande Prairie area.



"Coming to Alberta gave me an opportunity to gain experience in industrial fire suppression as I didn't have any experience in the oil and gas sector," he says. He also provided fire training to agriculture and industry specialists throughout Western Canada and still found time to volunteer with the Wembley Fire Department.

He has also been a part-time firefighter with the County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service since 2015 and has shared his extensive education and passion for emergency management with the Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership (GPREP), further serving the community and region.

While Smith's primary office continues to be at the Wembley fire station, he also shares office space in Clairmont with the other fire chiefs.

"One of our main priorities is re-training, recruiting, and retaining volunteer and paid firefighters since COVID," he says. "Centralizing training ensures that all responders have the same knowledge and skills and can work together across the County."

Create a Fire Escape Plan this Holiday Season

The County of Grande Prairie observed Fire Prevention Week on October 9 - 15, but there's no set time of the year to learn about and practice fire safety. Check out these tips from Regional Fire Service:

- Fire won't wait. Plan your escape – This year's Fire Prevention Week theme encouraged everyone to create a fire escape plan for your home. Find simple but important actions you can take to help stay safe from home fires at www.fpw.org.
- You may have as little as two minutes to safely escape from the time the smoke alarm sounds.
- Draw a map of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance.
- Pick a meeting place that is a safe distance from your home. Practice your fire escape plan at least twice a year.
- During the holiday season, be careful with candle and décor placement. Blow out and unplug all lights and decorations before bed or prior to leaving your house.
- Check electrical cords for wear damage before plugging them in.
- Ensure your live tree is well watered and disposed of right after the holidays.



DID YOU KNOW:

The top three days for candle fires at home are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

New Assistance Program Helping Businesses Access Human Resources Services



Launched in October to coincide with Small Business Week, the County's Economic Development department is offering an assistance program for small and medium-sized businesses.

The grant program offers three streams and is geared to help County-based businesses work with certified human resources professionals to assist with employee attraction, employee retention, or policy development for working from home.

- **Employee Attraction:** To fill an existing or new position within the company.
- **Employee Retention:** To retain talent and create a positive workplace culture.
- **Work-from-Home Policy Development:** To assist in creating flexibility for productive work-from-home situations.

The grants are focused on supporting businesses with fewer than 100 employees, that do not employ human resources staff, have a high turnover rate for specific positions, have had a position posted for greater than three months, or need to create a new full-time position.

Grants will be approved through Council and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis until all funding has been maximized or the one-year grant timeline has expired. Find the application and details about the program at www.countygp.ab.ca/BusinessAssistanceProgram.

Reflecting on 2022 – Agriculture Update

It's been another busy year for the County of Grande Prairie Agriculture department. The growing season passed quickly, and thanks to the help and expertise of our committed team, the department has met its annual objectives.

There was a significant increase in skunk sightings. The County's Problem Wildlife staff removed 46 skunks from properties, making it the busiest summer to date for this issue. See the tips below for important reminders on skunk-proofing your property.

The summer months also brought weed control challenges created by conditions ranging from complete calm to high winds, along with other environmental factors. Fortunately, the stunning fall weather helped the department gain control over thistle in some problem areas. More than 1,145 weed inspection reports were completed this year. Fewer weed notices were issued due to increased communication between Agriculture Inspectors and residents, and more residents tackling noxious weed problems. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping control weeds this season, as it will have long-term benefits for our communities.

The County was able to mow all county ditches at least once during the annual program, and some areas received a second trim before the season ended.

More than 100 canola fields were surveyed for virulent black leg and clubroot, and the County's Agriculture team assisted Alberta Agriculture with their cereal and pest surveys.

We had a successful Agriculture Youth tour with students from Beaverlodge Regional High School who visited Fosters Seed and Feed, 3X Bar Land and Cattle Company, and Redwood Acres. Thanks to the wonderful hosts who gave their time to educate youth about aspects of the agriculture industry and the vital role it plays in our County.

2022 was an exceptional growing season. As machinery is stored for another year in preparation for winter, we would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and look forward to spring 2023.



Tips for Skunk-Proofing Your Property

Skunks are adaptable and thrive in many different environments. As a result, the County of Grande Prairie is experiencing an increase in the skunk population.

A skunk's diet consists mainly of insects and rodents, with bees and mice at the top of their preferred menu. They will eat eggs, pet food, garbage, and compost. Like many animals, they will set up their den near easy-to-access food sources.

