

COUNTY CONNECTIONS



WINTER 2023

Interim Budget Meetings Pg. 2
Apply for County Grants Pg. 3
County Wildfire Prevention Pg. 4
Apply for Fire Permits Online Pg. 6

Winter FireSmart Tips Pg. 7
Transportation and Utilities Pg. 8
Important Ag Reminders Pg. 9
Engage with the County Pg. 10

Business Supports Pg. 12
Census & Boundary Review Pg. 13
Alberta Winter Games Pg. 15
Winter Activities Pg. 16

Housing Needs Survey Report Pg. 17
Holiday Hours Pg. 19
Crime Prevention in the County Pg. 21
Sportsplex & Dino Museum Pg. 22-23

Reeve's Message



I'm truly proud to live and work in a community where so many people contribute so much. As a County, we're always interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas — all of which provide valuable insights into County projects and initiatives.

**We want to keep hearing from you.
Watch for these public participation
opportunities in 2024:**

- Final stages of the Municipal Development Plan review: early 2024
- The start of the Land Use Bylaw review: last quarter of 2024

As you are reading this newsletter, our staff is busy tabulating the results of November's Citizen Satisfaction Survey. A follow-up report will be shared with County residents in the New Year.

We appreciate your willingness to contribute ideas and feedback on County matters that are important to you. We want to empower you, our residents and businesses, to be more active in shaping the County and our future. Please get involved!

MUNICIPAL CENSUS AND ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Another important insight into our community is tracking population and growth. Because of the dissolution of the Village of Hythe in June 2021, the County must review its number of councillors and divisions, and division boundaries before the 2025 municipal election. I want to remind you that as a first step, the County will conduct a municipal census in 2024 to determine whether growth or decline has created a population imbalance among divisions. Watch for updates and ways to get involved early next year. Find more information in the story on page 13.

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW AND RESTRUCTURING

To meet the needs of our growth and other changes, the County has been focusing on ways to improve our operations, enhance efficiency and maximize our ability to serve our community. One of the ways we're adjusting to change is by restructuring the former Public Works department into what is now known as Transportation and Utilities. The new department better reflects the working divisions and the scope of services they deliver to the community.

See the organizational chart of the restructured department on page 8 and meet the people and divisions responsible for continuing to provide exceptional service delivery to our communities.

FIRE PROTECTION IN THE COUNTY

FireSmart is a planning tool that helps reduce wildfires from spreading in our community. But it takes effort from residents, businesses and members of our Regional Fire Services who've been busy visiting properties and providing advice. One of the ways the County is helping is by building a combined fire guard and firebreak in our area. See the story on pages 4-5 for more details, including a map.

In September, County Council also directed administration to apply for a Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) Grant to complete further vegetation management in the Highway 40 West FireSmart area.

ADVOCACY WORK

We met with the Premier and several Ministers this year to highlight key areas of improvement to provide a better quality of life for our residents. Our discussions included the Highway 40X connector to provide critical access to our region and improve traffic safety. We also talked about the financial strain our residents are experiencing, seniors and affordable housing needs, our need for better air and rail

service, and mental health and healthcare needs. We plan to continue to pursue more meetings with officials on an ongoing basis.

This summer, the County became a registered member of the Alberta Enterprise Group (AEG) to enhance the County's profile and advance our economic development objectives. Membership with AEG offers many advantages, including connecting with Ministers, industry leaders, influential decision-makers, and stakeholders across the region. It gives the County a seat at the table when economic development issues are discussed.

ALBERTA WINTER GAMES

We're happy to be collaborating with the City of Grande Prairie to host the upcoming Alberta Winter Games. The County is contributing \$200,000 and supporting organizing and volunteer efforts, as well as providing space for events at the Crosslink County Sportsplex. Find out more in the story on page 15.

FUNDING TO SUPPORT NEW HIGH SCHOOL

In September, Council approved \$1.5 million in funding for the construction of underground utilities at the new Peace Wapiti Academy high school site. Site servicing is required so Peace Wapiti Public School Division (PWPSD) can move forward with obtaining construction funding.

Our thanks to PWPSD for nominating the County of Grande Prairie for the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone One Friends of Education Award earlier this fall in recognition of the County's commitment to our community schools in numerous ways: from sharing resources during

municipal and school board elections, advocating for a replacement high school in the Grande Prairie area, to the outstanding leadership and support during the wildfires in the area in May of 2023.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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. No matter the season, we invite residents to stay informed and get involved.

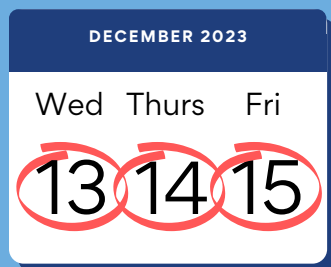
STAY INFORMED

Your feedback will continue to be vital as important projects progress. Use the links below to find out more, including ways to reach out to your Councillor.

- Sign in and view our Engage page to give feedback on current projects: www.countygp.ab.ca/engage
- Subscribe to receive County news and alerts: www.countygp.ab.ca/subscribe
- View our calendar and subscribe to receive a weekly digest of meetings, events, and activities: www.countygp.ab.ca/events
- Find contact information for County Councillors: www.countygp.ab.ca/council



Save the Date



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 2024 budget:

December 13, 14 & 15 | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Financial and Business Planning Services at 780-532-9722.

Grant Applications Open February 1

The County of Grande Prairie invests millions of dollars in grants each year to enhance the wellbeing of its residents and to support committed local citizens who put the funds to work for their communities.

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/grants for Recreation and Culture Grants information and online applications.

OPERATING GRANTS

Are you part of a local non-profit organization that offers recreational or cultural programming for County residents? Apply for Operating Funds or Capital Funds to a maximum of \$5,000. Applications are open from February 1 to April 1. In 2023, the County provided \$210,320 to 62 community groups and County facilities received \$362,190 in annual operating funding, in addition to support from existing intermunicipal funding agreements with neighbouring municipalities.

COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION INITIATIVES GRANT



Flowers planted in Valhalla Centre

Would you like to improve your community's appearance and enhance civic pride through landscaping? In 2023, the County supported five projects: the Clairmont Community Garden expansion, funding to prepare land for a community garden in La Glace, and planting flowers at the Clairmont Seniors Centre and in Valhalla Centre, and trees at the West Smoky Legion.

CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT GRANT



Columbarium, St. Patrick's Cemetery

Are you part of an organization that operates a cemetery in the County? Applications are open from February 1 to April 1 for Operating or Capital Grants up to a maximum of \$5,000. In 2023, the County provided \$47,200 to 12 cemetery groups for maintenance, fencing, and a columbarium installation.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT

Not-for-profit organizations and groups may qualify for funding and/or non-cash donations to support programs, services, and events. Applications for three funding streams are accepted throughout the year:

Multi-Year Operating Funding: For operational costs for community groups that serve County residents but do not qualify as recreation or culture providers, and for larger organizations and facilities that are not halls, arenas or curling rinks but contribute to the quality of life. Contact Parks and Recreation at 780-532-9727 prior to completing an application. As of October 2023, \$1,375,975 had been awarded in multi-year operating funding.

Some of the 2023 Multi-Year Operating Funding Recipients:

- \$400,000 to the Phillip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum
- \$200,000 for the Alberta Winter Games
- \$200,000 for STARS Operating Funding
- \$100,000 for STARS Fleet Renewal
- \$100,000 to the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation
- \$86,000 to the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie
- \$58,072 to the Grande Prairie Regional Sport Connection
- \$50,000 to the Nitehawk Adventure Park



Art Gallery of Grande Prairie

Community Wellness & Safety: Does your group or organization contribute to a safe and healthy community? Or foster connections through socially inclusive services that may fall outside existing Family Community Support Services (FCSS) social services and community grants? In 2023, grants of \$2,500 were awarded to the Grande Prairie District Rural Crime Watch Association, Helping Homeless Restart Society, and the Beaverlodge Annual Fireman's Ball.

