

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2026



- |                                       |  |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 Meet your County Councillors        | 11 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results | 15 Crime Prevention Assessments | 19 Apply for a Technology Grant   |
| 7 Apply for Capital Grant Support     | 12 It's Fire Season                    | 15 Find Your Wild in the County | 20 Spring Activities for Families |
| 8 County 75th Anniversary Celebration | 13 Book a FireSmart Assessment         | 17 Permits and Land Development | 22 J.D.A. Sportsplex Programming  |
| 9 Lost & Found Pets: 24petconnect     | 14 Dust Control Applications Now Open  | 18 County Web Map Upgraded      | 23 Dinosaur Museum Programming    |

## Reeve's Message



With the 2025 County Municipal Election behind us, I am proud of what County Council has already accomplished. I am deeply honoured to have been elected by my fellow Councillors to serve as Reeve. They have expressed their confidence in me, and I will work diligently and collaboratively with them on behalf of the residents we represent.

### Welcome, Council

I would like to formally congratulate our four newly elected Councillors and welcome back the four who joined me in returning to serve another term. I encourage you to get to know your Councillor—read their background and priorities in this newsletter, engage with them one-on-one, and attend County events.

### Background and Priorities

I was first elected to County Council in 2021, representing the residents of Division 1. From October 2024 to October 2025, I served as Deputy Reeve, working alongside Council and administration to advance community priorities and ensure the voices of County residents were well represented in decision-making.

I began my career as a paramedic on ground and fixed-wing response, and as an educator covering all levels of paramedicine. Working with the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce, I have developed relationships with business owners, government officials, and municipal administrators. My priority as Reeve is strengthening community relationships, supported by years of volunteer service and consulting for local not-for-profits.

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 look forward to the work of Council and supporting the members of our region.

### Community Engagement

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Citizen Satisfaction Survey; letters were sent to every County household in November. Your feedback is invaluable—it not only helps shape Council's decisions but also provides clear insight into what residents believe the County should prioritize moving forward.

The results of the survey were carefully reviewed and incorporated into Council's Strategic Planning session held earlier in February. This process ensures that your voice directly informs the priorities we set as a Council, guiding our work for the years ahead.

Survey results are summarized on page 11. Find the full report at [www.countygp.ab.ca/satisfaction](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/satisfaction).

### 2026 Interim and Final Budget Deliberations

Council adopted the 2026 Interim Budget in December. We are currently reviewing long-range plans to address assets requiring renewal and rehabilitation, such as bridges, paved roads, and water and sewer systems. Council remains focused on balancing

the needs of our residents with responsible financial stewardship.

Looking ahead to final budget deliberations on April 22-24, the priority will be sustaining the services and infrastructure on which residents and businesses rely, before considering future enhancements.

## Supporting Transportation Infrastructure

Councillors joined representatives from the province and our neighbouring municipalities for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in December, celebrating the completion of the Highway 40 twinning project south of Grande Prairie. The County is proud to have contributed \$10 million to this project. As an important economic artery that connects industries and people throughout our region, the improvements will have a profound impact on our economy and public safety for years to come.

We were also thrilled to attend the Government of Alberta's Highway 40X Bypass Open House following years of advocating for this critical route that will join Highway 43 and Highway 40. Visit [www.alberta.ca/highway-40x-bypass](http://www.alberta.ca/highway-40x-bypass) to learn more about the province's plans.

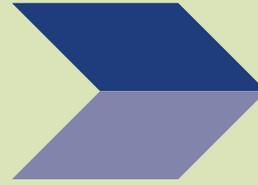
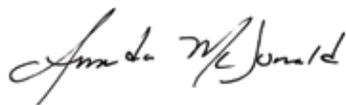
## Let's Celebrate! County Turning 75 this August

Our County is turning 75, and we're marking this incredible milestone with a community celebration like no other. During the weekend of August 21, we'll come together at the Tara Centre at Evergreen Park to honour the County's past and look ahead to our bright future. Mark your calendars, see more details on page 8, and follow the County's website and social channels for ongoing event updates.

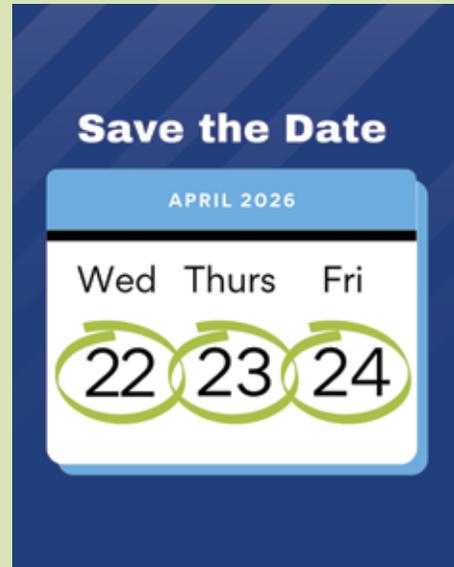
## Stay Connected

I encourage you to stay connected with the County—bookmark the website and subscribe for updates at [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca); follow the County on Facebook and LinkedIn; and download the Voyent Alert app or sign up for notifications via email, text, or landline. In emergencies, these channels serve as a lifeline as County staff work diligently to issue ongoing updates during rapidly evolving situations, such as wildfires.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to serving you.