HOW TO TELL IF A SKUNK IS ON YOUR PROPERTY

Skunks may be living on your property even if you have not spotted one. Since they are nocturnal, they are primarily active at night. Remember, odour is not a reliable indicator as their smell may be carried by other animals who have been sprayed. Look around your property for these indicators:

- **Signs of burrowing or digging:** Skunks dig for insects and burrow in dens. Look for small holes that measure three to five inches wide.
- **Disturbed garbage or compost:** Skunks will access any food sources that have been left outside.

HOW TO SKUNK-PROOF YOUR PROPERTY

Maintaining your property is one of the best ways to deter a skunk from moving into your backyard.

- Block access under sheds, garages, and crawl spaces.
- Wood and brush piles make excellent homes for skunks. Burn brush piles when permitted and keep wood off the ground.
- Fence your garden. Skunks can't climb.
- Store pet food and garbage inside.

STEPS TO TAKE IF A SKUNK BECOMES YOUR NEIGHBOUR

1. Follow the tips above to skunk-proof your property.
2. Encourage the skunk to move on by removing food sources and potential denning sites.
3. Spread deterrents, such as used cat litter, ammonia (follow safety precautions) chili powder, and mothballs.
4. If you need help with a problem skunk, call the County Problem Wildlife crew at 780-532-9727.



2022 Farm Family Award Recipients – The Vavrek Family of Vavy Valley Farms

Recognize an Outstanding Farming Family

Do you know an amazing farming family living in the County of Grande Prairie? Are they committed to their community and agriculture? Consider nominating them as the Farm Family of the Year!

The County of Grande Prairie and Peace Country Classic Agri-Show partner each year to recognize a family who has made significant contributions to agriculture and represents strong values in farming and community involvement.

The winning 2023 Farm Family will be honoured at the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show during the Annual Banquet event on March 11, 2023.

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS IS DECEMBER 16.

HAVE A FAMILY IN MIND?

Complete a nomination package, available online or in-person, and return it to the County's Agriculture department.

Nomination packages are available online at www.countygp.ab.ca/farmfamily or can be picked up at the County Community Services Building during business hours (8:30 a.m. - noon and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays).

For more information, contact Agricultural Services at 780-532-9727.

Recycle Herbicide and Pesticide Containers

Empty herbicide or pesticide jugs for disposal? Make sure to properly recycle them at the following County facilities:

- Clairmont Centre for Recycling & Waste Management
- West Grande Prairie Regional Landfill

Containers must be triple rinsed, punctured, have the labels removed, and be bagged. Bags for empty containers are also available at the facilities if needed. Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/recyclingandwaste to learn more about recycling programs and for facility locations and hours of operation.



Register Your Rented Land

The County offers a registration service for farmers who rent land. Under the Weed Control Act of Alberta, landowners and/or occupants are to be notified when there are regulated weeds on their property. Many farmers rent significant acres each year, and if there are weed concerns, the landowner listed in the County taxation records, and not the renter, is contacted.

If you are a producer renting land and want to be first to be informed about noxious weed concerns, complete the online 'Register Rented Land' form at www.countygp.ab.ca/vegetation or contact the Agriculture department at 780-532-9727. All information will only be used for the stated purpose and will not be shared.

Stay Active Outside This Winter

The County of Grande Prairie has a wide range of options to stay active and enjoy time with family and friends this winter. Bundle up, head outdoors and experience a variety of natural landscapes and activities. Learn more about County recreation programs at www.countygp.ab.ca/RecreationPrograms.

SNOWSHOEING THE NEW PIPESTONE CREEK TRAILS

This summer, the County partnered with Alberta Environment and Parks to create seven kilometers of new, natural trails that are perfect for snowshoeing! The user-friendly trail map, available online at www.countygp.ab.ca/trails, identifies easy, moderate, and difficult routes for all fitness levels! Don't have snowshoes? Find rental information below. While the Pipestone trails are suitable for winter hiking depending on snowfall amounts, they were not designed for cross-country skiing. Nordic enthusiasts can break trail in the Pipestone Creek campground road loops or the large central greenspace.



SNOWSHOE RENTALS

The County offers snowshoe rentals on a first-come, first-served basis (limited quantities available).

RENTAL FEES

- Full Day - \$10/pair
- Weekend or 2-day rental - \$15/pair
- Week-long rental - \$50/pair
- A refundable deposit of \$50 is required

SIZES AVAILABLE

- Large – Up to 300 lbs
- Medium – Up to 200 lbs
- Small/Children – Up to 150 lbs

PICK UP AND DROP OFF DETAILS

- Monday to Friday
- Community Services Building in Clairmont
- 8:30 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Excluding statutory holidays

RESERVE ONLINE – visit www.countygp.ab.ca/SnowShoeRentals.