Event Sponsorship, Donations & Community Support:

Open to groups or organizations that provide cultural and recreational opportunities or contribute to quality of life. Events that fundraise for other organizations are not eligible. By October 2023, more than \$88,000 had been awarded, including \$25,000 to the Bear Creek Folk Festival, along with support for the Fastball Provincials, Grande Prairie Night Market, 3D Children's Charity, and more.



Sponsorship for Fastball Provincials

THANK YOU! INTERNATIONAL PAPER & ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION GROVE

The International Paper & Arbor Day Foundation Grove opened in July at the Crosslink County Sportsplex Fishpond. The 2,900 square foot orchard features apple and cherry trees, Saskatoon and haskap berries, and 300 feet of shoreline planting beds.



Wildfire Prevention Remains Top Priority



Following weeks of unseasonably hot temperatures at the start of fire season that led to a higher-than-average number of fire events by the beginning of May, a lightning-induced wildfire was detected along the Wapiti River on May 5, 2023 that later would be known as the Dunes West Wildfire.

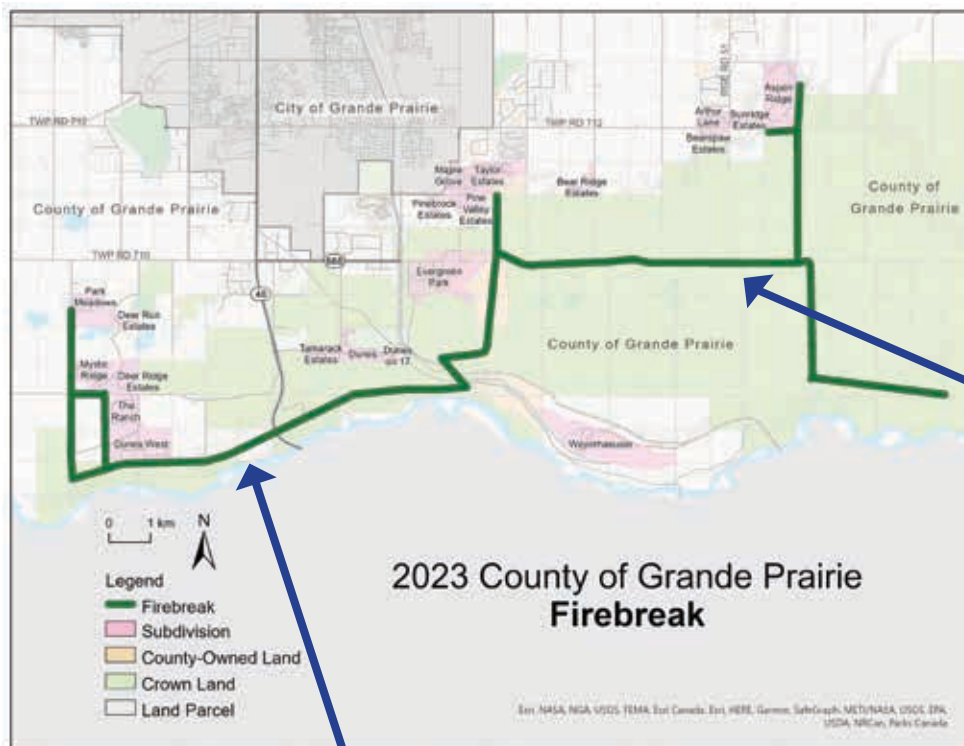
In the two weeks that followed, resources from across the province and beyond came together in a united effort, working in front of and behind the scenes to protect lives and livelihoods from the threat of fire.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all who responded, ensuring no lives were lost in the fire. We continue to sympathize with those who lost their homes or experienced property impacts.

We trust that there are better days ahead on your journey to not only rebuild a physical property, but also to reestablish your sense of home.

As we reflect on 2023, it is clear that wildfire is becoming an even greater threat than ever before. Looking at the sheer volume of wildfires, it has truly been a year like no other, not just in western Canada, but across the country and around the world. Much like pandemic times, we're hearing the terms 'unprecedented' and 'new normal,' however this time, it's in reference to the reality of increasing natural disasters.

What is the County doing to address the threat of wildfires? We invite you to look at the ongoing measures underway before and after the Dunes West Wildfire.



SOUTHEAST GRANDE PRAIRIE FIREBREAK

Funded by a \$5 million commitment from the Government of Alberta, and if required, an additional \$1.25 million each from both the County and the City of Grande Prairie. The initial 30-kilometre pass was completed near the end of May, ahead of the expected 14-day work schedule, followed by widening strategic locations along the firebreak to further enhance the protection it provides. Additional work, including final clean-up, will extend into the winter season.



DUNES WEST FIRE GUARD

During the Dunes West Wildfire, County and City fire crews, along with additional resources from across Alberta, members of the military, and firefighters from Oregon worked quickly to create a fire guard within the wildfire perimeter during the state of local emergency.





WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGY

In 2015, the County implemented the Wildfire Mitigation Strategy after extensive internal and external consultation. Since then, vegetation management projects that follow FireSmart guidelines have taken place in three priority areas, with the most recent project interrupted by the Dunes West Wildfire. Read more about the three projects at www.countygp.ab.ca/wildfiremitigation.

PRIORITY #1 The Dunes and Aspen Ridge areas

PRIORITY #2 Southeast of Bear Creek

PRIORITY #3 Highway 40 West

REVIEW OF WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGY

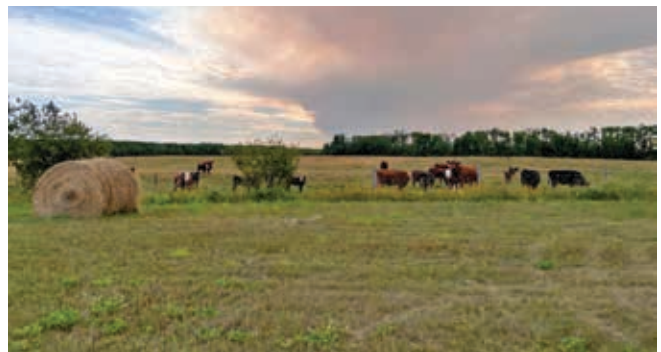


Considering new fire guards established in response to the Dunes West Wildfire and increased wildfire activity across western Canada throughout the fire season, in July 2023, County Council directed Administration to apply to a \$50,000 Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) grant for FireSmart planning to review and update the County's Wildfire Mitigation Strategy and to continue vegetation management work in more of the Highway 40 West priority area, in addition to work that is already ongoing.



FIRESMART ASSESSMENTS

County residents and businesses can sign up for a free FireSmart Assessment to help reduce the risk of wildfires on private property and the surrounding community. See page 7 to find out how to book your assessment today. The County has also offered FireSmart workshops, annual wood chipping events, and ongoing education and information.



LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

The County of Grand Prairie approved the Livestock Emergency Response Plan in November 2022. Developed by the County's Agriculture department, it provides an effective means to inform property owners and manage livestock emergencies in conjunction with the Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership (GPREP).