# Final Budget Meeting Dates



Every year in April, County Council holds meetings to review annual budgets for the upcoming and following years.

Final budget meetings provide an opportunity for Council to review the planned budgets.

### Watch via public live stream

The budget meetings are available to the public via live stream. Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/council](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/council) to find connection instructions and meeting agendas.

### Final meetings for the 2026 budget:

April 22, 23 and 24 | Starting at 9:30 a.m.

### Questions?

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

# Meet your Councillors

COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE NO.1



Your County Councillors for the 2025-2029 term are more than elected officials. They're your community members, advocates, and leaders. Learn about their backgrounds, priorities, and the vital roles they play in shaping decision-making for the County.



I decided to run for Council for a third term because it is an excellent opportunity to give back to the community in which

I've spent my whole life. I hope to make a positive difference by giving a voice to the people of the division.

I run a 1,200-acre grain farm that has been in our family for four generations. I initially served on County Council from 2004 to 2007 followed by a second term from 2021 to 2025 and have volunteered on several boards in the community.

I'm a proud husband of 37 years, father of three children, and grandparent to two girls. Before retiring, I spent my winters curling and coaching at the national level.



I am proud to serve as Councillor for Division 3 in the County of Grande Prairie. A lifelong resident of the region, I bring over ten years of experience in the oil and gas industry, where my company worked on advancing innovative and technology-driven solutions in the field.

With strong family ties to agriculture, I value the blend of growth and rural character that makes the County unique. My service on a range of community and provincial boards includes Community Futures Grande Prairie, Nitehawk Year-

Round Adventure Park, and the County Recreation Board. Provincially, I have served on the Travel Alberta Board of Directors and bring corporate governance experience from my time with the Alberta Motor Association Board. I am a member of a local fundraising committee that supports community organizations such as Sunrise House and Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (PARDS).

Together with my husband and two young children, I am proud to call the County home. Our family is active in local hockey and golf, and we believe in giving back through sport and community involvement.

In addition to my volunteer work, I have spent the past several years working within municipal government, gaining valuable insight into operations, policy, and community planning. My focus is on supporting responsible development, strong local services, and a balanced approach to growth across the County.



I was born and raised in the Flying Shot Lake area and am proud to call the County of Grande Prairie home. My roots run deep on the family homestead where I grew up and where my wife, Janeen, and I are now raising the fifth generation of Tissington farmers. Our family has worked this land for generations, and I take great pride in continuing that legacy built on hard work, perseverance, and community spirit.

In 2010, I incorporated MRT Farms, a mixed-grain operation producing canola, wheat, peas, and barley. What began as just under 1,000 acres, shared with my dad and brother, has grown to nearly 5,000 acres through commitment, innovation, and teamwork. The growth of our farm is a reflection of our family's dedication to adapting to change while staying true to our values.

After graduating from Grande Prairie Composite High School in 1999, I began a career in the trades and earned my Journeyman Carpenter Red Seal certification in 2003. That foundation led me to combine my agricultural background with construction, and in 2005, I founded MRT Construction North.

Starting with building sheds and shops for UFA, I quickly discovered how much I enjoyed leadership, problem-solving, and helping neighbours. My work later expanded through Goodon Industries, where I was privileged to serve communities in the County of Grande Prairie and beyond, from Fort McMurray to Quesnel, BC, bringing quality construction and genuine service to residents across the region.

Beyond work, I've always believed that community is built through involvement. Hockey has been a lifelong passion of mine, one that shaped my understanding of teamwork and mentorship. Having played the game growing up, I now give back as a coach and assistant, volunteering each winter to guide young players in developing their skills and confidence. Watching our kids share that same love for the sport has been one of the most rewarding parts of my journey.

In 2022, I made the decision to step back from construction to focus fully on farming alongside my dad and brother. Each season brings new challenges and rewards, but at the heart of it all remains the same goal to respect our land, our family, and our community.

I am proud to contribute to the County of Grande Prairie's continued growth and to be part of a region where hard work, family, and community values still define who we are. This place has given me so much, and I'm grateful every day for the opportunity to give back, both in the field and beyond.



I enjoy working with people and contributing to my community; this role provides an opportunity to do both. I look forward to serving my community as County Councillor.

