COUNTY CONNECTIONS

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County of Grande Prairie No. 1

WINTER 2022

Reeve's Message



DIVISION 3 COUNCILLOR AND REEVE: LEANNE BEAUPRE 780-814-3121 | Ibeaupre@countygp.ab.ca

With our four-year term well underway, Council is hard at work, bringing their perspectives and experience into planning for the future of the County. I congratulate our five newly elected Councillors and those who are returning to serve for another term. Together, we have formed a strong Council, each bringing to the table their deep community connections, innovative ideas, and shared commitment to focus on the well-being of local citizens, businesses, and communities.

When I was first elected to Council in 2004 there was tremendous opportunity in the County, and I wanted to help guide its economic development and community growth. Since then, it has been an honour and a privilege to be part of the County's record-breaking expansion.

In 2012, I was elected Reeve and continue to proudly serve in this capacity. It is humbling to see how the County of Grande Prairie has become a leader in its governance and advancement. It is also important to me that the County is a good neighbour as our success contributes to the overall success of the region and all Northern Alberta.

Prior to running for Council, I was co-owner of a small oilfield company that provided insights into the challenges of small and medium-sized enterprises. In my former role as a real estate broker, I helped individuals make and sell real estate investments.

As chair of Community Futures - Grande Prairie and Region for many years, my past professional experience helped ensure success for grassroots and social enterprise organizations that form the backbone of Alberta's economy. Currently, I serve as a member of the Northern Alberta Transportation Advisory Bureau, which focuses on building Northern Alberta's transportation infrastructure and am vice-chair of the Northern Alberta Elected Leaders, which advocates for northern Alberta.

My roots are in economic development and my experience has proven that every situation brings both opportunities to seize and challenges to face.

My husband of 36 years and I have three incredible children and two grandchildren who are our sources of inspiration and admiration. As a volunteer, I support health-related causes such as the CIBC Run for the Cure, Canadian Cancer Society, Asthma Canada, and the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation. In my free time, I enjoy working in my yard and golfing.

Like Council, our residents and local stakeholders are genuinely committed to the wellbeing and future of our County, and we appreciate your insights. Please feel welcome to contact me or any of our Councillors to bring your ideas forward.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Agricultural Service Board
- Family and Community Support Services Board (FCSS)
- Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural Exhibition Society
- International Paper / Weyerhaeuser Environmental Advisory Committee
- Municipal Planning Commission Chair
- Peace Library System Board Alternate
- QEII Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation
 "Key to Care Campaign" Committee
- Rural Policing Planning Committee
- · Wetland Centre at Evergreen Park Advisory Group
- County Recreation Board
 County of Grande Prairie City of Grande Prairie
- IDP Steering Committee – County of Grande Prairie - City of Grande Prairie

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County Connections

Your latest news and info from the County about life in the County

Keeping up to date with what's happening in the County is much easier with a subscription to the County Connections e-newsletter. We round up news about important programs, services, initiatives and events that impact people's lives in the County, and feature them in the newsletter.

County Connections is full of timely and relevant information, helping residents and businesses stay informed and updated. It's free, and our e-version is delivered to your inbox.

If you have an item you'd like to see featured in an upcoming issue, email us at communications@countygp.ab.ca.

SIGN-UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER

Enjoy the convenience of reading on your desktop or mobile device.Subscribe today at: www.countygp.ab.ca/countyconnections

Final Budget Meeting Dates



Deliberations to finalize the 2022 budget will take place on April 13 and 14. During annual Budget Meetings, Council adopts capital and operating budgets and approves tax rates. The County's budget influences the programs and services available to County residents, including:

- Roads, bridges and other public infrastructure
- Water and wastewater services
- Grants to support recreation, community, culture, library, seniors and special needs transportation, and Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)
- New and replacement equipment
- Ongoing measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic

To watch the meeting via live stream, visit **www.countygp.ab.ca/events** for details. If you have questions, contact Financial Services at **780-532-9722.**

Meet Your County Councillors

Get to know your 2021 - 2024 County Councillors, the areas of the County they represent, their priorities, and some of the initiatives, programs and projects underway in our community.



DIVISION 1 COUNCILLOR: AMANDA FRAYN 780-518-3197 | afrayn@countygp.ab.ca

I grew up in a family that was directly involved in politics. Discussions about our community, our involvement in it, volunteerism and voting were all important to us. My family's strong community ties often spurred discussions about whether I should represent our region, and with this past election, I found myself in a position to meet the time commitment.

A special part of my heritage is that my family homesteaded in the Crystal Creek area more than 100 years ago. I am so grateful to raise my children in the County amid a strong group of volunteers, neighbours, businesses, and community members.

I began my career as a paramedic on ground and fixedwing response, and as an educator covering all levels of paramedicine. Working with the Chamber of Commerce I have developed relationships with business owners, government officials, and municipal administrators. Throughout my career, volunteerism, and in my current role as a sole proprietor consultant for two local not-for-profits, I continue to prioritize community relationship-building. I am a Director for Swim Alberta, member of the Peace Wapiti Academy School Council, Deep Creek Events volunteer, Level 4 Referee with Swim Canada, and served as Chair of the Tour of Alberta. In 2019, I was named Official of the Year by Swim Alberta.

I have been married for 19 years, and with two teenage boys in competitive swimming, most of our spare time is spent at a pool swimming and volunteering. We make time for camping, hiking, and family movie nights. Each year we light a onekilometre walking trail at our home for evening hikes on our long winter nights.

As Councillor, I am listening to and learning from our community members. Regardless of the question or concern, my ultimate goal is to be part of finding a solution to issues that may be outside my own lived experiences. I count myself fortunate to be part of an informed and compassionate Council, supported by County Administrators who are invested in our region.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Agricultural Service Board
- Family and Community Support Services Board (FCSS)
- Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Management Committee – *Alternate*
- Grande Prairie Regional Recreation Committee (GPRRC)
- Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association Alternate
- Municipal Planning Commission
- Nitehawk Board of Directors (Grande Prairie Ski Hill)
- Vital Signs Leadership Committee (Community Foundation)
- County Recreation Board
- County of Grande Prairie Clairmont Bezanson
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie MD of Greenview

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DIVISION 2 COUNCILLOR: KURT BALDERSTON 780-814-8404 | kbalderston@countygp.ab.ca

It is an honor to be elected as Councillor of Division 2 for a second time. I have lived in the area my entire life and cannot think of a better place to raise my family. I have been married to my wife Marcy for 37 years and we have three grown children and two beautiful granddaughters. I am a fourth-generation farmer and have been involved with many boards and committees throughout my life.

Policing and community crime prevention will be one of my most important areas of focus over the next four years. Every resident, whether rural or urban, should feel safe in their homes and not be worried about having their property stolen. I believe we need to build a strong sense of community and be the eyes and ears for the police. By working together and watching out for our neighbours, we can build a network to help protect each other.

The development and upkeep of roads is one of the County's major costs and responsibilities. We need to spend our tax dollars wisely and work with residents and industry to coexist and protect our road systems.

Recreation is another important area, for the health and wellbeing of our families. Sports facilities, outdoor playgrounds and walking trails are paramount for quality of life.

My goal is to be open and honest with County residents and work together to find solutions to the challenges we face. I value the opinions of others and will work to find common ground.

I believe we must work together with the city and neighbouring towns to maximize opportunities for residents of each community. Although we are from different municipalities, we have many shared interests.