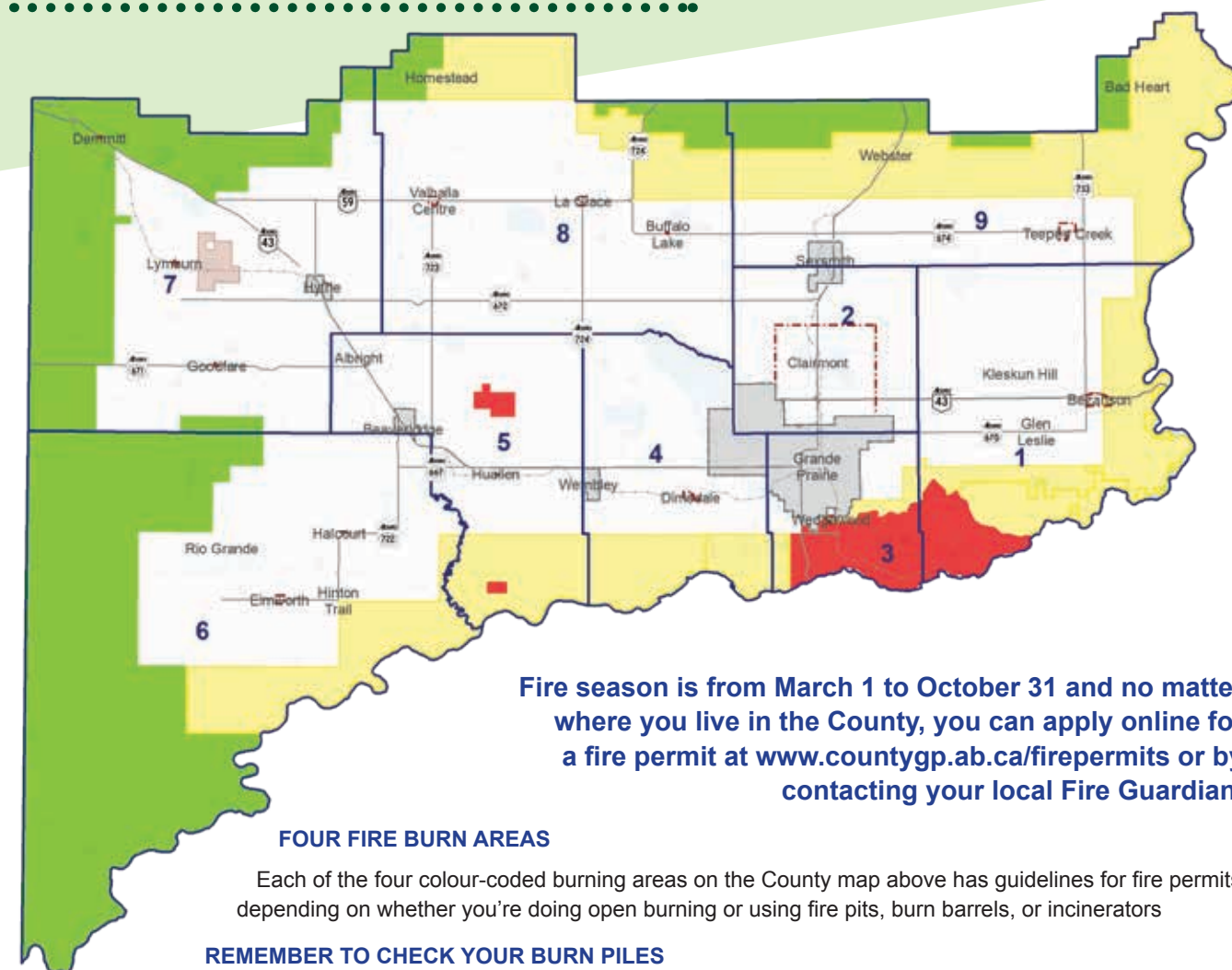
UPCOMING GPREP DEBRIEF



Post-event debriefing is a customary practice following natural disasters.

The upcoming GPREP wildfire response debrief will provide opportunities to discuss what went well and areas of improvement. GPREP is a partnership between the County and City of Grande Prairie, and the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith and Wembley.

Fire Season Begins March 1 – Apply for Your Permit Online



Fire season is from March 1 to October 31 and no matter where you live in the County, you can apply online for a fire permit at www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits or by contacting your local Fire Guardian.

FOUR FIRE BURN AREAS

Each of the four colour-coded burning areas on the County map above has guidelines for fire permits depending on whether you're doing open burning or using fire pits, burn barrels, or incinerators

REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR BURN PILES

As the snow begins to melt in the spring, remember to check on your winter burn piles. County Fire Chief Trevor Grant says many fires last year were the result of smouldering burn piles that reignited in the spring winds.

COUNTY WHITE AREA

Requires a verbal permit during fire season.

COUNTY YELLOW AREA

Requires a written fire permit during fire season.

COUNTY RED AREA

Restricted burn zone. Permits are required year-round.

If you live in one of these three areas, complete the Fire Permit Request Form at www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits or contact your area's Fire Guardian.

COUNTY GREEN AREA

Requires a written fire permit during fire season from a Provincial Forestry Fire Guardian as this area is designated as the Forest Protection Area.

If you live in this area, visit www.wildfire.alberta.ca/firepermits to locate your nearest office or call 310-0000.

FIRE GUARDIANS

In the White, Yellow and Red Fire Burning Areas of the County, a Fire Guardian issues fire permits in your area and educates residents on safe burning practices. Green areas must obtain written permission from a Provincial Fire Guardian. Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/fireguardians for the official Fire Guardian contact list.

FireSmart Tips for Winter

Winter may bring cozy feelings, but it can also include unexpected challenges, like the possibility of winter wildfires. Have no fear! Like the comfort of a warm blanket, these proactive steps will give you peace of mind and help protect your property and keep your loved ones safe. As the chill sets in, let's chat about how to get FireSmart™ this winter.

WINTER WILDFIRE SAFETY

It's important to note that wildfires can occur even during the winter months. A lack of snow cover can leave dry grass exposed and prone to ignition. Sparks from controlled fires like campfires, burn barrels, or agricultural burning can inadvertently lead to winter wildfires. Here are some winter burning safety tips:

Weather Awareness: Listen to the weather forecast for snow conditions and wind predictions before starting any fire.

Avoid Inversions: Don't burn when an inversion is in place or forecasted, as this can trap smoke close to the ground.

Consult Authorities: Contact County Regional Fire Services for guidance when undertaking larger winter burning projects near communities or roads.

Manage Burn Projects: Actively manage burn projects to reduce total burning time and smoke impacts.

Snow Cover: Ensure good snow cover in the burn area, with a depth of more than 15 centimeters. As the snow begins to melt in the spring, remember to check on your winter burn piles as they can reignite in the spring winds.

WINTER BRUSH PILES AND WINDROWS

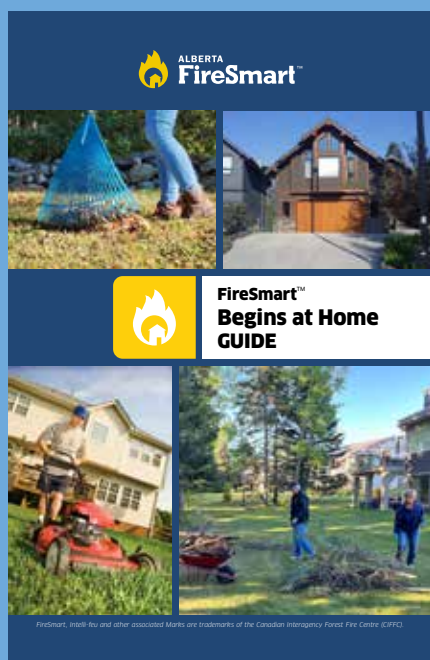
Winter is a great time to burn brush piles and windrows, as the risk of fire spreading is limited due to ample snow. However, take these precautions:

Be Prepared: Have appropriate tools and water on hand to manage your fire.

Drought Caution: Exercise caution if drought conditions are high to extreme, as the fire may dig in and burn underground.

Check for Smouldering: Insert a metal rod into your fire to check if it's extinguished or still smouldering. If the rod comes out hot or warm to the touch, the fire is still active.

Soak, Stir and Soak Again: Always extinguish a fire by soaking it, stirring it, and soaking it again. Use heavy equipment if needed to stir the fire or dig down to allow water to reach it.