EXPLORE OTHER TRAIL OPTIONS

Did you know, the popular paved trail systems across the County are maintained during the winter months? Trail systems in Clairmont (which includes the County Sportsplex Pond, Westlake, and Whispering Ridge), Wedgewood, Evergreen Park, Carriage Lane, The Dunes, Taylor Estates, and Maple Ridge are cleared and gritted by County staff during the snowy months. It's easy to check the status of trail maintenance by visiting www.countygp.ab.ca/trails.



For a more natural setting with unmaintained trails, visit the Evergreen Ridge Recreation Area just north of Evergreen Park. This area is a gateway to the Dunes public lands, accessible 24 hours a day. If venturing onto public lands, please plan a route in advance, dress appropriately and let someone know when you will return. Visit www.adventuresmart.ca for more planning tips.

WE HAVE A LEAVE-NO-TRACE PHILOSOPHY:

- Please pick up after yourself, including any pet waste and dispose it at the nearest waste receptacle. Pets should always be on leash on municipal trails and greenspaces. We also have pet waste bag dispensers at the head of each trail.
- Motorized equipment, overnight parking or camping, campfires or chopping down trees are not permitted in the parking lots and/or on paths.

VISIT OUR DAY-USE PARKS

The County of Grande Prairie is a winter recreation paradise! Looking for some dedicated space to try snowshoeing, cross-country skiing or a winter hot dog roast? Day-use areas in County parks are open to the public for the following hours and activities:

PARK	DAYS OPEN / HOURS AVAILABLE	AMENITIES AVAILABLE	IDEAL ACTIVITIES
Bear Hill	Daily* 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Trails, picnic tables, pedestal grills, no firewood (bring own wood or charcoal), porta-potty	Snowshoeing Cross country skiing (no tracks set)
Bear Lake	Weekends & statutory holiday Mondays only* 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Outhouses, group shelter (rentable), firepits, firewood, picnic tables	Picnics Marshmallow and hot dog roasts Dog walking (on leash only)
Demmitt	Daily* 24 -hour access	Washroom	Rest stop
Hommy	Weekends & statutory holiday Mondays only*	Outhouses, trails, firepits, firewood, picnic tables	Snowshoeing Cross country skiing (no tracks set) Picnics
Kleskun Hills	Daily* 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		
Pipestone Creek	Weekends & statutory holiday Mondays only* 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Outhouses, trails, firepits, firewood, picnic tables, gazebos (rentable), group shelter (rentable)	Marshmallow and hot dog roasts Dog walking (on leash only)

*Note: All parks are closed when the outdoor temperature drops below -20C with the windchill or cooler. For park locations, directions and other details, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/parks.

SPOTLIGHT: County Welcomes Community Group Support Coordinator

As the Community Group Support Coordinator and one of the newest members of the County of Grande Prairie's Parks & Recreation team, Miriam Mahnic's philosophy is simple. She believes there are passionate volunteers, workers, and leaders in our County and says it's a pleasure to support their endeavours as they continue to make positive differences in their communities.

"I look for common sense ways to help organizations grow their capacity and increase their accomplishments," says Mahnic.

"The County of Grande Prairie appreciates the range of volunteer community organizations that provide or support recreation opportunities throughout the region," says Christine Rawlins, Parks & Recreation Manager.

"In addition to the direct services they provide, these organizations enhance the quality of life for County residents. The new Community Group Support Coordinator

position was endorsed by County Council and created to help ensure their ongoing vitality and to provide support as they work on capital projects and ongoing operations," adds Rawlins.

Mahnic said she learned about the benefits of parks, recreation, and community initiatives in her former role as Community Development Officer with the provincial government, and through her own volunteerism and service on various boards. She brings more than 20 years' experience as a facilitator, trainer, change manager, and contract specialist.

Groups are encouraged to reach out to Miriam Mahnic directly at 780-532-9727, or visit www.countygp.ab.ca/communitysupport and sign up for the Parks & Recreation Community Groups Newsletter.



Calm for the Holidays – Helping Children Regulate Emotions During Stressful Times

The holiday season is often filled with celebration, but it can also be a chaotic and stressful time for families. In children, stress is often exhibited as arguments, meltdowns, frustrations, and overwhelming feelings. When children are consistently struggling with big emotions, it may be a sign that they have not developed the ability to regulate their emotional state.

Emotional regulation is a learned skill that improves our ability to identify various stressors and to adjust behaviours to better cope with stressful situations.

Melodie McCracken, Child, Youth and Family Team Lead with the County of Grande Prairie Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) offers a number of strategies that parents and caregivers can use to support children in helping them gain emotional regulation skills.