I have worked in the oil and gas industry for almost 40 years, with the last 20 years in roles related to community relations and stakeholder engagement. In my community, I have volunteered with a variety of organizations including minor hockey, Hockey Alberta, Hockey Canada, Peace Airshed Zone Association, and others.

My wife and I chose to live in this area to raise our family. We are fortunate to have five grandchildren living in the County, and we enjoy sharing time with them. Our family has been connected to the local hockey scene for over 25 years, and you can usually find us at the rink most winter weekends.



I am a lifelong resident of the County of Grande Prairie, deeply rooted in my community through decades of volunteerism and leadership.

Professionally, I have spent more than four decades in aviation, serving as CEO of the Grande Prairie Airport and

contributing to national regulatory efforts through Regional Community Airports Canada. My deep ties to the area and extensive leadership experience continue to shape my work on County Council.

Currently serving as a Councillor for Division 6, I bring a strong legacy of community involvement and public service to the County. Alongside my wife Lori and our children, Morgan and Jayme, I have dedicated countless hours to supporting local organizations and preserving the rural way of life. My commitment to the region spans over 50 years, including active roles with the Rio Grande Sports Association and Mountview Curling Club.



My commitment to extending my service as Councillor stems from my belief that I have effectively represented our communities. With growing experience in council dynamics, collaboration with County administration, and advocacy to provincial and federal governments, I continue to strengthen my ability to drive positive change.

My experience in municipal governance and business equips me to effectively serve the County of Grande Prairie. I have

navigated both small- and large-scale municipal governance, sharpening my ability to address community needs. My background in local, provincial, inter-provincial, and international business operations has provided me with a robust understanding of economic and strategic planning. Additionally, my active engagement in advocating for our community's needs to provincial and federal governments ensures that the County's voice is heard and represented at higher levels of government.

Family, community, friends, and neighbours are at the heart of everything I do. My wife, Mary, and I have four daughters—Chas, Angela, Desiree and Jennifer—and 12 grandchildren: Tyson, Turner, Mac, Rylan, Bradlee, Payton, Rowdy, Remington, Kerek, Kinley, Kessler, and Kyler. I enjoy volunteering, woodworking, and attending my grandchildren's events.



I was always an avid volunteer in the area and, to me, being elected to Council in 2016 was the next step in being able to help my community. All my family lives in the County, which means the world to me, and I want to continue to help build a better community for all.

I have lived and farmed in the La Glace area for 38 years. I have worked with two different school divisions in the area, as well as in private industry. I have been a volunteer

for the La Glace Agriculture Society, Suicide Prevention Resource Centre, 4-H and many other organizations in the area. I served on the Family & Community Support Services Board Association of Alberta for several years including a few years as Provincial Chair. I currently serve as the Zone Director for the Rural Municipalities of Alberta where I have the opportunity to better advocate for the County of Grande Prairie on a provincial level.

For me, my family and my community are everything. I am so very fortunate that my children and my eight very precious grandchildren all live within the County of Grande Prairie and are all within a very quick drive. I love being outdoors whether in my yard or out camping. I spend my winter weekends in arenas around the area watching my grandkids play hockey, which also allows me the chance to catch up with our residents.



As a resident of the County of Grande Prairie for most of my life and having both of my children return to live in the County, it is time for me to give back to the community that has served my family well. 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.

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.

# Turn Your Big Ideas into Reality with Capital Grant Support



Capital grants are awarded annually. As of December 1, 2025, Council approved \$4,871,591 in community contributions and grants, including \$1,043,375 in capital grants to support important projects throughout the County and the region. Starting August 1, organizations that deliver recreation or cultural services to County residents can apply to the Capital Grant program for improvements or repairs to their facility. Here are a few examples of the funding.

The County of Grande Prairie recently awarded Ducks Unlimited \$3,578.50 to support the Boreal Wetland Centre (BWC) at Evergreen Park. The BWC is an outdoor interpretive site that provides hands-on wetland and environmental stewardship learning opportunities for practitioners, youth and the public.

“Ducks Unlimited Canada is thrilled to receive funding from the County of Grande Prairie to support the BWC at Evergreen Park,”

says Kylie McLeod, Head of Conservation Programs for the National Boreal Program at Ducks Unlimited Canada.

McLeod says the funds will go toward materials and equipment needed to deliver programming and maintaining the site.

“As our activities and reach have grown, so has the amount of materials and equipment needed,” she explains. “The BWC relies on grants and supporters to maintain a free, public site and deliver high quality events and programming for the region.”

The County also provided a \$50,000 capital grant to Grande Prairie Minor Baseball Association (GPMB) for 2025, to support critical repairs and upgrades to the facility.

For more information, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/grants](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/grants).

## Two Grant Options

### Capital Assistance Grant

This grant helps organizations pay for fixing or improving buildings used for recreation or culture in the County.