The collage includes: the Alberta FireSmart logo; a person in a blue jacket and jeans standing next to a large pile of brush; a two-story house with a snow-covered roof; a person using a red riding lawn mower; and a group of people in a yard with a pile of brush.

FireSmart™ Begins at Home GUIDE

FireSmart, Intelli-Fire and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).

Book a FireSmart Home Assessment Today

The County's FireSmart Home Assessment program has been running for several years and involves a visit by a member of County Regional Fire Services to check your property for wildfire hazards. You'll receive a customized, detailed report with findings from the assessment and practical tips to help make your property safer from the risk of wildfire. Book a FireSmart Home Assessment by visiting www.countygp.ab.ca/firesmart or calling 780-532-9727.

Your house is your biggest investment – find tips on how you can protect it by picking up a free copy of the FireSmart Begins at Home Guide at the County's Community Services Building, 10808 100 Ave, Clairmont, or read it online at firesmartcanada.ca



Who's Who – Introducing the Transportation and Utilities Department

To prepare for growth and change, the County has been focusing on ways to improve our operations, enhance efficiency, and maximize our ability to serve our community. With improvement comes changes, including restructuring the former Public Works department, now known as Transportation and Utilities, to better reflect the scope of their service delivery. These changes will help ensure we have a well-functioning team delivering exceptional services to our communities. We invite you to review the new structure and become familiar with the names, faces, and divisions that make up our new Transportation and Utilities department.



Ryan Konowalyk, General Manager

FLEET AND MAINTENANCE

Devin Kelln
Director



- Purchase, maintain, repair, and dispose of County-wide fleet and equipment including tractors, mowers, heavy and mobile equipment, emergency service, and passenger vehicles.

Chris Kwiatkowski
Director



- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and droning, including aggregate sites
- Rural addressing
- Sign production, installation, and maintenance
- Resource, industry/oil and gas activity (permitting, Road Use Agreements, and road bonding)
- Annual gravel crushing and main haul
- Dust control application and maintenance
- Miscellaneous construction projects (patching and paving)
- Internal construction crew for gravel road rebuilds

OPERATIONS PROGRAMS

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Dalen Peterson
Director



- Provide solid waste services through recycling collection, landfills, transfer stations, and contract services for rural and curbside collection programs.
- Manage, operate, and maintain water systems in select hamlets.
- Manage, operate, and maintain sanitary sewer systems in select hamlets.
- Manage and maintain storm sewer systems.

Iain Herzog
Director



- Manage the overall County construction and rehabilitation programs of roadways, bridges, and other public transportation infrastructure.
- Forecast future projects by priority, including condition assessments and traffic counts.
- Manage special projects, including the Wetland Replacement Program, in partnership with the Government of Alberta.
- Collaborative management of developer-contributed assets, local improvement projects, and utilities.

CAPITAL DELIVERY

OPERATIONS WEST AND EAST

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Geordie Lund
Director East

(Council Divisions 1,2,3,9)



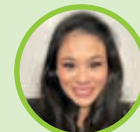
Chris Bain
Director West

(Council Divisions 4,5,6,7,8)



- Perform summer and winter road maintenance and other infrastructure maintenance, including brushing, spot gravelling, grading, ditch rehabilitation, culvert replacements, and drainage improvement.

Katrina Oravec
Director



- Customer service
- Administrative support for County-wide Transportation and Utilities programs
- Processing purchase orders and invoices for payment
- Transportation and Utilities budget assistance
- Legislative functions such as policies, bylaws, and items for Council decision

County Shelterbelt Program is Back!

We are delighted to re-introduce the County of Grande Prairie's Shelterbelt Program, an exciting initiative that offers County residents an opportunity to purchase seedling trees to enhance their land, protect the environment, and contribute to a sustainable future.

"The program operates on a cost-recovery basis, ensuring that County residents can access shelterbelt species at a better rate than purchasing on their own," says Kate Winterford, Soil Conservation and Stewardship Coordinator in the County's Agriculture department. "This means you can browse through our selection of species available on our website, place your request for number of seedlings desired online, and then pick up your seedlings in spring 2024."

PURPOSE OF SHELTERBELTS

A shelterbelt is a barrier of trees and shrubs that are planted strategically to help provide wind protection and a variety of environmental benefits. They are proven to help protect soil, improve air and water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and beautify your landscape. In agricultural settings, field shelterbelts help reduce wind erosion, increase moisture for crop growth, and may even help increase crop yields.



THINGS TO NOTE

"Although we are working closely with different nurseries to determine species availability, there is no guarantee that all orders will be fulfilled," adds Winterford. "Nurseries may encounter issues which could impact their supplies. You will only be charged for the species you receive. Also, please note that the County does not offer any reimbursement or warranty on species that do not survive after being planted."

PLACE YOUR ORDER

To learn more on how to place an order and how to increase your seedlings' chances of thriving, please refer to the planting and care guide and ordering form available on our website at www.countygp.ab.ca/shelterbeltprogram.

RENT A SEEDLING TREE PLANTER

The Agriculture department has a seedling tree planter available for rent. View a photo of the equipment and find more details at www.countygp.ab.ca/rentalequipment.

Important Agriculture Reminders



Farm Family Nominations: Nominations for outstanding farm families are open until December 1, 2023.

No Spray Deadline: If you wish to control the regulated weeds in ditches adjacent to your property, consider filling out a No Spray application. Applications will be available on our website on January 1, 2024. Deadline is April 15.

Register Your Rented Land: If you rent land for agricultural production and wish to be contacted first for any regulated weed concerns, fill out an application online, or contact our office and we can assist you.

Register Your Weed Management Plan: Producers may register their annual weed management plans online or by calling in. This informs our weed inspectors that there is a plan in place, and they do not need to contact you if they see regulated weeds.

Upcoming Workshops: Workshops on farm safety and other topics will be announced early in 2024. Stay updated on our website for more details.

Online registration for both registry programs for 2024 will be available January 1, or you can call our office to register: 780-532-9727.

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/agriculture for more information.

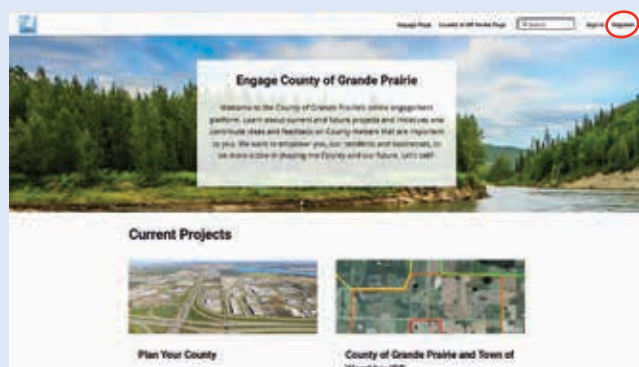
Get Involved: Join Engage County of Grande Prairie

Nobody knows the County better than the people who live, work, and play in our communities. That's why the County of Grande Prairie is inviting residents to get involved through the new online platform, Engage.

We know the decisions made by local governments impact the daily lives of residents, businesses, and others – that's why we want to hear from you. Engage County of Grande Prairie is the County's online engagement platform where you can learn about current and future projects and initiatives, and contribute your ideas and feedback on the issues that are important to you.

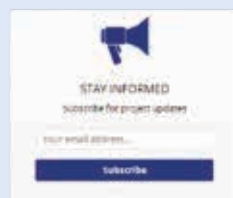
GETTING INVOLVED IS EASY!

1. Go to www.countygp.ab.ca/engage



2. Register to participate

3. Subscribe to specific projects/initiatives



4. Share your thoughts and ideas

When you register, you'll be asked for your email address and postal code, then you can create a unique username. Your personal information is never displayed – only the username you choose.