I am looking forward to meeting residents in my area and working together to build a stronger community for our families.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Agricultural Service Board
- Family and Community Support Services Board (FCSS)
- Grande Prairie Pursuit of Excellence Program
- Community Advisory Committee
- Grande Prairie Regional Recreation Committee (GPRRC)

- Grande Prairie Regional Sport Connection
- Municipal Planning Commission
- Peace Regional Economic Development Association (PREDA) Northern Transportation Advisory Council – *Alternate*
- Rural Policing Planning Committee
- South Peace Regional Archives Alternate
- Town of Sexsmith Facilities Task Force
- Wembley & Sexsmith Seed Cleaning Plant Alternate
- County Recreation Board
- County of Grande Prairie Clairmont Bezanson
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie Town of Sexsmith
- IDP Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie City of Grande Prairie



DIVISION 4 COUNCILLOR: STEVE ZIMMERMAN 780-831-0864 | szimmerman@countygp.ab.ca

Thank you, Division 4 residents for your encouragement and support during the 2021 election. I am proud to serve as Councillor and will do my best for those who call the County of Grande Prairie home.

I was raised in the Grande Prairie area. My family history dates back six generations to the original homesteaders in the Goodfare and Beaverlodge area. My wife, Gina and I have been married for more than 31 years and enjoy living on Grandview Road in Division 4. We enjoy camping, golfing and traveling in the County.

My priority as Councillor is to address residents' concerns, such as improving and maintaining roads, finding accessible resources to help fight rural crime, sustainable tax assessments, accountable fiscal spending, and lobbying service providers and government for improved internet and cell phone service.

I am a Petroleum Technologist and have worked in the oilfield for 35 years, mainly in the area of business development. During my time with Alberta Government Telephones, I served as a Journeyman Telecommunication Electrician. I am a former member of the Grande Prairie Petroleum Association and served on the board for 25 years, raising money for numerous children's charities.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Agricultural Service Board
- Council Internal Advocacy Committee Vice Chair
- Family and Community Support Services Board (FCSS)
- Grande Prairie Regional Recreation Committee (GPRRC)
- Joint Assessment Review Board (Local and Composite Assessment Review Board) – *Alternate*
- Municipal Planning Commission
- · River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society
- Water North Coalition Alternate
- County Recreation Board
- County Wembley Dimsdale Saskatoon Lake
- County Recreation Board
- County of Grande Prairie City of Grande Prairie
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie Town of Wembley



780-933-2053 | bmarshall@countygp.ab.ca

In 2013 when the Division 5 seat opened, my friends and neighbours encouraged me to run for Council. With their ongoing support and my experience in the role, I have continued to represent resident's issues throughout the past two terms.

As Councillor, my priorities are reflections of conversations with residents who identify roads as a key area 80 to 90 per cent of the time. Lobbying the provincial government for a replacement hospital to enhance the quality of health care in the West County and the issue of rural crime are two other identified concerns.

Creating desirable places to live and raise a family, while addressing and finding solutions to minimize the impact industrial activity is having on residential life is also important to me.

I was educated as an Electronic Engineering Technologist specializing in Biomedical Electronics, then worked at the Weyerhaeuser Lumber Mill in various roles for 23.5 years before being elected to County Council in 2013. I coached Wolves minor basketball, minor soccer, little league baseball and junior high basketball and served as a School Council member at both Wembley schools. I have been married for 34 years and have two children and one granddaughter. In my free time I enjoy woodworking, home improvement projects, the outdoors, and hiking with my dog.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Agricultural Service Board
- Beaverlodge FCSS Advisory Committee
- Beaverlodge Fire Hall Building Committee
- Family and Community Support Services Board (FCSS)
- Grande Prairie Regional Recreation Committee (GPRRC)
- Hythe-Net Co.
- Mountview Health Complex Committee
- Municipal Planning Commission
- Peace Airshed Zone Association (PAZA)
- · River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society
- Water North Coalition
- · West County Regional Landifll Authority
- County Recreation Board
 - County Beaverlodge Elmworth Huallen
- County Recreation Board
- County Wembley Dimsdale Saskatoon Lake
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie Town of Beaverlodge
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie Town of Wembley



DIVISION 6 COUNCILLOR AND DEPUTY REEVE: PETER HARRIS 780-933-3074 | pharris@countygp.ab.ca

I have served on Council since 2013 to bring an urban/ rural balance to the Council table. I want to contribute to all communities in the County of Grande Prairie through collaboration and co-operation to ensure that services are delivered in an efficient, cost-effective manner to residents.

I have many years of experience in agriculture as a pedigree seed producer in the Beaverlodge area. I currently operate a family farm with my wife and two sons.

I am married to Linda, and we have three adult children and eight grandchildren.



BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Agricultural Service Board
- Beaverlodge Fire Hall Building Committee
- Council Internal Advocacy Committee Chair
- Family and Community Support Services Board (FCSS)
- Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural Exhibition Society
- Historic Resources Committee
- Hythe-Net Co.
- Mountview Health Complex Committee
- Municipal Planning Commission Vice Chair
- South Peace Regional Archives
- Wembley & Sexsmith Seed Cleaning Plant Wembley
- · West County Regional Landfill Authority
- County Recreation Board
- County Beaverlodge Elmworth Huallen
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie Town of Beaverlodge
- IDP Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie City of Grande Prairie



DIVISION 7 COUNCILLOR: BRIAN PETERSON 780-228-0034 | bpeterson@countygp.ab.ca

My aspiration as a County of Grande Prairie Councillor is to build a better place for everyone to live, work, and play through collaboration with my fellow Council members, County residents, other municipalities, and stakeholders. I bring open and honest communication, innovative thinking, and a frugal mindset to the table.

Since starting my first business in 1977, I have run operations in both the forestry and oil and gas industries within Canada and the US. I also bring municipal experience as both a Councillor and Mayor of the former Village of Hythe, as a public works volunteer, and serving for more than 30 years with the volunteer fire department.

I have a patient loving wife, four incredible daughters, four family-oriented sons-in-law, and twelve inspiring grandchildren. I am passionate about my family and community. My hobbies include spending time with my grandchildren, beekeeping, and fish farming.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Agricultural Service Board
- Council Internal Advocacy Committee
- · County Library Board
- Family and Community Support Services Board (FCSS)
 Vice Chair
- Grande Spirit Foundation Alternate
- · Joint Assessment Review Board
- (Local and Composite Assessment Review Board)
- Municipal Planning Commission
- Peace Regional Economic Development Association
 (PREDA)
- Peace Regional Economic Development Association (PREDA) Northern Transportation Advisory Council
- · South Peace Physician Attraction and Retention Committee
- · West County Regional Landifll Authority
- County Recreation Board
- County Hythe Demmitt Valhalla
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie MD of Greenview
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie Saddle Hills County



DIVISION 8 COUNCILLOR: KAREN ROSVOLD 780-831-0902 | krosvold@countygp.ab.ca

My ongoing commitment to volunteerism inspired me to become a Councillor in 2016 as a next step in helping my community. I am humbled by the support from my division and want to continue to help build on its vibrancy and success.

As Councillor, I prioritize balancing fiscal and social responsibility while still providing the services and facilities that our residents desire, along with advocating for volunteer fire departments, libraries, our agricultural community, and residents' concerns. Serving on Council also provides opportunities to work with local non-profits and community groups that are vital to our communities' resiliency.