#### How Much Money Can You Get?

- You can ask for up to **50% of your project cost**, but no more than **\$50,000**.
- Your project should cost **at least \$10,000 and no more than \$99,999**.
- You must pay for the other half of the project yourself.
- Expenses related to operations, such as staffing and insurance, are not covered.

### Major Capital Grant

This grant supports large projects that build new facilities or make major repairs to existing ones that serve County residents. Your project must cost more than \$100,000.

### Eligible Projects

- New construction
- Major repairs, upgrades, or improvements to facilities that benefit County residents
- If your project involves structural changes, you may need an engineer's report to confirm the building's condition. The County's Recreation and Culture department will decide if this is required and will cover the cost of the report.

### Who Can Apply

- Local non-profit organizations or community volunteer groups that own or operate recreational or cultural facilities.

### Approved 2026 Capital Grants

- \$1.5 million to support the La Glace & District Agricultural Society – \$500,000 per year (2024-2026), the final installment of a \$4.5 million total investment in the new recreation facility
- \$125,000 to the Teepee Creek Stampede Association for the Accessibility and Sustainability Project

- to build up to 10 in-field seating boxes, three bar areas, and an announcer booth
- \$65,000 to the South Peace Centennial Museum Association for wastewater and electrical improvements to support a planned 120-person assembly hall and cultural programming
- \$41,337.65 to Spring Lake Ski Hill to replace the chalet roof
- \$25,000 to Wapiti Nordic Ski Club for a multipurpose utility tractor
- \$20,000 to the Saskatoon Lake Agricultural Society for flooring upgrades
- \$15,000 to the Bezanson Agricultural Society for facility upgrades
- \$15,000 to the Beaverlodge Senior Citizens Association for facility upgrades
- \$10,000 to the Sexsmith & District Museum Society for a roof replacement
- \$6,500 to Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (PARDS) for pasture fencing
- \$3,578.50 to Ducks Unlimited Canada for the Boreal Wetland Centre's Interpretive & Capacity Improvement Project

# County of Grande Prairie Celebrating 75 Years of Community Pride

During the weekend of August 21, 2026, the County of Grande Prairie will proudly celebrate 75 years of history, growth, and community spirit at the Tara Centre, Evergreen Park.

From its incorporation in 1951 to today, the County has grown to become a significant hub for agriculture and industry while earning a reputation as a great place to live and raise a family. This milestone provides a meaningful opportunity to join residents, business owners and organizations in honouring the County's heritage and achievements.

The 75th Anniversary Committee is meeting regularly, and planning is underway for a celebration that promises an exciting weekend line-up of memorable and entertaining activities for the whole family. As event details take shape, updates will be shared on the County's website and Facebook page. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



## Receive County Connections in Your Inbox

### 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 an online 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.

### 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](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/countyconnections).



# Lost Your Pet? Found Someone Else's? Meet Your Digital Lifeline

When a pet goes missing, every minute feels like an hour. That's why the Grande Prairie Regional Pound is making it easier than ever to bring pets home with 24Petconnect, an online platform designed to reunite families quickly and stress-free.

24Petconnect is more than a database. It's a community-driven tool that connects pet owners, finders, and the pound in one central place. For the first time in our region, you can check online to see if your lost pet has been brought to the pound. No more guessing, no more waiting for a phone call—just peace of mind at your fingertips.

This platform also lets you browse lost and found listings and receive email alerts when there's a possible match. It's smart, simple, and built to give pets the best chance of getting home. And here's something important: 24Petconnect is not a place to rehome unwanted pets. Its sole purpose is to reunite lost pets with their families.

"It's always stressful when a pet goes missing," says Kyle Palfy, Superintendent of the County's Regional Enforcement Services. "This platform makes the process easier for everyone. By bringing all the information together in one place, we are improving the chances of pets being returned home."



24Petconnect is changing the way our community cares for pets. It's fast, it's reliable, and it's all about making sure every pet finds its way home.

For more information, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/lostpets](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/lostpets).

## Discover Loved Ones and Available Plots with Our New Cemetery Viewer



The County is introducing software that will let you view cemetery plots for Emerson Trail and Hythe Cemeteries. This innovative tool makes it easier than ever for families and community members to access important information online.

With the Cemetery Viewer, individuals can search for loved ones by name and locate their resting place within the cemetery. The interactive map provides clear details, helping visitors navigate with confidence and peace of mind.

In addition to finding existing plots, the software also displays available plots for purchase, offering a convenient way to plan ahead. Whether you are making arrangements or simply seeking information, this resource ensures transparency and accessibility for all.

The Cemetery Viewer reflects our commitment to providing respectful and efficient services to the community. Explore the tool today and experience a modern approach to cemetery management.