Once your account is created, scroll through the list of projects and subscribe to everything that interests you. You'll be able to see details of the projects and receive updates on feedback opportunities, project status, online and in-person engagement opportunities, final reports, and more.

Your information is saved in the Engage system so you can change your settings and the projects you've subscribed to at any time. You will only receive emails related to County of Grande Prairie projects and initiatives.

Every project has multiple ways to get involved. You can easily share your thoughts in online discussion forums, quick polls, forms, surveys, and more, depending on the project. The County encourages everyone to get involved - even if they aren't registered in Engage. But registered users receive follow-up emails and newsletters with extra information on project progress. Regardless of who posts them, off-topic or offensive content is moderated so the County can ensure a respectful environment and safe space for community dialogue.

Visit Engage County of Grande Prairie at **www.countygp.ab.ca/engage** to learn more about public participation projects and register to become part of the online engagement community. Citizen feedback matters. Your input helps make the County a great place to live, work, and play.

Plan Your County

Over the Spring and Summer of 2023, more than 300 residents gave their feedback on the future of the County's rural hamlets and shared their values and priorities for our community. This was the first step of the County of Grande Prairie's Plan Your County project to review and update the plans, bylaws, strategies, and guidelines that shape local development.

The result of this engagement was the release of a number of draft recommendations for the County's first Hamlet Resiliency Strategy as well as important input into the ongoing review of our Municipal Development Plan (MDP).

WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT OUR RURAL HAMLETS

- Hamlets have strong community identities and dedicated volunteers that contribute to making them great places to live
- Key assets in hamlets include recreation facilities, community halls, schools, and local commercial services
- Desire for more / upgraded County servicing and utilities in several hamlets, including internet, cell, water, and wastewater services
- Desire to see modest growth and residential / local commercial development in certain hamlets to provide additional housing and community services
- County land use regulations and the cost of permitting and service connection fees are limiting new development / growth in hamlets and local food production
- Concerns that hamlets do not receive equal levels of investment from the County

WHAT RESIDENTS VALUE MOST ABOUT THE COUNTY

- Outdoor recreation and nature
- Community and people
- Low taxes



RESIDENTS' PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTY

- Infrastructure and services
- Wildlife and nature preservation
- Connectivity and transportation

WHAT'S NEXT?

Following a second series of Open Houses on the Hamlet Resiliency Strategy held in October, the document is being finalized for County Council's review and approval.

Early next year, we will be re-engaging residents on the MDP to provide input on draft policy options. Then, the full draft MDP will be released for public for review and input in Spring 2024, before being presented to Council for consideration.

To read the full What We Heard Report and to stay up to date on the project, please visit www.countygp.ab.ca/planyourcounty.



Beware of Email Scams

Your County officials want to help protect your identity. Remember, we'll NEVER ask for your credit card information via email. Stay cautious to protect your personal data. Always check the sender's email address to ensure it is accurate before clicking or tapping a link.



How the County Economic Development Team Can Support Your Business

MEET YOUR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM



Jordan Tidey

Director of Economic
Development



Cindy Paton

Economic Development
Officer



Hetti Huls

Economic Development
Officer



Lucille Hooper

Economic Development
Coordinator



Amber Donovan

Senior Marketing
Advisor

Our job is to support businesses in the County, and we have built an arsenal of tools, programs, and information in the following areas:

- Workforce attraction
- Business development assistance
- Supply chain assistance
- Financing
- Assistance in navigating government
- Consultant or business incubator
- Government assistance programs for business
- Providing information and data about the County of Grande Prairie for investment attraction

Contact our
team today at
ecdev@countypg.ab.ca

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO COUNTY BUSINESSES

Business Assistance Program



The Business Assistance Program enables small to medium-sized businesses in the County of Grande Prairie to work with certified human resources professionals to fulfill current employment needs. Businesses can only apply for one of the reimbursement grant funding streams.

Maximum Grant: \$1,000

- Employee Attraction Strategy: To fill an existing position within the company
- Employee Retention Strategy: To retain talent and create a positive workplace culture

Maximum Grant: \$500

- Work from Home Policy Development: To assist in creating the flexibility for productive remote work situations

The County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network



The County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network (CGPBSN) was created to build strong partnerships within our business community that will address common, current, local, and regional workplace challenges.

CGPBSN members work together to:

- Identify common workforce challenges and current labour market trends
- Address and find solutions to identified trends and challenges by exchanging ideas as an open, respectful, and positive business network
- Create a safe environment for partnership building and for collaboration on ways to address common workplace challenges

The CGPBSN partners include the County of Grande Prairie, Community Futures of Grande Prairie & Region, Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce, Peace Wapiti Public School Division, Northwestern Polytechnic, Alberta Government – Alberta Jobs, Economy & Trade, Western Cree Tribal Council, Grande Prairie Regional Tourism, International Paper, and the Grande Prairie Airport.

Why Was the CGPBSN Created?

The County of Grande Prairie is always working to identify current and future opportunities that will support our diverse economy. This includes creating the Growth and Economic Development Strategy (GEDS), which established a 50-year vision to lead us as we accommodate future growth and strengthen economic development in a sustainable, responsible way.

One of the desired outcomes of the GEDS is to increase collaboration by partnering for growth. Accordingly, the Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Program was implemented five years ago and still runs today to strengthen the connection between businesses and our communities, while encouraging growth opportunities. BRE functions have included administering business surveys and launching the County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network.

County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network events are an open and positive venue for business groups and individuals to collaborate and exchange ideas and information on current labour market trends, and to address workforce development, attraction, and retention challenges.

Service Excellence Blue Pin – Professional Development Certificate



This professional development certificate is offered through Northwest Polytechnic in collaboration with the CGPBSN. Participants who successfully complete the program will receive a program certificate and lapel pin from the CGPBSN. The Blue Pin represents that you have developed the capacity, skills, and knowledge of what it takes to provide an amazing customer experience. This program consists of two tiers:

1. Service Excellence Blue Pin for Customer Service Representatives (three core courses, three electives)
2. Service Excellence Blue Pin for Managers (four core courses, three electives)



Have a business in the County and want to know more about the resources available to you? Contact our team at ecdev@countygpr.ab.ca or visit our website at www.middleofeverywhere.ca.



Coming Soon: Municipal Census and Electoral Boundary Review

The County and its needs are constantly evolving, and we're always looking for ways to better meet those needs.

With the dissolution of the Village of Hythe in 2021, the County must review the number of councillors and divisions before the 2025 municipal election, as well as division boundaries.

As a first step, the County will conduct a municipal census to determine if there has been an impact on the population balance among divisions – whether there has been growth or decline. The census results will be used to determine if the County's electoral boundaries must be revised to ensure balance and effective Council representation.

The census will be conducted in March 2024, with official census day on March 1. Watch for updates and ways to get involved early in 2024.



Community Groups Corner

RESOURCES ONLINE AND BY EMAIL

Looking for information? Visit the Community Groups webpage for funding resources, including links to toolkits, a crowdfunding platform, a Learning Centre for board members and volunteers, service providers, and funding search engines: www.countygp.ab.ca/communitysupport

While you're there, subscribe to our newsletter. Then watch your inbox for the confirmation email to complete the process – remember to check your Junk folder.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Get ready to apply for these County grants. Find information under Recreation and Culture Grants at www.countygp.ab.ca/grants.

- **Community Assistance Grants** for multi-year operating funding; community wellness and safety; event sponsorship, donations, and community support; and emergency funding. Applications are open all year. Please submit 45 days prior to your event or program start date.
- **Cemetery Improvement Grant** supports community groups for capital or permitted improvements to cemeteries. Apply from February 1 to April 1.
- **Capital Grant Program** supports projects over \$10,000 for facilities owned and/or operated by non-profit organizations or other municipal governments for the benefit of County residents. Apply from August 1 to September 30.
- **Community Beautification Initiative Grants** are intended to foster civic pride and environmental responsibility by providing support to beautification initiatives within County hamlets and rural subdivisions. Apply from April 1 to June 1.
- **Operating Assistance** is available to local not-for-profit organizations and volunteer groups that provide recreational or cultural programs and opportunities. Apply from February 1 to April 1.