I have lived and farmed in the La Glace area for 34 years and worked with two different school divisions, as well as in private industry. I serve as the provincial Board Chair of the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta and have volunteered for the La Glace Agriculture Society, Suicide Prevention Resource Centre, 4-H, and many other organizations.

Family and community mean everything to me. I am fortunate that my children and seven precious grandchildren all live within the County of Grande Prairie. I love the outdoors, whether in my yard or camping. I look forward to continuing to work with County residents.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Agricultural Service Board
- Canfor Grande Prairie Forest Management Advisory Committee
- County Library Board Chair
- Family and Community Support Services Board (FCSS) Chair
- Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Management Committee
- · Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association
- Grande Spirit Foundation *Executive Committee and Friends of the Grande Spirit*
- Hythe and District Pioneer Homes Advisory Committee
- Joint Assessment Review Board (Local and Composite Assessment Review Board) – Chair
- Municipal Planning Commission
- · Peace Library System Board
- South Peace Physician Attraction and Retention Committee – *Alternate*
- Vital Signs Leadership Committee (Community Foundation)
- West County Regional Landifl Authority
- County Recreation Board
- County Sexsmith LaGlace Teepee Creek
- County Recreation Board
- County Hythe Demmitt Valhalla
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie Saddle Hills County



DIVISION 9 COUNCILLOR: BOB CHRENEK 780-897-3577 | bchrenek@countygp.ab.ca The thought of promoting unity is what inspired me to run for Council, as a means of giving back to the community that has provided much to my family. I have always been interested in municipal governance and the opportunities it provides to become more involved in the region.

As Councillor, I will work to support growth, unity, and prosperity for the County as a whole, in a manner beneficial to current families and future generations. My priority is to maintain a balanced budget while keeping taxes stable for residents and businesses who need support amid the struggles of the ongoing pandemic and economic downturn.

I have farmed my family's fourth generation farm for more than 35 years. I spent many years as a safety supervisor for a local oilfield company and served as a director for the Sexsmith Seed Cleaning Plant. I have been a volunteer for the Grande Prairie River Rats Association and coached the rugby 7s team at the Alberta Summer Games and minor hockey.

I am a grain and oilseed farmer living near Sexsmith. My wife, Donna, and I are very proud that our two children and their families have chosen the County of Grande Prairie as their home. I enjoy outdoor activities with my family such as camping, golfing, and boating.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Agricultural Service Board Chair
- Community Futures Grande Prairie and Region
- Family and Community Support Services Board (FCSS)
- Historic Resources Committee
- International Paper / Weyerhaeuser Environmental Advisory Committee – *Alternate*
- Joint Assessment Review Board (Local and Composite Assessment Review Board) – Alternate
- Municipal Planning Commission
- Rural Policing Planning Committee
- Wembley & Sexsmith Seed Cleaning Plant Sexsmith
- County Recreation Board
- County Sexsmith LaGlace Teepee Creek
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie Birch Hills County
- ICF Steering Committee
- County of Grande Prairie Town of Sexsmith



County Grants Mean Good News

Each year, Council awards grants to enhance the wellbeing of its residents and to support the commitment and priorities of local citizens who put the funds to work for their communities. In 2021, Council invested \$6 million in recreation, community, culture, library, and social service grants to support groups and facilities across the County, as well as the communities of Beaverlodge, Grande Prairie, Sexsmith, and Wembley.

The County is once again inviting applications in the following categories. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2022. Visit **www.countygp.ab.ca/grants** for more information.

- Cemeteries: Cemetery Improvement Grant
- Community Enhancement Grants: Community Assistance Grant, Event Sponsorship, Community Beautification Initiatives and 100th Anniversary Grant
- Recreational and Cultural Grants: Operating Assistance, Capital Assistance, and Major Capital Grants

Here are some good news stories from our recent recipients.

OPERATING AND BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS

"The Clairmont Community Garden project kicked off in 2020, thanks to a \$1,000 Beautification Grant. In our first year, we built 12 raised bed gardening boxes and were able to add an additional seven boxes in 2021. The project has inspired a large group of volunteers, the Clairmont Community Gardeners, who benefitted from a \$5,000 Operating Grant and \$500 Beautification Grant in 2021. In 2022, we plan to instill the love of gardening in youth by working with Clairmont Community School students and launching a teen gardening program through the County's Wellington Resource Centre."

- Devin Bateman

CAPITAL FUNDING GRANT

"Thanks to the amazing support of the County, the Wembley Arena doors would not have reopened so quickly following a devastating fire in 2020. At the time of the fire, we learned we were underinsured. The Wembley & District Agricultural Society applied for and received a \$350,000 Capital Funding Grant to rebuild the Wembley Arena, followed by a \$38,000 grant for our ice plant rental and up to \$37,275 for ice plant maintenance. We were thrilled to reopen the ice portion of the facility for public skating and minor and recreation league hockey in November, with our focus then shifting to restoring the full facility, including the gym, kitchen and events centre."

- Renee Corrigal, Arena Rebuild Committee Chair

EMERGENCY COVID FUNDING OPERATIONAL GRANT

"With the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Teepee Creek Stampede Association, like many other similar organizations, was unable to run our public events and services, and youth and adult programming. Thanks to a \$40,000 Community Grant from the County, we were able to offset some of our revenue losses for 2021 and remain viable going forward."

- Ryan Matheson, President, Teepee Creek Stampede Association

MAJOR CAPITAL COMMUNITY GRANT AND CAPITAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

"The County awarded a \$300,000 Major Capital Community Grant to help offset the costs of a new brine line cooling system at the Hythe Memorial Area, providing the support we needed to look to the province and other avenues for additional grant funding to complete the estimated \$900,000 project. A \$4,500 Capital Assistance Grant for a new header cover is providing much-needed protection to our refrigeration system and has improved usability of our rear door for larger units.

- Rhonda Tofteland, Treasurer, Hythe Athletic Association

EMERGENCY COVID-19 FUNDING REQUEST

"The Webster Community Hall Association is grateful for the \$14,000 grant we received from the County. Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, we had to cancel all rentals and were unable to generate revenue from the hall. The funds covered our operational and day-to-day expenses during the down time."

- Cindy Foley, Treasurer, Webster Community Hall



Stay Updated on Road Bans

Road bans are coming soon. The County's Road Ban status can change rapidly, and the times they are declared vary, depending on weather conditions. Some roads in the County have weight restrictions year-round.

Staying up to date on the county's road ban status takes one easy step: Call the County of Grande Prairie Road Ban Phone Line at **780-513-3964** or visit **www.countygp.ab.ca/roadbans** and subscribe to page updates.



New Director of Public Works Appointed

The County of Grande Prairie is pleased to announce the appointment of Ryan Konowalyk as the County's Director of Public Works. Konowalyk started his new role on January 4 after serving as Alberta Transportation's Regional Director for the Peace Region. He brings more than 23 years of progressive experience in the transportation infrastructure field.

"It is exciting, and certainly an honour, to be selected as the new Director of Public Works and especially to be able to continue to serve in the northwest part of our province," said Konowalyk. "I truly have a passion for our region and hold the County of Grande Prairie in high regard."

Konowalyk will work alongside the current Director of Public Works Dale Van Volkingburgh who retires at the end of May 2022 after spending his entire career with the County of Grande Prairie.

As Director of Public Works, Konowalyk will be responsible for leadership and daily operations of four County departments: Construction. Infrastructure Support Services. Public Works Operations and Technical Services.