For more information or to access the viewer, visit: [www.countygp.ab.ca/cemeteries](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/cemeteries)

# Understanding Rural Addressing in the County

Rural addressing is a standardized system the County uses to identify rural properties. Marked by a green highway sign, it gives each property an address according to where its main driveway or access meets a public road. This simple system helps residents, emergency responders, and service providers find locations quickly and accurately.

## How Range Roads and Township Roads Work

The Alberta Township System (ATS) is an addressing system that divides the province into a grid. This system makes up our range roads, township roads, and highways.

- As you travel north or west, the number of the range road or township road increases.
- As you travel south or east, the number of the range road or township decreases.
- There is a range road every mile and a township road every two miles.
- If no road exists, for example in a field, river valley or green space, a virtual road is assumed to keep the grid and numbering system consistent.



## How Addressing Works

The rural County address system follows the same rules as the ATS grid to assign rural addresses.

This means:

- Rural County addresses increase as you travel north or west.
- Odd addresses are on the south and east sides of the road.
- Even addresses are on the north and west sides of the road.

## Rural Addressing



If you live in a multi-lot subdivision or share an access road with another dwelling, your home will also be assigned a house number within that subdivision.

For example, the address 692069 RGE RD 110 tells you that the property is on Range Road 110. The number 692 points to Township Road 692, which is the crossroad you start from. The digits 069 show where the driveway is. Because 069 is an odd number, the driveway will be on east side of the road.

To find this address when driving, start at Township Road 692, go north on Range Road 110, and the driveway will appear shortly on the east side of Range Road 110.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Is my rural address the same as my mailing address?

No. Once you receive a rural address, Canada Post will decide how your mail is delivered. It can be delivered directly to your home, a post office box, or a community mailbox.

## Do I need a rural address for insurance or utilities?

Not always. Legal land descriptions such as Legal Subdivision (LSD), plan/block/lot, or Land Identification Numeric Code (LINC) numbers are often accepted, though some organizations outside of Alberta may prefer a legal address.

## Why doesn't my rural address appear on Google or Apple Maps?

These online mapping platforms update their own data. The County can't control when new or updated addresses appear.

## How do I get a rural address sign?

Addresses are assigned once the development permit process begins. When a dwelling is identified, or if you pay the rural addressing fee before construction, you're added to the addressing queue. The process moves forward as staff verify that your development conditions have been met and that your approach has been built properly.

Once these requirements are confirmed, you'll receive a Confirmation of Rural Address Letter, and staff will stake the location of your sign and complete any required utility line locations. After this, your sign will be installed. Please note that weather conditions, frozen ground, or delays to utility line locations may affect installation timelines.

For a detailed breakdown visit:

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

# County Residents Share Feedback in 2025 Citizen Satisfaction Survey



From mid-November to mid-December 2025, County of Grande Prairie residents were asked to help shape Council's decisions by sharing their thoughts in the County's online Citizen Satisfaction Survey conducted by public opinion researcher, Leger.

An essential tool used to inform Council's Strategic Plan, the survey helps identify community priorities and guide long-term planning. The survey gathers feedback from residents to evaluate the County's service performance, inform decision making, and strengthen transparency and accountability.

Results also help play a role in budgeting and resource allocation by highlighting areas where improvements or investments may be needed. It also helps the County compare results from one survey to the next, and see how we measure against other municipalities.

The report was presented to Council in February 2026. Highlights from the survey report include:

### Quality of Life



**95%**

Overall, this area remains remarkably high, with residents rating the County's quality of life as good.

### A Great Place to Live Overall!

Residents have very positive associations with the County of Grande Prairie, with many thinking it is quiet, peaceful and safe.

<b>Quiet</b> 15%	<b>Peaceful</b> 13%	<b>Safe</b> 13%
---------------------	------------------------	--------------------

### Quality of Programs & Services



**77%**

Overall satisfaction with the quality of programs and services remains high, with three-quarters of County residents being satisfied with the services, consistent with 2023 (76%).

### Top Priorities

The services most important to County residents are:

 Fire department	 Paved road upkeep and conditions	 Waste management (landfill)
--	---	--

### Safety



**92%**

An increasing number of residents agree that the County is a safe region when compared with 2023 results (89%).