Did you know the County supports building and maintaining recreational ice surfaces (rinks) on County Municipal Reserve land? Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/icesurfaces if you'd like to apply for a **Neighbourhood Ice Surface Grant**. Apply by December 31.

RECONNECT 2023 CONFERENCE RESOURCES

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Reconnect 2023 Conference in October! The event generated valuable resources that can be used by volunteer organizations, non-profits, and charities. Check the full list under Conference Materials at www.countygp.ab.ca/communitygroups.



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 PIPESTONE CREEK TRAILS

Enjoy more than seven kilometers of 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 and how reserve them on our website at www.countygp.ab.ca/SnowShoeRentals.

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.

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.

WINTER FAMILY FROSTIVAL

Don't miss out on the coolest family event of 2024! The County of Grande Prairie is excited to announce the Winter Family Frostival event is back! Gather your loved ones and let's make unforgettable memories. Get ready for a frosty day of winter wonder and family fun – join us for a bonfire, sleigh rides, tobogganing, snow sculpting, and painting. Refreshments will also be served. Stay tuned for the event date! Watch our website for updated 2024 info: www.countygp.ab.ca/frostival

Strengthening Connections in Hythe

The County welcomed Hythe into the community in July 2021, and has been working with the hamlet since then on the transition.

County staff work with volunteers and community members to provide services to Hythe, even though they're delivered differently now.

Christine Rawlins, County Director, Parks and Recreation is grateful the community has been so involved. "Along with the amazing people, Hythe has some really nice parks and recreational facilities," she says. "Since we've been working in the community, we've learned so much."

Rawlins says the County also appreciates everyone's patience. "It's been a process for us to learn about Hythe and the community's needs," she says. "But we're getting closer every day."

She says the County Parks and Recreation team is continuing to work towards bridging gaps in the community and finding solutions together.

The County is also making sure Parks and Recreation facilities and projects in Hythe are included in annual budget planning. The 2023 County budget included \$20,000 in new

operating funding support to the Hythe Community Centre, an increase of \$81,960 to operating funds for the Hythe Memorial Arena, and specific funding to update and maintain local facilities:

- Roof replacement on day-use shelter at the Hythe Municipal Campground (pictured right)
- Updated information kiosk at the Hythe Municipal Campground
- Enhancements at the baseball diamond to support increased use
- Ongoing oversight on the construction of the Hythe Ag Society's Mustang Spray Park project (County Technical Services as well as Parks and Recreation)
- Mowing at the Hythe Motor Speedway
- Assessment of hazardous trees throughout the hamlet
- Landscaping at the Hythe cemetery

These projects demonstrate the County's ongoing commitment to Hythe and Rawlins says her staff enjoy working there. "People in Hythe are always friendly and happy to see us working in the community," she says. "We truly feel like we're working together to improve life in Hythe."



Join us at the Alberta Winter Games in February



Alberta Winter Games

The Alberta Winter Games are back in February 2024 following a four-year hiatus.

With the City of Grande Prairie taking on the role of official host, the County was pleased to join forces with its closest municipal neighbour, providing funding and facilities to support the Games.

Residents are invited to attend the Games from February 16 to 19 and cheer on the province's best young athletes, ages 11 to 16, as they compete in 18 different sports.

"As a Council, we're proud of the athletes and recognize the work and effort to produce the Games," says Reeve Bob Marshall. "We're thrilled to play a role in bringing such a high-profile event to our region."

In 2023, County Council approved \$100,000 in funding, followed by an added \$100,000 in 2024.

"We applaud the commitment of coaches and volunteers who give so freely of their talents and their time to our youth," adds Reeve Marshall. "They are true community builders. Their investment in our amateur athletes will help instill good habits and build confidence and discipline – vital qualities that we need in our future community leaders."

"Our athletes are also giving back to their communities. They provide us with entertainment and memorable experiences as we come together to cheer on our favourite competitors and teams. The dedication athletes show to their chosen sport also shines a light on our region and helps put our communities on the map."

Council also approved \$50,000 through gift-in-kind services including employee time and access a County facility – the Crosslink County Sportsplex. Any remaining legacy funds will be returned proportionately back to both the County and City.

Learn more about the 2024 Alberta Winter Games at www.albertawintergames.ca.

FREE HELP TO FILE YOUR TAXES

Are you a student, senior, family or a single parent with a modest income and simple taxes? Do you need help completing your tax return? If so, you may be able to get help at a free community volunteer income tax clinic near you.

Completing your taxes ensures you receive any eligible benefits and credits such as GST, Child Credit, Guaranteed Income Supplement, and the Alberta Senior Benefit.

WHEN:

The 2023 tax season begins March 2024. Some locations offer year-round tax clinics.

WHERE:

Wellington Resource Centre

10407 - 97 Street, Clairmont
Year-round. Call 780-567-2843 to book an appointment.

Hythe and surrounding area

Hythe Community Centre, 10108-104 Ave.
Call 780-356-2778 to book an appointment.

Beaverlodge and surrounding area

Town of Beaverlodge FCSS
400 - 10 Street, Beaverlodge
Year-round. Call Beaverlodge FCSS at 780-354-4057.

Sexsmith

Town of Sexsmith FCSS
9927 - 100 Street, Sexsmith
Year-round. Contact Town of Sexsmith FCSS at 780-568-4345 or fcss@sexsmith.ca. Drop-off option is available.

City of Grande Prairie

- **Seniors Outreach:** For seniors only. Call 780-539-6255 to book an appointment.
- **Grande Prairie Family Education Society:** Year-round. Available to anyone with a modest income. Call 780-830-0920 or email hubcoordinator@gpfes.com.
- **Grande Prairie Public Library:** Tax season only. Call 780-357-7470 to book an appointment. Requirements: Income less than \$35,000 and single marital status.
- **Grande Prairie Friendship Centre:** General public/all persons. Third Tuesday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Call 587-202-6654 for an appointment.
- **Canada In Progress:** General public/all persons. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 587-415-3458 to book an appointment.

Winter Activities for Families and Seniors



KEEP ACTIVE WITH THE FREE 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.

LOCATIONS:

Bezanson Community Event Center Gymnasium

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon
October 3 to May 7

Crosslink County Sportsplex Traveland RV Track

Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
October 5 to May 9

Hythe Community Centre Gymnasium

Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon
October 5 to May 9

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

WELLINGTON RESOURCE CENTRE (WRC) COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

10407-97 Street, Clairmont

Home Alone – Cost: \$10

Open to ages 9 to 11

December 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bezanson Community Event Centre

May 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bezanson Community Event Centre

May 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Clairmont Community School

Fun 4 U Yoga

Open to ages 10 to 13
January 2, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Clairmont Community School

Mega Awesome New Year Adventure Camp – Cost: \$10/day

Open to ages 10 to 13

January 3 & 4, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Clairmont Community School

Babysitter Basics – Cost: \$50

Open to ages 11 to 15

February 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Clairmont Community School

March 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bezanson Community Event Centre

Mega Awesome Spring Fling

Cost: \$10

Open to ages 10 to 13

April 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Clairmont Community School

Sexsmith and Area Foodbank, Clairmont location

Wednesdays, noon to 2 p.m.

For more information on the above community programs, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc or contact the Wellington Resource Centre at 780-567-2843.

HYTHE AND AREA FCSS OFFICE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

10011-100 Street, Hythe

Seniors Snacks and Facts

Cost: Free

February 8, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mega Awesome Spring Fling

Cost: \$10

Open to ages 10 to 13, April 2
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Home Alone – Cost: \$10

Open to ages 9 to 11, May 24
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on the above community programs, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe or contact the Hythe Community Program at 780-933-7212.