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR DUST CONTROL

Calcium Applications:

Residential - \$4.40/metre Commercial/Industrial - \$6.60/metre

Oil Applications:

Commercial

Residential cost share - \$19.20/metre for 150 metres - \$21.95/metre after 150 metres - \$21.95/metre

Applications for Dust Control are open until April 29, 2022. Apply online at www.countygp.ab.ca/dustcontrol

Or in-person at the Public Works Building at: 10001 - 84 Avenue, Clairmont

For more information, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/dustcontrol or contact Public Works at 780-532-7393.



PLAN FOR BUILDING SEASON

DON'T DELAY, SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATIONS TODAY!

Building permits are required to ensure construction follows the building code, including:

- Construction of a building
- Renovations
- Relocations
- Additions
- Change in occupancy

Development permits are required for approval of the use of the land, including:

- Excavation
- Stockpiling
- Building and additions
- Change of use or intensity of use of the land or building

Don't forget: During cooler temperatures, most construction sites require both temporary and permanent gas permits.

- Temporary gas permits are required when gas or propane is tied into a non-permanent heat source that will be disconnected once the project is complete.
- Temporary propane heat has more regulations than temporary gas heat. Pick up a quick reference guide at the County Administration Building front desk at 10001 - 84 Avenue, Clairmont.

Separate permits for Electrical, Plumbing and Private Sewage Systems may also be required.

Learn more at www.countygp.ab.ca/permits or contact Planning & Development staff at 780-513-3950 or email plan@countygp.ab.ca.

A Ton of Reasons to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle CHANGES COMING TO THE LANDFILL ACCESS PROGRAM THIS YEAR

Are you a regular visitor at the Clairmont Centre for Recycling & Waste Management (CCRWM)? The County is working toward an even more environmentally friendly future at the facility, with the new Landfill Access Program keeping waste disposal accessible to residents and supporting our environment!

Starting later this year, we'll be swapping County residents' current access tags for sleek new wallet-sized cards as they visit the facility. Then, each time you stop by the CCRWM, the landfill attendant will swipe your card to track the total weight of waste disposed of by your household.

With your new access card, each household can dispose of 1,000 kg (2,200 lbs.) of household waste each year, free of charge. 1,000 kg is about 156 large garbage bags or 52 waste carts - the same amount available to households who receive curbside collection.

These changes will encourage residents to think more about the waste they're bringing to the facility, leading to more recycling and reusing, a decrease in oversized loads from businesses, and ultimately less waste in the landfill at the CCRWM supporting environmental stewardship. Private companies using the residential program and homes that produce a large volume of waste will be subject to tipping fees after they've disposed of 1,000 kg of waste.

WHAT ARE THE DIRTY DETAILS?

The weight limit only includes waste – not recyclables, bottle donations or items for the Shelve and Share. If you visit the facility with waste, recyclables and items for the Shelve and Share, you will drop off the other items to the correct location and drive back to the scale so we can accurately weigh your waste.

Each time you visit, CCRWM staff will let you know your household's total waste weight for the year to date.

These changes apply only to the Landfill Access Program at the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management and will come into effect later this year.

HOW DO WE WIN BY WEIGHING WASTE?

Less waste in the landfill is a good thing – for the County and its residents. More reducing, reusing, and recycling equals less waste in the landfill itself, therefore less money (\$) the County must invest in expanding the landfill (adding more cells) to make more space for waste.

A new cell was constructed at the CCRWM this summer for a total of \$4.7 million.

Less money (\$) invested over time to expand the landfill means less cost to taxpayers.

Just like the curbside collection program in place at select County neighbourhoods, limiting residential waste to a reasonable amount per household encourages everyone to find ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Recycling and waste programs are available to County residents year-round at our waste management facilities:

- Properly dispose of hazardous household waste, paint, tires, used oil and more at the CCRWM year-round or after spring clean-up at the annual Recycling Roundup
- Properly recycle electronics (e-waste), grain bags and twine
- Take advantage of the Backyard Organic Diversion Program – purchase a home composting (at cost) for food digester to dispose of organic materials right at home

Watch the County's website, social media channels and future newsletters for details.

Visit **www.countygp.ab.ca/recyclingprograms** to learn more about recycling and waste management. For landfill and transfer station information and hours, call the Landfill Information Line at **780-513-3967**.

Say "No Spray" by April 15

Apply by Friday, April 15 if you do not want herbicide sprayed on the road allowance adjacent to your land.

Applying to the County's No Spray program means you will take responsibility for controlling the noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds and brush in the ditch next to your land.

HOW TO APPLY TO THE NO SPRAY PROGRAM:

- Print and complete the application found at www.countygp.ab.ca/nospray
- Submit your application by Friday, April 15
- A \$25 late fee will apply to applications received after the deadline

WHERE DO I SEND MY NO SPRAY APPLICATION?

Email: agriculture@countygp.ab.ca, Fax: 780-567-5589

Mail: Agriculture Dept. 10001-84 Avenue, Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

'No Spray' signs will be provided and installed by the County's Agriculture department and removed at the end of the season.

x156

x52

Flood Preparedness: It's Everyone's Business

Each year, spring melt leads to flowing water. Managing and coordinating drainage activities across the County has become a focus to help reduce the risk of future overland flooding and minimize water flow impacts.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY DO TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF FLOODING?

The County works proactively to prepare infrastructure, roads, culverts, bridges, stormwater ponds, ditches and swales, to withstand spring melt and reduce the risk of overland flooding. Approved last year, the Surface Water Management Policy outlines how the County manages the necessary maintenance and repair work to protect public property and support residents in maintaining private land.

WHAT IS OVERLAND FLOODING?

Overland flooding is defined as water flowing from an outside source or body of water onto dry land, causing water damage. In the County, the two most likely causes of overland flooding are sudden rainstorms or snowmelt.

Annual work that the County undertakes includes inspecting and installing new culverts, maintaining and rehabilitating ditches, and repairing right-of-ways, which helps protect infrastructure and better prepares it to withstand higher volumes of water. This work is prioritized with other County projects during the construction season.

Spot a blocked or damaged culvert or a beaver dam causing water back up? Report it to Public Works by calling **780-532-7393.**

HOW DOES THE COUNTY SUPPORT LANDOWNERS?

The process for addressing requests for support with flooding issues on private land is outlined in the Surface Water Management Policy. When assistance is required to maintain an established, registered drainage channel, landowners can reach out to the County. Surface water management work across the County is subject to the annual budget approved by Council. Projects may be funded in partnership with the landowner. Some concerns may be up to the landowner to address or referred to the Province, such as if the water is part of a historic drainage path or natural drainage and if there are no impacts to County infrastructure or operations.

Remember, water is managed by the Government of Alberta. Before you make any alterations to water flow (drainage) on your property, approval from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the County of Grande Prairie is required beforehand. If you have an established waterway on your property that is facing soil erosion, the County's Rural Extension team may be able to work with you on a strategy to reduce the damage and control the water flow. For more information, contact the Agriculture department at **780-532-9727**.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AS A PROPERTY OWNER?

Preparation is key! Take steps to protect your home and property from the effects of spring melt.