1. CREATE CALM

Modeling calm and positive coping skills is one of the first ways to teach regulation. Create routines and environments that aren't distracting or overwhelming, and offer quiet, soft spaces with dim lighting.

2. TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Helping children identify their emotions validates how they feel. When they share what they are feeling, it assists adults in supporting them. This could include talking about characters in books or on television and discussing how they are working through emotions.

3. DEVELOP BODY AWARENESS

We often feel sensations in our bodies before we can articulate what emotion we are feeling. Using mindfulness or body scans can create more awareness of where feelings are being felt and can also assist in settling the body before it escalates into a meltdown situation.

"Children's ability to self-regulate their emotions will be greater when the adults around them also practice emotional regulation," says McCracken. "I encourage parents and caregivers to incorporate and model self-regulation as an example for their children."



TOOLS TO SUPPORT EMOTIONAL REGULATION

If you are looking for some fun ways to support your loved ones in developing and improving emotional regulation, there are a variety of activities and gift ideas to consider.

"These tips and tools are not just for children," adds McCracken.

Emotionally expressive books or movies that talk about social situations, problem solving, or feelings can assist in talking about emotions.

Some activities can also have a calming effect on the nervous system, including yoga classes, meditation sessions, blowing bubbles, and colouring books.

Other simple ideas to support your child's physical and sensory needs can include squeezing a stress ball, listening to soothing music, feeling the gentle pressure of a weighted blanket, or rubbing soft or bumpy material.



NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT?

Students in grades 1-12 can access a Community School Liaison Counsellor through their school or by calling the County of Grande Prairie FCSS at 780-532-9727.

Adults can access the following community resources in-person or online:

- AHS Addiction and Mental Health: Telephone 780-833-4323 (Front Desk Line), 587-259-5513 (Integrated Crisis Access Team Intake Line), or 1-877-303-2642 (24-Hour Helpline).
- Primary Care Network (PCN) Grande Prairie: Find mental health resources under the 'Resources' link at www.grandeprairiepcn.com.

Winter Activities for Families and Seniors



PARENT AND TOT PLAYGROUPS

Are you a parent or caregiver of a child, or children, ages 0 to 6? Drop into a parent and tot playgroup near you! This free program provides a safe and trusting environment for parents to connect with other parents, children to play and interact, and participants to have fun, learn and grow together.

Knelsen Centre in Bezanson

Every Tuesday | Starting September 13

Five Mile Hall

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month | Starting September 14

Wellington Resource Centre in Clairmont

Every Thursday | Starting September 15

Hythe Community Library

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month | Starting September 21

Saskatoon Lake Hall

Every 2nd Monday of the month | Starting November 14

Learn more about Early Childhood Development Programs through County FCSS at www.countygp.ab.ca/parentandtot.

KEEP ACTIVE WITH THE SENIORS WALK AND TALK PROGRAM

The winter months can seem long without opportunities to be active and socialize.

The Seniors Walk and Talk program runs from October to May each year, providing those aged 60+ with an opportunity to enjoy aerobic activity, coffee, and connection with friends in a safe, ice-free environment over the winter season.



Gymnasium in the Knelsen Centre, Bezanson

Tuesdays 10 a.m. - noon | October 4, 2022 - May 9, 2023

Happy Trails Track at the Crosslink County Sportsplex

Thursdays 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | October 6, 2022 - May 11, 2023

Gymnasium in the Hythe Community Centre, Hythe

Thursdays 10 a.m. - noon | October 6, 2022 - May 11, 2023

Entry is free. For more information about the program, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/SeniorsWalkAndTalk or call 780-532-9727.

WELLINGTON RESOURCE CENTRE PROGRAMS

MEGA Awesome Winter Camp

Join us for baking, crafts and outdoor activities.

January 4 - 5, 2023 | Wellington Resource Centre, 10407-97 Street, Clairmont

Open to youth ages 10 to 13 | Cost: \$10 per day

Register by December 30, 2022. Call 780-567-2843 or email wrc@countygp.ab.ca

Family Day Unplugged Challenge

Family Day, February 20, 2023 | Wellington Resource Centre

More details will be shared at www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc. Also, follow the Wellington Resource Centre on Facebook.

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Free help to file your income tax return. Open to students, seniors, families or single parents with a modest income and simple taxes. Filing for the 2022 tax season begins March 2023.

HYPHE & AREA PROGRAMS

Watch the FCSS website for information on upcoming youth programs for Hythe and area residents. Find the 'Community Programs' link at www.countygp.ab.ca/fcss.