Survey Helps Identify County Housing Needs

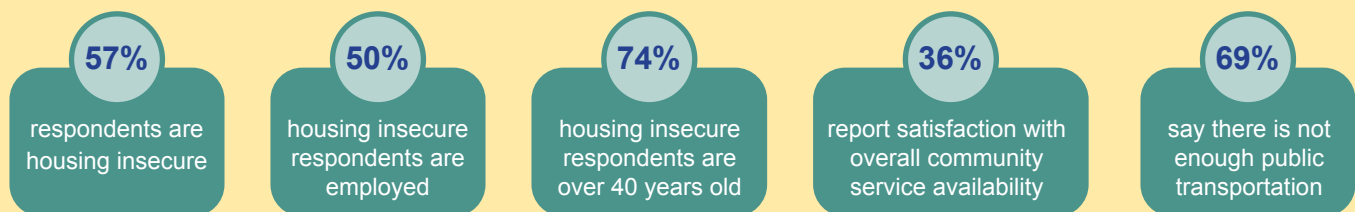


The County participated in Alberta's third provincial Housing and Service Needs Estimation earlier this year, with the goal of developing a comprehensive picture of rural, remote, and Indigenous homelessness.

The reports, presented to County Council in September provide insights into the experiences of residents in the County of Grande Prairie and the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith and Wembley who are housing insecure. The term "housing insecure" encompasses the entire spectrum of homelessness, including people who are unsheltered, emergency sheltered, provisionally accommodated, or at risk of homelessness. Information in the County was gathered in March 2023 from 100 submissions delivered through existing service providers, including Alberta Supports, food banks, shelters, thrift stores, and outreach organizations.

This is the third time the County of Grande Prairie and community partners have collaborated with the Rural Development Network on an estimation. Read more about the estimation at www.countygp.ab.ca/ruralhomelessness.

County Results:



Results in rural areas across Alberta:

- Women are more likely than men to be housing insecure
- Top reasons for housing instability:
 - Financial (low wages, poor credit)
 - Illness/medical condition
 - The need for major repairs
- Top missing amenities:
 - Sufficient and affordable heating
 - Safe drinking water
 - Fire protection

Coree Ladwig, Supervisor, Adult, Seniors, and Community Programs with FCSS says the report provides valuable insights.

"We know the County results align with the rest of the province," she says. "This helps us develop tools to make decisions across organizations and funding bodies."

She says multiple levels of government can use the information to support local programs and advocacy plans for a wide variety of needs.

The Rural Development Network (RDN) partnered with 22 organizations in 45 communities across Alberta to conduct the Alberta provincial estimation, which outlines the overall provincial results, highlighting the number of residents who are housing insecure and their experiences with homelessness.

The County's Getting to the Root of Rural Housing Insecurity Task Force will review the final reports and use the findings to identify its next objectives and advocacy goals.

Mark Your Calendars

National Volunteer Week: April 14-20, 2024

Are you a volunteer in the County or in our communities? April 14-20 is National Volunteer Week, an annual opportunity to recognize and thank Canada's 24 million volunteers.

The County acknowledges the contributions of volunteers and all they do to make our communities great places to work, live, and play. Watch for more information on National Volunteer Week coming early in the new year.

Do you know someone who makes a difference in the County by volunteering? On February 1, nominations will reopen for the County's 'It Takes a Volunteer' recognition program. Find out more about nominating a volunteer online: www.countygp.ab.ca/volunteers



How to Access Mental Health Services

If you or someone you know needs emotional support or feels overwhelmed, remember you are not alone. Contact one of the resources below for help. For additional resources and supports, visit www.alberta.ca/mentalhealth.

RESOURCE	CONTACT	ABOUT
Alberta 2-1-1	Call or text 2-1-1 www.ab.211.ca	For information/referrals to Alberta's community, social, health-related, and government services.
Alberta Health Services (AHS) Integrated Crisis Access Team	587-259-5513	Walk-in support for adult mental health concerns, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.
AHS Child/Youth Addiction & Mental Health	780-538-5162 Call after 8 a.m. to book a session.	Single session and walk-in counselling for children/youth, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, 4th floor, Nordic Court, 10014-99 Street, Grande Prairie.
AB Mental Health Helpline	1-877-303-2642	Support for mental health concerns.
AB Addiction Helpline	1-866-332-2322	Support for alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and problem gambling.
Adult Bullying Help Line	1-888-456-2323	Support for adults experiencing bullying or harassment.
Kids Help Phone	1-800-668-6868	Support for struggling youth under 20.
Crisis Text Line	Text "HOME" to 686868	Text support by a trained crisis responder.
Distress Line	1-780-482-HELP (4357)	Confidential, non-judgmental short-term crisis intervention, emotional support, and distress resource.
Family and Community Support Services	780-567-5584	Not sure who to call? FCSS can provide information and referral to the appropriate service.
Family Violence Information Line	780-310-1818	Anonymous help in 170 languages.
Help Seeker	www.helpseeker.org	Free location-based help services network.
Indigenous Mental Health Help	1-855-242-3310	Indigenous community support and counselling in Cree, Ojibway, and Inuktitut.
Money Mentors	1-888-294-0076 www.moneymentors.ca	Credit counselling, debt consolidation, and financial education agency.
Income Supports	1-866-644-5135	Support for individuals and families for basic expenses like food, clothing, and shelter.
Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention	780-539-6680 www.sp-rc.ca	Free drop-in Men's Support Group, Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Nordic Court, Room 200, 10014-99 Street, Grande Prairie.
Virtual Rapid Access Counselling	1-877-244-2360 www.rac.janeapp.com	Call or book online for free counselling sessions.

PressReader: Free at County Libraries



Did you know that more than 7,000 newspapers and magazines from around the world are available to library members for free through PressReader?

Get the latest news and information from the National Post, Toronto Star, Vogue, Canadian Geographic, The Economist, Maclean's, The Wall Street Journal, US Weekly, and many more. Articles are easy-to-read and available anywhere, any time through your device.

Visit your local library to sign up for a free membership to get started with PressReader today!



County Office Holiday Hours



County Offices will be closed to the public from Monday, December 25, 2023 to Monday, January 1, 2024, 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 2, 2024**.

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

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.

Recycling and Waste Management Facility Holiday Hours

Please note that the County landfill/transfer station holiday hours between December 25, 2023 and January 1, 2024 are as follows:

CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

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

CLOSED: December 25, 26 & January 1

DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION

CLOSED: December 24 and 26

TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION

CLOSED: December 26

Regular hours of operation will resume January 2, 2024.

WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL

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

CLOSED: December 24, 25, 31 & January 1.

Regular hours of operation will resume January 2, 2024.



Christmas Tree Disposal Available for Curbside Recycle and Waste Collection Customers

As offered in past years, 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 12, 2024. 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 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 CORNER

TIPS FOR RECYCLING PLASTICS

Is your plastic item recyclable? In most cases, the answer is yes. You just have to look for the number.

Recyclable plastic is classified by numbers depending on the type of plastic the item is made from. Look on the bottom of your hard plastic item: if you can see a number from 1 to 7 inside a recycle symbol (♻️) then it can be recycled at one of the County's rural recycling locations or transfer stations. The County's recycling partners collect these items and process them into new material.

Items identified with 6 (polystyrene) and some 4s (such as bags and other plastic film) are not accepted at County facilities – these items require different collection and processing equipment than our partners currently operate.

You have lots of 1 to 7 plastics in your home that you're probably already recycling: condiment containers, berry boxes, laundry soap bottles, yogurt containers, mouthwash bottles, shampoo bottles, medicine bottles, plant pots, CD cases, and some flexible packaging like bacon and cheese wrappers. Rinse them out before recycling to help keep our facilities and equipment free from contamination.