### Top of Mind Issues

Here are the top three issues for County residents:

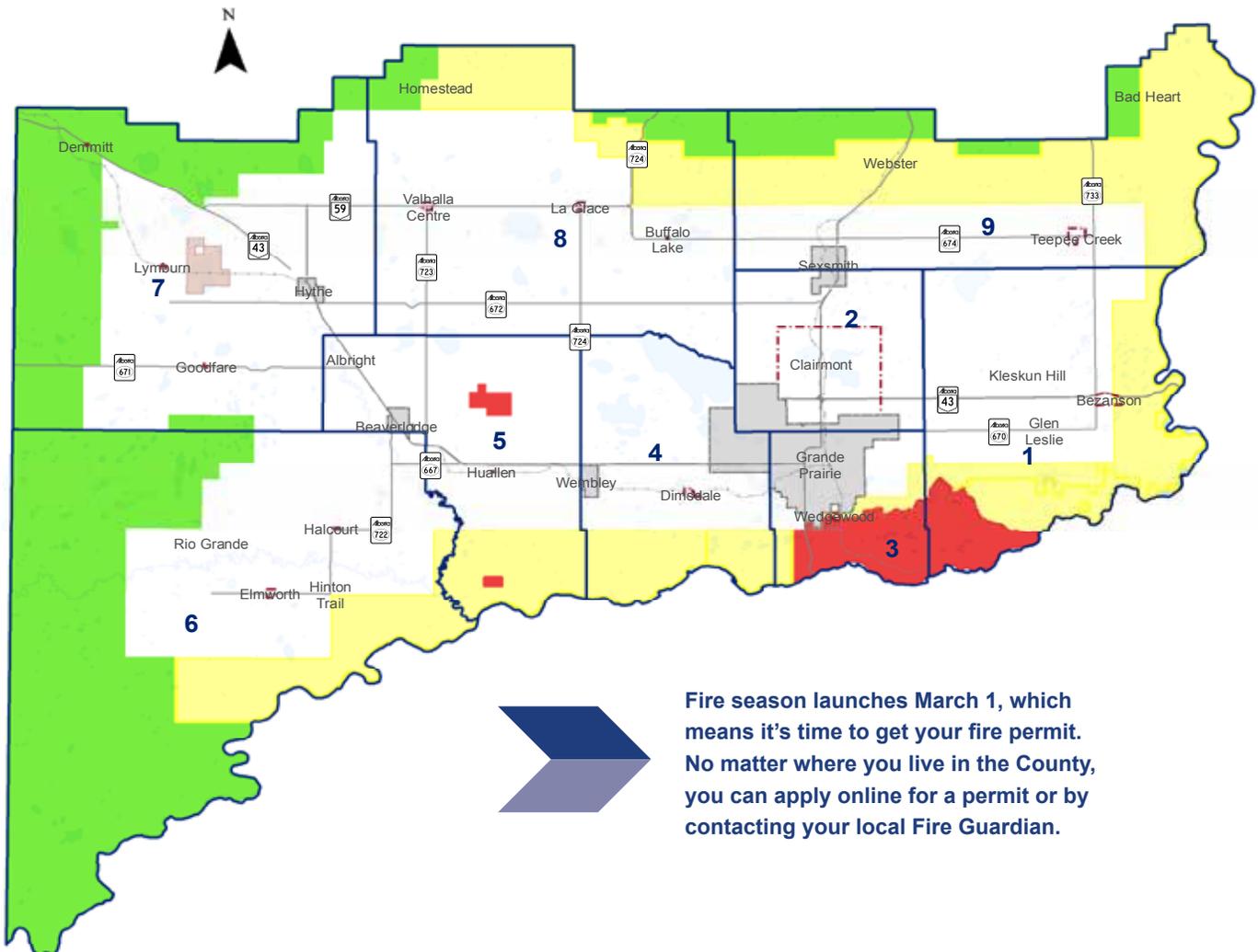
 <b>19%</b> <b>Taxes</b> compared with 16% in 2023	 <b>14%</b> <b>Budget Control</b> compared with 11% in 2023	 <b>11%</b> <b>Road Conditions</b> compared with 14% in 2023
--	---	--

Read the full Citizen Satisfaction Survey report: [www.countygp.ab.ca/satisfaction](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/satisfaction)

# It's Fire Season



## Fire Permit Map



Fire season launches March 1, which means it's time to get your fire permit. No matter where you live in the County, you can apply online for a permit or by contacting your local Fire Guardian.

### Fire Burn Areas

The County has four Fire Burn Areas that have different guidelines for permits. They are displayed on the map in the following colours: white, yellow, red, and green.

**WHITE AREA:** Requires a written fire permit during the fire season.

**YELLOW AREA:** Requires a written fire permit during the fire season.

**RED AREA:** Restricted burn zone where permits are required year-round.

To obtain a County Fire Permit in the white, yellow and red areas, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/fire](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/fire).

**GREEN AREA:** Designated Forest Protection Area requiring a written fire permit during fire season from a Provincial Forestry Fire Guardian. Visit [www.alberta.ca/get-a-fire-permit](http://www.alberta.ca/get-a-fire-permit) to find your nearest office or call 310-0000.

To stay up to date with current fire bans, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/fireban](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/fireban).