- Check culverts near your property and report frozen or blocked sites to Public Works
- Don't pump water or clear snow into ditches and culverts, as it can freeze or block culverts during spring melt that flood and damage culverts, ditches, roads and other property
- Clear debris from eavestroughs or downspouts and ensure that downspouts are down and in use each spring
- Watch for ice damming in your eaves, as repeat melting and freezing patterns through the winter leads to freezing
- Clear high spots of snow away from your house before spring thaw to avoid water seepage
- Clear driveway snow away from buildings, not against
- Make sure your sump pump is working and draining and empties away from your house, within your property

PREPARE FOR A FLOODING EMERGENCY:

- The Government of Alberta recommends that you be prepared to take care of your household for up to 72 hours.
 Visit www.alberta.ca for information about what to include in your home and emergency kit
- · Create an evacuation plan, including for pets and livestock
- Sign up for Provincial alerts to stay informed: www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca

In the event of flooding, landowners are responsible for making sure that any soil that has left their property (been washed away) is returned to their land as much as possible.

For more information on what to do in the event of a flood and steps to take if your home or water is impacted, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/floodinformation.

With the changes to Provincial programs that provide financial assistance and support to recover after a disaster, it is more important than ever for the County of Grande Prairie and individual property owners to prepare for and reduce the risk of emergencies and disasters, including floods.

Local governments now share 10 per cent of the cost of uninsured damages caused by a disaster event with the province. Individual properties have a limit of \$500,000 in financial assistance from the province following a disaster, and provincial assistance will be provided to a property only once. Read more about Provincial supports at www.alberta.ca.



Connect to the Online World at County Libraries

When it comes to rural internet, you can pick two of the following: fast, cheap, or reliable. You can't have all three.

Luckily, County of Grande Prairie Community Libraries have you covered, with locations in Elmworth, Hythe, La Glace, and Valhalla. Visit your library to access the following services:

- Free Wi-fi: Bring your own device and connect to our wireless internet. Participate in online meetings (with headphones, preferably), complete online coursework, read the news, play games, or download content to enjoy at home. The Wi-fi is always on – when the library is closed, you can still connect from outside the building.
- Free public computers: Offering internet connectivity and a variety of useful software programs to help you get business done or connect with distant friends and family.
- Printing, scanning, and faxing services: A small fee may apply.
- Need more? We want to hear what YOU need from County Libraries to enhance your online life. Reach out to your local library with your suggestions.
 - Elmworth Community Library 780-354-2930 librarian@elmworthlibrary.ab.ca
 - Hythe Community Library 780-356-3014 manager@hythelibrary.ab.ca
 - La Glace Community Library 780-568-4696 librarian@laglacelibrary.ab.ca
 - Valhalla Community Library 780-356-3834 librarian@valhallalibrary.ab.ca

Library internet connections are open and unrestricted. We ask patrons to remain respectful of other visitors and staff while using the internet in our public spaces.

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 Seniors Benefit.

WHEN: The 2021 tax season begins March 2022. Some locations offer year-round tax clinics.

WHERE:

- Wellington Resource Centre 10407 - 97 Street, Clairmont. Year-round. Virtual or overthe-phone options available. Call **780-567-2843** to book an appointment.
- Hythe and surrounding area Call 780-882-4248 to book an appointment. Virtual or over-thephone options may be offered.
- Beaverlodge and surrounding area Year-round. Call Beaverlodge FCSS at 780-354-4057.
- 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** for 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** for an appointment. Requirements: Income less than \$35,000, single marital status.

Free Removal of Internet Towers

Do you have an internet tower on your property that is not being used? Have you purchased property with an existing internet tower that you do not need? If you answered yes to either of these questions, please contact the County. We will 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**.



Fire Season Begins March 1 - APPLY FOR YOUR PERMIT ONLINE



during fire season. Complete the online Fire Permit Request Form at **www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits** or contact your area's Fire Guardian.

COUNTY RED AREA – This is a restricted burn zone. Permits are required year-round. 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. To locate your nearest office, visit

www.wildfire.alberta.ca/firepermits or call 310-0000.

FIRE GUARDIANS

In White, Yellow and Red Fire Burning Areas of the County (see above map), 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.

APPLY ONLINE FOR YOUR PERMIT TODAY! WWW.COUNTYGP.AB.CA/FIREPERMITS FIRE SEASON OFFICIALLY BEGINS MARCH 1.

Applying for a fire permit has gotten a whole lot easier with the move to an online format.

"Our online application process takes a few simple steps and is open to all County residents," said Fire Marshal Ken Atamanchuk.

- 1. Complete the initial online application at www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits.
- 2. Select the area where you live to determine if it meets the safe burning guidelines.
- 3. If your area meets the safe burning guidelines, it will be approved.





Burning household garbage is not permitted within hamlets or residential subdivisions. An inspection and permit are required prior to burning and you must use an approved incinerator or burn barrel.

"We want residents to know how important it is to follow the fire permitting process and safe burning guidelines," said Ken Atamanchuk, County of Grande Prairie Fire Marshal. "Wildfires and grass fires can spread very quickly and become uncontrollable, causing devastation. When we all follow the rules, we are working together to care for our properties, people and forested areas."

It is important to note that burning in any red zone is prohibited without a permit. This entire region is considered an extremely high-risk area for wildfires due to heavy fuel load and limited access. When a Fire Ban is issued in the County, burn permits are no longer in place and new permits will not be issued until the ban is lifted. Stay up to date with any fire bans in place at **www.countygp.ab.ca/fireban**. Local media will share notifications of fire bans which are also available at **www.albertafirebans.ca**.

For more information about fire permits, to clarify your Burn Area or to request an inspection, contact Regional Fire Service at **780-532-9727** or visit **www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits.**

SAFE BURNING GUIDELINES

- · Have a valid fire permit.
- If a fire ban is issued, all burning must cease and burn permits are no longer valid until the ban has been lifted.
- All fires must be attended. Fires must be in care and control at all times.
- Do not burn in winds higher than 12 km per hour.
- · Keep adequate water supply or equipment nearby.

- Position your burn barrel/incinerator at least 30 metres away from structures or standing timber.
- Do not burn prohibited materials/debris:
 - animal manure
 - pathological waste
 - non-wooden material
 - tires
 - rubber or plastic
 - used oil
 - combustible material in automobile bodies

HOLD-OVER FIRES – A SLEEPING GIANT

Did you know that an extinguished burn pile can smolder underground during the winter months?

Hold-over fires are typically caused by smoldering organic material that lies deep in the ground under the burn pile.

This type of fire is like a sleeping giant, just waiting to take off when dry grasses are uncovered, and the spring winds ignite the embers lying in wait for the perfect conditions.

"Winter is the safest time of year for permitted burning," says Fire Marshal Ken Atamanchuk. "The ground is snow covered and frozen, making the conditions better-suited for such practices. When you pre-plan your burn with your local Fire Guardian, avoid building the burn piles in areas of muskeg or peat moss. By building the piles tall, tight, and dirt-free, you will ensure a cleaner burn."

TIPS TO AVOID A POTENTIAL HOLDOVER SPRING FIRE:

- ALWAYS request assistance and guidance from your local Fire Guardian and make sure you have your fire permit on hand and available for authorities
- Check your burn piles frequently and have the appropriate extinguishing equipment nearby
- · Re-pile burnt piles
- Before lighting any new or re-piled piles, always obtain a new fire permit
- Before spring, go back and check those winter burn piles
- Extinguish any hot spots, walk the burn area, turn the debris over to check for further hot spots
- Probe the burned area to ensure there are no smoldering fires in the ground
- Stir the debris and soak hot spots
- Watch the wind conditions and continue to check burned areas for potential re-igniting

DO YOUR PART AS A HOMEOWNER

Landowners are responsible for all fires on their property, as well as ensuring they are completely extinguished. Follow best practices at all times during any burning to help prevent wildfires. Ensure that your insurance coverage is in place if a fire were to occur and affect your property; have a discussion with your insurance broker regarding coverages available for your property. You are responsible for the burning you do or the person who you have authorized to burn on your behalf. If a fire gets out of control or enters your property, you are responsible for the costs of containing and/or extinguishing it.