Find out more about all the materials accepted at County rural recycling locations or transfer stations at www.countygp.ab.ca/recyclingandwaste

PETE	HDPE	PVC	LDPE	PP	PS	OTHER
Polyethylene terephthalate	High-density polyethylene	Polyvinyl chloride	Low-density polyethylene	Polypropylene	Polystyrene	Other plastics
						
						

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.

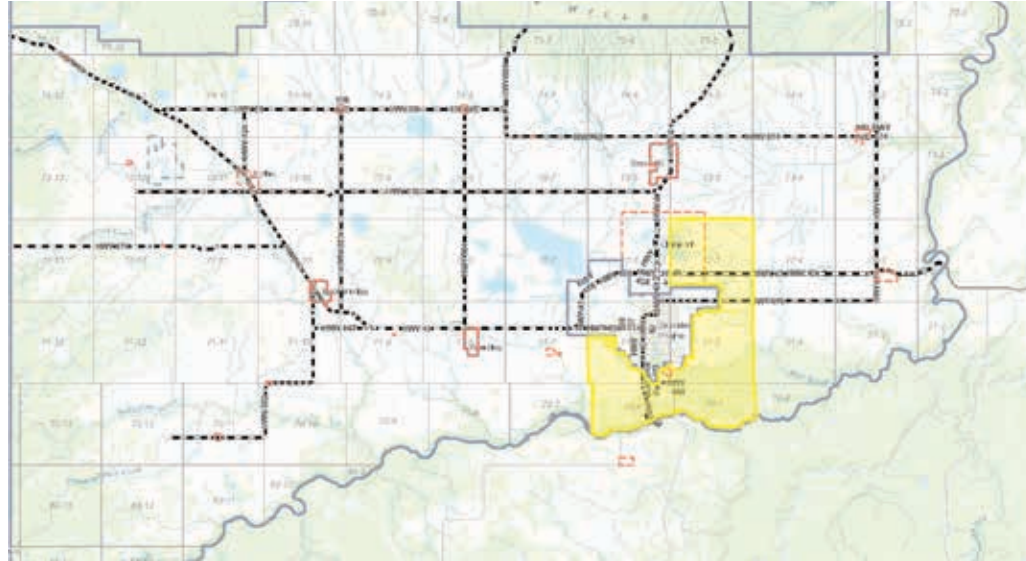
WHAT PROPERTIES WILL BE RE-INSPECTED?

In this cycle, County Assessors will be focusing on Township/Range Roads 70-5, 70-6, 71-5, 71-6, and 72-5 – an area around the City of Grande Prairie – and the Town of Sexsmith as indicated on the map. Residents with properties due for re-inspection will receive a letter and Request for Information in February asking them to self-report any changes to their property.

HOW CAN I SELF-REPORT CHANGES TO MY PROPERTY?

Choose one of the following options:

- 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.



Township/Range Roads 70-5, 70-6, 71-5, 71-6, and 72-5, and the Town of Sexsmith.

WHEN WILL ASSESSORS BE IN MY AREA?

Assessors only conduct re-inspections during regular business hours. If an Assessor needs to speak with you, they will knock on your front door. They will leave a call-back card if needed if you are not at home.

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 while maintaining the recommended physical distancing.

QUESTIONS?

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

Have thoughts on County Safety, Crime Prevention and Quality of Life?

The County of Grande Prairie, along with multiple community partners, is developing a Community Wellness and Safety strategy and we need your help.

Early in the new year, we will ask for your thoughts and opinions. Your participation is invaluable to the development of an authentic and effective strategy for the County of Grande Prairie.

More information will be available early in 2024 at www.countygp.ab.ca.



Come Play!

The Crosslink County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

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

TENDER TOTS

Come play in the Trican Fieldhouse from 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays. 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 2024

Winter Break Camp, January 2 - 5 | Spring Break Camp, April 1 - 5

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- to 5-year-olds
- Be Yoga Fly - Aerial Yoga for all ages

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



LEARN TO SKATE

Preschool Skate (ages 3 to 5) and Learn to Skate (ages 6 to 12) programs are offered in blocks of six weeks per session, from October to May annually. Skaters receive two lessons per week on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our instructor has more than 36 years of experience with both beginner skaters and those looking to improve their skating skills. Register online at: www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com.



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 Bull Dogs 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, call 780-830-7407, or email info@cgpsportsplex.com



PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

WINTER PROGRAMMING

COME EXPLORE THE PREHISTORIC PAST WITH US!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mid-Day New Year's Eve Kid's Party

December 31, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Balloon drop, bubble jump, crafts,
cookies, and dino costumes. No
need to stay up late – come
celebrate the New Year with us.
Cost: regular museum admission.

Night at The Museum

Choose from three dates:
January 4 and 20, or April 20.
Enjoy a sleepover at the museum
among the dinosaurs! Registration
is now open! Open to ages 7 to
14. Special groups can email
programsmanager@dinomuseum.ca
to book a Night at The Museum
for groups of 15 to 30 people.

School's Out: PD Day Camps

Dates: December 15, February 2
and 23, plus a two-day camp on
March 7 and 8, and Spring
Break Camp on April 1 to 5.
When school is out for professional
development (PD) days, dinosaurs
are in! School-age kids from 5 to
13+ are invited to join us for a
fun-filled time at the museum, 9
a.m. to 4 p.m. with the option for
early drop-off or late pick-up. Now
open for registration!

DINO SUMMER CAMPS 2024

Kids aged 4 to 13+ are invited to participate in week-long dinosaur-themed summer camps in July and August. Camps are held at the museum and the scenic Pipestone Creek Park. Campers will learn about our prehistoric past, exploring dinosaurs and fossils while spending a week in nature among Pipestone Creek's prehistoric rocks and boreal forest.

- Chickadees – ages 4 to 6
- Grey Jays – ages 7 to 11
- Ravens – ages 12+

Camps run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day with the option for early drop-off from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. or late pick-up from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Register early at: dinomuseum.ca/summer-camps to secure 2023 prices.

Revised 2024 prices effective March 1.



**PURCHASE A GIFT
CERTIFICATE FOR
ONE OF OUR PALAEO
ADVENTURES THIS
CHRISTMAS!**



ADVENTURE AWAITS - SUMMER 2024

This summer, we invite you to venture beyond the walls of the museum. Join us on one of our unique opportunities to explore with palaeontologists.

PALAEONTOLOGIST FOR A DAY

Spend the day at the bonebed and excavate along with palaeontologists, digging up dinosaur teeth and bones. Open to adults or children accompanied by a guardian.

SECRETS OF THE WAPITI RIVER FLOAT TOURS

Discover the uniqueness of the river's formation, home to a rich fossil history. These four-hour tours include lunch and a stop at a remote fossil site. Book now to receive 2023 prices. Revised 2024 prices effective March 1.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES & RENTAL SPACES

Looking for a dino-rific way to celebrate a special birthday? We offer two packages for the perfect dinosaur-themed birthday party. Includes museum admission and a visit from Aluk, our Dino Mascot.

MEETING ROOM AND THEATRE RENTALS

Book one of our rental spaces for your birthday party, wedding, gala, conference, or meeting. Contact us for a viewing. Book our theatre for a private movie night or video game party, or the entire museum for your wedding or special event.

Visit www.dinomuseum.ca for more information and follow @curriemuseum on



countygp.ab.ca

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE ITEMS TO
THE COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE NO.1
10001 - 84 AVENUE
CLAIRMONT, AB T8X 5B2



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

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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 and Strategy, Economic Development, Financial and Business Planning Services, Information Technology, Insurance/ Risk Management, Legislative Services, Procurement, Communications and Marketing, People and Organizational Development, Transportation and Utilities, 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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