# Your Path to a Rewarding Firefighting Career Starts Here



Are you in high school and interested in a career in firefighting or emergency services? Through the ATCO Cadet program, County students can learn practical skills while earning high school credits!

By participating, you will gain hands-on firefighting experience while working alongside professional firefighters. Classroom sessions provide a strong foundation in firefighting theory and emergency response. Cadets also develop transferable skills such as leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving.

To be eligible, you:

- Are between 16 and 18 years old
- Have an interest in firefighting and emergency medical co-response
- Are comfortable with physically demanding tasks
- Live in the County of Grande Prairie or the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, or Wembley

This program offers real-world experience that prepares you for future careers in emergency services. You will learn how to operate equipment, understand fire behaviour, and respond effectively under pressure. Cadets become part of a team committed to protecting lives and property. Additionally, it is an opportunity to challenge yourself, build confidence, and serve your community.

Participants also gain insight into emergency medical response and the importance of quick, informed decision-making. These experiences build resilience and strengthen communication skills that will benefit you in any career path.

Join the ATCO Cadet program today!  
Learn more about firefighting opportunities at [www.countygp.ab.ca/cadets](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/cadets) and take the first step toward an exciting and meaningful path.

## Spring Brings Hidden Fire Risks

While winter burning helps clear land, hidden embers can linger under snow, smouldering for weeks before flaring up in dry spring grass. These fires spread quickly and put homes, crops, and wildlife at risk.

A few tips on holdover fires:

- After a winter burn, regularly check for smoke, heat, or anything unusual—especially as the weather warms. Push a steel rod or pry bar into the pile. If it's hot, it's still burning.
- Tilling can help extinguish any remaining embers by burying them under the soil, reducing the oxygen supply needed for combustion.
- Keep fire suppression tools and equipment, such as water tanks, hoses, and extinguishers, accessible and in working condition. Quick access to these tools helps contain a fire before it escalates.

Learn more at [www.countygp.ab.ca/holdoverfires](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/holdoverfires).

## FireSmart Assessments



Wildfire risk is real, so take action now. Book a free FireSmart™ home assessment and learn exactly how to safeguard your property. Our FireSmart Coordinator will walk you through practical steps to reduce hazards when fire threatens. It's quick, easy, and could help save your property. Don't wait for danger to strike. Schedule your FireSmart™ assessment today and make your home a safer place.

Book your assessment by calling 780-532-9727. Learn more at [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca)





# Dust Control Applications Now Open

The County's dust control program invites rural residents and businesses to apply for a dust suppressant to be sprayed on the gravel road near your residence, rural subdivision, or business. Dust control helps improve the quality of life for rural residents by preventing dust from drifting into properties and helps maintain road quality. It involves spraying a calcium chloride dust suppressant product on gravel roads.

The cost of this service is shared between the resident or business owner and the County, and varies by application length and use. Some areas receive dust control as needed at no cost to residents. These can include:

- Roads beside County parks
- Roads to County gravel pits
- Areas beside provincial highways with approval by Alberta Transportation
- Areas beside primary access roads for the County landfill

## Rules

Dust control is applied after spring road bans are lifted and when materials and equipment are available. Applications must be for a minimum of 100 meters and completed by the resident or business owner. Payments must be made in full when applying.

## Apply

Applications for dust control open on February 1, 2026 and close on April 30, 2026. Apply online at [www.countygp.ab.ca/dustcontrol](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/dustcontrol).

# Roadside Cleanup Volunteer Program



The Roadside Cleanup program gives local non-profit organizations the opportunity to raise funds for their programs and beautify the County landscape by cleaning up litter along roads and ditches.

Volunteer groups must apply online to participate and are paid either \$200 per kilometre or a lump sum depending on the zone they're assigned. The County recommends at least two people per kilometer to complete the work.

## Safety Requirements

### Volunteers must:

- Be a minimum of 9 years old
- Wear a safety vest and gloves provided by the County
- Wear proper footwear

### Group supervisors must:

- Complete the online checklist on the day of cleanup

- Have safety checklists and safe procedures on hand while cleaning
- Have a Type 2 First-Aid Kit
- Review the County's health and safety policies and ensure the group complies with the County's policies as well as Alberta's Occupational Health and Safety legislation

Volunteer groups are responsible for picking up safety materials beforehand. Groups must also upload photos of their cleanup areas and return all safety supplies provided by the County.

## Apply

Applications open on February 1, 2026 and close on March 31, 2026. Groups selected to take part in the program complete cleanups throughout May. Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/roadsidecleanup](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/roadsidecleanup) to apply.

# Seasonal Road Bans

During spring thaw, road bases beneath pavement or gravel are susceptible to damage. Spring road bans are temporary weight restrictions that reduce the maximum weight allowed on any carrying axle of a truck or trailer. These bans help prevent rutting, potholes and permanent costly damage to our roads.