Improvements to Fire Safety in Hythe

Following Council's approval of \$57,000 in November for safety improvements at the Hythe Fire Station, Regional Fire Services purchased new and replacement Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), additional equipment to support day-to-day operations like hoses and medical supplies, as well as specialized tools for ice rescue operations.

"With Council's support, we are modernizing the Hythe Fire Station, bringing it into step with our innovative and responsive Regional Fire Service," explained Fire Chief Dan Verdun. "These funds support public safety and provide a secure and effective environment for the community's Paid Responders."

"Supporting safe communities is a priority for County Council," said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. "Dedicating these funds to the fire station in Hythe is an investment in protecting the lives and livelihoods of our residents in the area."

The Hythe Fire Department was incorporated as a station within the County Regional Fire Service following dissolution of the Village of Hythe last year. County policies, provincial legislation and industry best-practises guide operations and equipment for Regional Fire Service Stations serving communities across the County.

Fire Permit Fee Coming to County Campgrounds

When campers visit County campgrounds this season, they will notice a small change that will help offset some operational costs in a streamlined way. A five-dollar nightly fire permit fee will be in place at all County campgrounds to cover the cost of campground firewood. The fee will be included when booking overnight camping and campers will still have self-serve access to County firewood compounds.

This change came into effect on January 1, 2022, after receiving Council approval during the County's Interim Budget Meetings held in December. This shift means that residents and visitors who are enjoying County campgrounds will contribute to the cost of providing firewood, instead of all County residents through municipal taxes. County Park Hosts look forward to welcoming campers back for another great camping season!



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 7, 8 and 9 – the area between Richmond Hill and Valhalla – and the Town of Beaverlodge 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?

- 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.



Ranges 7, 8 and 9, and the Town of Beaverlodge

WHEN WILL ASSESSORS BE IN MY AREA?

Assessors only conduct re-inspections during regular business hours. If you are not at home, Assessors will 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 while maintaining the recommended physical distancing.

QUESTIONS?

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

NOXIOUS WEEDS BE THE FIRST TO KNOW

Register Your Rented Land



Are you a farmer who rents land? Would you like to be the first to know about regulated weeds found by municipal inspectors?* County taxation records only note the landowner, and not the renter so register your rented land with the County today! Call the Agriculture department at **780-532-9727.**

*Under the Weed Control Act of Alberta, landowners and/or occupants are to be notified when there are regulated weeds on their property. All information collected by the County will only be used for the stated purpose and will not be shared.

Nominate a Family for 100 Years of Farming Awards

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The County of Grande Prairie's Agricultural Services Board recognizes area families for their contributions to agriculture and the County's heritage in two award categories:

HERITAGE HOMESTEAD AWARD

Recognizing families who homesteaded and continuously farmed/ranched the same land for 100 years or more.

PIONEER AWARD

Recognizing families who have lived and farmed/ranched within the County of Grande Prairie for 100 years or more.

Applications for the 100 Years of Farming Awards are accepted throughout the year. A locally-made sign is presented to award recipients. For more information about the Heritage Homestead Award and the Pioneer Farming Family Award, and to apply or nominate a family, visit **www.countygp.ab.ca/100years**.

Congratulations to the 2021 award recipients:

- The Ellingboe Family, West County Pioneer Award
- The Tofteland Family, Valhalla Centre Heritage Homestead Award
- The Juneau Family, West Hythe Heritage Homestead Award

Blue Pin Program Supports Success

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Customer service has always had a meaningful impact on any company's success. A well-trained customer service team can reflect a positive company image, help attract and foster lasting customer relationships and set a company/business apart from the competition.

The County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network **Customer Service Excellence Blue Pin Certification Program** is a partnership between the County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network and Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC). The program arms front line and management staff with the best tools to perform their jobs to a high level of efficiency, enhancing the customer experience.

The program includes courses in conflict resolution, key skills for workplace success and communication strategies. Courses vary in length but are broken down into manageable sizes and scheduling to support a work/life balance on the path to certification.

The virtual live learning format supports employers investing in their staff, contributing to many positives including boosting employee loyalty and morale, encouraging a positive workplace culture and ultimately high customer satisfaction. Participating organizations receive a window decal to show involvement in the program. Upon completion of the course, participants receive a certificate of completion and lapel pin. Customers who see the lapel pin and signage will know your organization and staff are dedicated to exceptional customer service.

For additional information contact Hetti Huls, Economic Development Officer at hhuls@countygp.ab.ca or 780-831-8864.

The Customer Service Excellence Blue Pin Program is brought to you by the County of Grande Prairie Business Support Partners: County of Grande Prairie, Community Futures Grande Prairie, Alberta Labour and Immigration, the Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce, Grande Prairie Regional College, Grande Prairie Regional Tourism and Destination Marketing Fund, Peace Wapiti Academy, Western Cree Tribal Council, and International Paper.



"Every course in the Blue Pin Program has given me a takeaway that I can put to use and ideas that I look forward to trying to help strengthen and grow our team. Everyone at my place of work will benefit from the instructor's ideas and years of experience. I appreciate the opportunity the County has offered and believe this program will help us improve as a business."

Robbyn Troup,
 Owner/Office Administrator,
 Bear Creek Maintenance

Join the Business Support Network

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Are you a member of the local business community? Become part of the County of Grande Prairie Business Support Network (BSN).

Watch for upcoming events and learn more at: www.countygp.ab.ca/bsn.

The sessions rotate between presentations on key business topics and roundtable networking events. The network was established to help identify trends our businesses are facing, encourage collaboration and partnership opportunities, and strengthen the connection between businesses and our local communities. Need more information? Have a topic to suggest or present? Want to join our distribution list? Want to host an open networking morning? Email hhuls@countygp.ab.ca or call 780-831-8864.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE VIRTUAL



February 22-24, 2022

Watch the website for the schedule and list of guest speakers

www.growingthenorth.com

Opioid Exhibit Coming to Beaverlodge March 2-5

"Opioids are an 'our' problem. If it hasn't impacted you yet, it probably will."

At first reading, it's easy to shrug off this sobering statement from County of Grande Prairie FCSS Manager Kathleen Turner as an unlikely possibility.

However, considering the web of family, friends, community members and coworkers included among our list of acquaintances, and the likelihood that a traumatic experience or mental health issue may affect any one of them, the truth in Turner's statement begins to sink in.

To explore the impacts and reach of opioid use, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and community partners are bringing an interactive exhibit to Beaverlodge in March.

"The theme of the exhibit is, 'Somebody's Someone - The Opioid Crisis in Our Community', said Turner. "Visitors will be taken along an educational journey designed to reduce stigma around opioid misuse and increase awareness that the drug does not discriminate – anyone can be affected by this crisis."

The exhibit is hosted by the County of Grande Prairie FCSS and FCSS programs in Beaverlodge and Wembley, along with the Beaverlodge Victim Services Unit, Justice for Justice Society, Horse Lake First Nation and other partners.