The Crosslink County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

780-830-7407 | info@cgpsportsplex.com | www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com

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
- 15+ Stick & Puck/Shinny
- 11 - 14 Stick & Puck
- 10 & Under Stick & Puck
- Learn to Skate
- Indoor Minor Soccer Fun League
- Fieldhouse Drop-Ins
- Tender Tots
(weekday parent & tot program)
- Bouncy Castle Days
- Indoor Batting Cage
- Seniors Walk & Talk
(Free on Thursday mornings during October 2022 - May 2023)

To register, or for more information about programs and drop-in activities, including class descriptions, times, and locations, visit www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com.

INDOOR MINOR SOCCER FUN LEAGUES

Register your children this Fall for fun-filled Saturday leagues that accommodate all skill levels. Participants will be split into age groups, and all will enjoy the drills and games we have planned! Registration includes a T-shirt and a season-ending medal.

TENDER TOTS

Come play in the Trican Fieldhouse from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays starting October 2022. 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.

WINTER BREAK AND SPRING BREAK CAMPS 2023

Winter Break Camp, January 2 - 6 | Spring Break Camp, April 10 - 14

Kids aged 5 to 12 are invited for a week of fun-filled activities. Experience games, crafts, recreational sports, as well as skating on our indoor ice rink. Our camps are designed to spark the imagination, confidence, independence, and communication skills of all our campers. Watch our website for more information and upcoming registration: www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com.

Other programs offered at the Crosslink County Sportsplex:

- 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 bouncy castles. Leave the catering to either Quick Meal or the Over-Time Family Sports Lounge. Contact us at 780-830-7407 or email info@cgpsportsplex.com for more information about party costs, packages, and to secure your booking.

For more information about the Sportsplex and the programs and events available, visit crosslinkcountysportsplex.com, or contact 780-830-7407 or email info@cgpsportsplex.com





PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

WINTER PROGRAMMING

APRIL ARCHOSAUR ABSURDITY

Spend your evenings following **April Archosaur Absurdity**. This award-winning program is back for 2023. Download your creature guide early and make your predictions. Which dinosaurs will make it to the final four? Will your favourite dinosaur be champion?

Starting in April, we will post the matches between dinosaurs. Join us on Facebook, Instagram, and at dinomuseum.ca to see who takes the points lead.

SPRING BREAK CAMP

Looking for something to entertain the children over Spring Break? The museum has a week-long camp for young palaeontologists. Join our staff for fun, learning and a chance to get behind the scenes at the museum. Book online at dinomuseum.ca

Out of school/PD day camps are also available throughout the year.

NEW EXHIBIT

Visit our newest Natural History exhibit *Alberta Trappers, The original conservationist with dedication and passion for our wilderness*. The exhibit is in the Alberta Conservation Association Room.

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Did you know that your museum membership has benefits at many other museums across Alberta and Canada? The museum has reciprocal agreements through the Canadian Association of Science Centres that enable our members to gain free admission to Telus World of Science in Edmonton, Telus Spark in Calgary, and museums, zoos and science centres across the country.

An annual membership provides the holder with free admission to the museum, as well as discounts on our programs and at the gift shop.

BOOK YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY AT THE MUSEUM

Birthday parties are not just for children. A room and food can be booked for parties of all ages. Children's parties can include add-ons such as food, goody bags, and a special gift for the birthday child.

MAKE PLANS FOR THE SUMMER

Summer at the museum is always busy. Book now for *Secrets of the Wapiti*, our new water-based experience, *Palaeontologist for a Day*, and *Summer Outdoor Camp*. These programs make great gifts and sell out quickly.



Visit www.dinomuseum.ca for more information and follow [@curriemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/curriemuseum) on



countygp.ab.ca

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



LEFT TO RIGHT: Councillor Brian Peterson, Councillor Karen Rosvold, Councillor Bob Chrenek, Reeve Bob Marshall, Councillor Amanda Frayn, Councillor Leanne Beaupre, Councillor Kurt Balderston, Councillor Steve Zimmerman, Deputy Reeve Peter Harris

COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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Kathleen Turner
Acting Director of Community Services
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Ryan Konowalyk
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780-532-9722 | rkonowalyk@countygp.ab.ca

Carol Gabriel
Director of Corporate Services
780-532-9722 | cgabriel@countygp.ab.ca

Mark Schonken
Director of Financial Services
780-532-9722 | mschonken@countygp.ab.ca

COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL:

info@countygp.ab.ca

ADDRESS:

10001 - 84 Avenue
Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

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, Asset Management, Corporate Services, Economic Development, Finance, Information Technology, Insurance/ Risk Management, Legislative Services, Procurement, Communications, Human Resources, Public Works, Planning and Development Services

780-532-9722


COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDINGS

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

780-532-9727

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