The public is invited to participate in the interactive exhibit at the Beaverlodge Community Centre from 2-8 p.m. on March 2, 1-8 p.m. on March 3 and 4, and 1-4 p.m. on March 5. An invitation has been extended to schools for junior and senior high students to attend.



GRANDE PRAIRIE & AREA **Community Compass**

Helping you navigate community supports across Grande Prairie.

SPECIALIZING IN THE AREAS OF:

& Addictions





Training & Education



FEATURING A DIGITAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY THROUGH THE **HELPSEEKERS APP:**

- Find local, relevant and up-to-date social support services with the click of a button
- · Save your searches for quick reference later or share with others
- Free to use

Visit cityofgp.com/communitycompass today to learn more about how we're helping you connect with services today.









Ice Safety Tips

As we approach spring and warming weather, we would like to remind residents of the importance of ice safety. Always check signage in the area, local authorities and media reports before going onto any frozen waterway. No ice is without risk. All users of designated ice surfaces do so at their own risk.

- Use designated ice surfaces and obey all signage. The County
 of Grande Prairie has designated ponds for skating that are
 maintained by knowledgeable staff and volunteers. This ice
 is regularly tested to ensure it is thick and strong enough for
 recreational use.
- Vehicles are not permitted on ice in designated ponds and are not permitted in parks. This includes small tractors, snow machines and side-by-sides.
- Spring ice can be rotten ice: Even if the ice measures at the correct thickness, thawing and refreezing during the spring weakens ice vertically. Stay away from cloudy ice –look for clear, blue or green ice.
- Stay off ice at night as it becomes difficult to see hazards or open holes.
- · Always actively supervise children playing on or near ice.
- Avoid alcohol as it impairs your judgement and speeds up the development of hypothermia.
- Call 911 if someone falls through the ice or you see someone in trouble. The safest place to perform a rescue is from the shore.

Recycling Corner



SAFE PROPANE TANK DISPOSAL

The Clairmont Centre for Recycling & Waste Management accepts propane tanks for safe disposal. To keep our staff and customers safe, all propane tanks, empty or full, cannot go in the garbage. Propane tanks in the landfill pose a severe hazard to both staff and customers as they can explode, causing personal injuries and equipment damage from flying debris and fire.

- Propane tanks up to 60 pounds are accepted at Clairmont Centre for Recycling & Waste Management.
- Propane tanks must be placed at the very south end of the recycling pole shed located in the transfer station area.
- DO NOT throw into the metal bins.
- If you have questions or need guidance while on site talk to the staff who are happy to help.

Contact us: **780-513-3967** (Landfill Info Line) or **780-567-4194** (Direct Line) or email **clandfill@countygp.ab.ca**.

Respect Private Land – ASK BEFORE YOU ACCESS

The increasing popularity of Off-Highway Vehicles such as quads, side-by-sides, dirt bikes and snowmobiles has led to more and more trespassing on private rural properties.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FARMERS?

- Personal injury and equipment damage caused by ruts
- Concerns for personal and family safety
- · Loss of snow-covered unharvested crops
- · Introduction of new weeds
- · Damage to standing crops
- Financial losses

You wouldn't want a random stranger using YOUR backyard. Always ASK before crossing private property. Land owners are not required to fence their land or post "No Trespassing" signs.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF YOU TRESPASS?

- Violations of the provincial Petty Trespass Act and Trespass to Premise Act
- Fines of up to \$600

Visit **www.countygp.ab.ca/publicwebmap** and search 'County Ownership Map' under the printable maps gallery to find property owners' names.

FREE SIGNS FOR FARMERS

The County Agriculture department provides up to five free "No Trespassing" signs for County producers. Call **780-532-9727** to request signs.

Livestock Emergency Response Plan

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The County is in the final stages of developing the Livestock Emergency Response Plan. Thanks to a grant from the Canadian Agriculture Partnership, the County surveyed livestock owners from across the municipality to determine the type of livestock they had, to inform resource decision-making. Thanks to all who participated in the survey; your feedback helped develop a plan relevant to County circumstances. Stay tuned for information sessions and a tabletop exercise planned for later this year. Questions? Contact Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman at **780-532-9727**.





How to Reach County Regional Enforcement Services

Do you have questions, concerns, complaints? Would you like information regarding traffic safety and enforcement? The following is a list of important contacts in the event you ever need to reach Regional Enforcement Services. Feel free to tear away this contact information and place it in a familiar place for your reference.

Phone: 780-532-9727

Email: enforcementservices@countygp.ab.ca

Online: www.countygp.ab.ca/occurencereporting

Secure Fax: 888-779-5895

How to Reach the Grande Prairie Regional Animal Care Facility

For animal shelter, pound services and adoptions:

Phone: 780-830-0199

Email: regionalpound@countygp.ab.ca

Fax: 780-532-4745

How to Report a Drug House

Phone: 780-830-5889

Online: www.countygp.ab.ca/drughouse

For Emergencies

Emergencies (Police, Fire & EMS)	911
RCMP Grande Prairie	780-830-5700
RCMP Beaverlodge	780-354-2485
Litter – Crown Land/Trails	310-LAND
Wildlife Emergencies	1-800-642-3800
Public Lands Abuse	310-LAND
Report A Poacher	1-800-642-3800
Safe Communities (Scan)	1-866-960-SCAN (7226)
Wildfire Hotline	310-FIRE (3473)
Environmental Emergencies	1-800-222-6514
Public Works Emergencies	780-532-7393
Alberta SPCA	1-800-455-9003
Dangerous Goods	1-800-272-9600
Poison And Drug Information	1-800-332-1414
Pet Poison	1-800-213-6680
Animal Poison	1-888-426-4435
Occupational Health & Safety	1-866-415-8690
Child Abuse Hotline Crisis Unit	1-800-638-0715
Canadian National (CN) Rail	1-800-465-9239
Local Crime Prevention Contacts, for Non-Emergencies	
Grande Prairie District Rural Crime Watch Assn.	780-831-4390
Beaverlodge District Rural Crime Watch Assn.	780-882-2584

Help Prevent Crime in Your Community

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Have you ever wanted to help play a role in improving safety in your community? The County of Grande Prairie Regional Enforcement Services invites you to begin using the following crime prevention tools today to become additional eyes and ears to assist your local law enforcement.

- Read the Grande Prairie RCMP Newsletter for the latest safety tips and crime statistics. View the RCMP's Grande Prairie Region Crime Map for location-specific information on missing persons, stolen vehicles and crime rates. Both are available on the County website at www.countygp.ab.ca/police.
- Alberta RCMP App available on the Apple App store or on Google Play.
- Alberta Rural Crime Watch App available on the Apple App store or on Google Play.
- Download the Lightcatch App available on the Apple App store or on Google Play. Help stop crime in its tracks using this mobile reporting app. Users can support suspicious behaviour and provide photos that may assist the RCMP in tracking down suspects. The County awarded \$50,000 to the Beaverlodge & District Rural Crime Watch to support a one-year pilot project to partner with the app.
- Join a Rural Crime Watch Association To become a member, rural residents must undergo a criminal background check.
 - Learn more about the Grande Prairie & District Rural Crime Watch Association (GPRCWA) – call **780-831-4390** or visit **www.gpcrimewatch.ca**.
 - Learn more about the Beaverlodge District Rural Crime Watch Association – call 780-831-4390 or find them on Facebook.
 - The GPRCWA also works along with neighbouring associations in the M.D. of Greenview.
- Start a Citizens on Patrol (COP) Group – Find information at www.acopa.ca.

IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING CRIMES

The Grande Prairie RCMP encourages residents to report crime or suspicious behaviour observed in our community. Reporting crime helps police identify where they are needed and is one of the best ways to help solve crime by providing police with an accurate understanding of what is happening in our community and surrounding areas. Crime reporting allows police to take proactive initiatives to help prevent future crimes from happening. Property crimes under \$5,000 can be reported to the RCMP online at

https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta/en.

Requests for the Reeve and Council



The County of Grande Prairie website provides a number of easy-to-complete online forms to help streamline the process for residents who wish to submit requests to Council. Find links to the following forms at www.countygp.ab.ca/requests.

REQUEST TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL

Did you know that as a resident of the County, you can make a presentation to Council during a regular Council Meeting? A presentation request should be made at least 11 days in advance of a scheduled meeting using our 'Request to Present' online form.

EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE REEVE OR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Do you have an upcoming event and would like the Reeve or a member of County Council to attend? Submit your invitations to conferences, anniversary celebrations, charitable or cultural events at least two weeks in advance of your event. Once your invitation is reviewed, you will receive a confirmation response if the Reeve or member of Council is available to attend.

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

The County is proud to support community events. In completing an event sponsorship request form, be sure to review the application deadlines.

COMMUNITY OPERATING AND CAPITAL GRANTS

Submit a funding request for operational or capital improvements, or recreation or cultural organizations and/ or facilities.

WHEN DOES COUNCIL MEET?

Access Council and Committee meeting dates and agendas through the events calendar on the County website: www.countygp.ab.ca/events

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Community groups or non-profit organizations can seek Council's support for a project or initiative. In addition to completing the form, click or tap the link to the Letter of Support Policy to learn more about the process.

PROCLAMATION REQUEST

Request recognition of an individual, event, organization or community group, or a significant day, week, or month. Read the Proclamation Policy to learn more about the process.

Visit Us Online

The County's new website turned one in November. County residents are invited to explore our modern, mobile-friendly website to find the information they need every day at **www.countygp.ab.ca**.

In addition to our latest news and events, find information about property taxes, permits, recreational programs, parks and campgrounds, maps, job opportunities, Council meeting agendas and highlights and more.

What can the County help you with today? Seet. D West's +

SEARCH AND SUBSCRIBE

Would you like to be the first to know about construction, maintenance and paving projects in your area? How about advance notice of where the snowplows will be and reminders of exciting events happening throughout the County?

Subscribe to these pages to begin receiving updates in your inbox today:

Project updates: www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction

Snow removal: www.countygp.ab.ca/snowremoval

Newsletters, news, events and alerts: www.countygp.ab.ca/subscribe

Looking for something else? Find what you need fast using the handy search bar found on every page of the County website.





PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM SUMMER ACTIVITIES

What's New

The museum is pleased to welcome Dr. Emily Bamforth as a new Curator of Palaeontology. Emily will lead the museum's research and content for special programs.

Membership gives access to more than just the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum

A museum membership gives families a year of admission, but did you know the museum has a reciprocal agreement with many other museums across Canada? With your membership, you can visit them for free. This year, families and youth members will also receive activities to do at home.

Ask Palaeontologist Jack

Have you ever wished you could ask a Palaeontologist a question? Now is your chance! Check the museum website for dates and times! Submit your questions to #PalaeoJack using any of the museum's social media sites or visit your local library to write and post your questions.

Palaeontologist for a Day Dig For Dinosaurs!

If you have interest in dinosaurs, spend the day with our palaeontologists learning how to dig up dinosaur bones at the Pipestone Creek Bonebed, one of the densest sites in the world. Get behind the scenes to see how a fossil goes from the ground to a museum display. Includes lunch and memorable souvenirs.

New for 2022

Palaeontology Prospecting on the Wapiti River Join our palaeontologists for a half-day on the Wapiti River learning about the ancient landscape and how it helped create our contemporary landscape. Experience looking for fossils yourself.

*All events are subject to current COVID-19 protocols.



Summer Camp Season Will Soon be Here

Outdoor summer camps will be offered again in 2022. Book early as camps fill quickly! Day camps will be held at Pipestone Creek Park along with a day at the museum. This year campers can meet at the museum and take the Dino Bus to the park. Before and after care will also be provided at the museum. Campers with families staying at the park can meet camp leaders in the park.

Become a junior naturalist or palaeontologist and explore our beautiful backyard, the Peace Parkland region! Campers will spend a week among the prehistoric rocks and boreal forest of Pipestone Creek, learning about natural history through exploration and games in a safe, fun, outdoor setting. Centred near one of the world's most famous dinosaur bonebeds, campers will build scientific literacy through activities tailored to each age group.

Chickadee level (ages 4-6)

Campers learn and explore the natural world, both past and present, and make long-lasting friends and memories through games and crafts, sparking their creativity and inspiring them to look more closely at the plants, animals, and rocks around them.

Gray Jay level (ages 7-11)

Kids take a deeper dive into inquiry-based learning and exploration in the Pipestone Creek valley. From prospecting for fossils along the river to scouting for animal tracks and blowing off steam with high-activity games, this camp offers an enriching and active summer experience.

Raven level (ages 12+)

Campers get an authentic northern Alberta palaeontology experience, working on locally collected fossils in the museum and getting out in the field at Pipestone Creek, learning how naturalists gain a better understanding of the area's unique modern and prehistoric ecosystems.

CR*SSLINK COUNTY SPORTSPLEX

Come Play!

The Crosslink County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

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

INDOOR MINOR SOCCER FUN LEAGUES

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

SPRING BREAK CAMPS 2022

Spring Break Camp, March 28 - April 1, 2022

Kids aged 5 to 12 are invited for a week of fun-filled activities. Kids will 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 that are 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.

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

*All services, programs and events are subject to current COVID-19 protocols.



GET FIT WHILE HAVING FUN!

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

- · Family 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 2021 - May 2022)

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



CROSSLINK COUNTY SPORTSPLEX WELCOMES NEW GENERAL MANAGER

A warm welcome is extended to Kylee Haining who became General Manager of the Crosslink County Sportsplex in August. Kylee has extensive experience in recreational facility management, including as Recreation and Sport Manager and Coca-Cola Centre Manager with the City of Grande Prairie. Her background with the 2018 Alberta Summer Games Committee, combined with local knowledge of recreation and culture in our region are tremendous assets in her new role.



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, Councillor Bob Marshall, Councillor Amanda Frayn, Reeve Leanne Beaupre, Councillor Kurt Balderston, Councillor Steve Zimmerman, Deputy Reeve Peter Harris

COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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Councillor Kurt Balderston Division 2 780-814-8404 kbalderston@countygp.ab.ca

Reeve Leanne Beaupre Division 3 780-814-3121 Ibeaupre@countygp.ab.ca

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Dan Lemieux Director of Community Services 780-532-9727 | dlemieux@countygp.ab.ca

Councillor Steve Zimmerman Division 4 780-831-0864 szimmerman@countygp.ab.ca

Councillor Bob Marshall

Division 5 780-933-2053 bmarshall@countygp.ab.ca

Deputy Reeve Peter Harris Division 6 780-933-3074 pharris@countygp.ab.ca Councillor Brian Peterson Division 7 780-228-0034 bpeterson@countygp.ab.ca

Councillor Karen Rosvold Division 8 780-831-0902

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COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

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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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