Seasonal road bans typically start in March or April and can last until May or June, but the timelines vary depending on weather conditions. When bans are in place, they are enforceable by law and fined by weight. Fines can range from as little as \$46 dollars to thousands of dollars—there is no limit to the amount that can be fined.

For seasonal road bans call the road ban hotline 24/7 at 780-513-3964.

Anyone who wishes to operate overweight vehicles on roads with restrictions or bans must apply for a permit. For more information on permits and year-round restrictions visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/roadbans](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/roadbans).

# Building Stronger Communities Through Recreation



Recreation is where community spirit shows up: on the hiking trail with friends, in the rink on game night, and at the park on a busy weekend. It is participation, connection, and local pride in action.

To keep that momentum strong, the County of Grande Prairie is launching a Recreation Strategic Plan. The goal is simple: set clear direction so parks, programs, and services keep pace with a growing, changing community.

Over the next decade, the plan will guide smart decisions and investments across recreation, parks, programs, and community services, ensuring resources go where they make the most difference.

“Recreation is essential to building healthy, connected communities. It brings people together, supports physical and mental wellbeing, and enhances quality of life,” says County Reeve Amanda McDonald.

For many years, the County has invested in recreation facilities and services that help residents live active and connected lives. These investments have created opportunities for people to enjoy sports, outdoor activities, and community events. But as the County grows and changes, so do its recreation needs.

This work builds on the County’s strong foundation of recreation facilities and services while considering emerging needs, changing populations, and regional opportunities.

## Why This Plan Matters

The plan will answer important questions such as:

- What recreation opportunities are working well today?
- Where are there gaps or barriers in facilities, programs, or access?
- How can the County best support partners, volunteers, and community groups?
- What strategic investments should be considered over the next 10 years?

By addressing these questions, the County can ensure that recreation services continue to meet the needs of residents while adapting to changing demographics and new trends. To learn more, and see how to get involved, visit: [engagecountygpp.ca/recservices](http://engagecountygpp.ca/recservices).

## Lock Out Crime: Get A Free CPTED Assessment

Crime doesn’t wait, and neither should you. The County of Grande Prairie offers free Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) home or business assessments to help you spot vulnerabilities around your property before criminals do. County staff who are trained in reviewing homes and businesses will recommend practical fixes, such as improvements to lighting and sightlines. Secure your home or business today—call 780-532-9727 or visit [www.countygpp.ab.ca/crimeprevention](http://www.countygpp.ab.ca/crimeprevention). Don’t leave safety to chance.



## Find Your Wild in the County



Adventure is calling in the County of Grande Prairie! Our campsites have opened reservations to your future getaway. Book your stay online and enjoy scenic views and easy access to trails and lakes. Want to take your trip to the next level? Participate in our passport challenge! Get a sticker at all four locations with your passport and enter for a chance to win a prize. Learn more about our campsites at [www.countygpp.ab.ca/campgrounds](http://www.countygpp.ab.ca/campgrounds).



# Register Your Weed Management Plan

Agricultural producers are encouraged to register their annual weed management plans with the County's Agricultural department each year. These plans, organized by crop type, provide valuable information to weed inspectors and reduce the need for direct contact if regulated weeds are observed. A registered plan must include all lands, crops and weed control methods, along with the timing for each. Registration can be completed online at [www.countygp.ab.ca/RegisterYourPlan](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/RegisterYourPlan) or by contacting the Agricultural department directly at 780-532-9727.

## Register Your Animals in LERP

If a wildfire or flood required you to evacuate quickly, what would that mean for your livestock? Registering your animals with the County's Livestock Emergency Response Plan (LERP) will ease your mind while helping the County coordinate resources, reduce risks, and protect both people and animals.

LERP is part of the County's Emergency Preparedness Plan, focusing on domestic livestock like cows, horses, chickens, and sheep. In the event of an evacuation, the County can provide assistance such as transporting animals and feeding, depending on the type, location, and timing of the evacuation.

The information you provide is only used to assist those impacted during emergencies. To update your details or learn more, contact the Agriculture Department at 780-532-9727.

## 100 Years of Farming: A Legacy Worth Celebrating

The Agricultural Service Board recognizes agricultural families who have farmed or ranched in the County of Grande Prairie for 100 years or more. Award recipients will receive a locally-made metal gate sign that will be awarded by a Councillor or Board member and the Agricultural Fieldman.

### Award Categories:

The Heritage Award recognizes farm and ranch families who homesteaded and continuously farmed or ranched the same land for 100 years or more.

The Pioneer Award recognizes families who have lived and farmed or ranched within the County of Grande Prairie for 100 years or more.

### Apply Now:

Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/100YearsAwards](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/100YearsAwards) to access award applications. Once they are completed, they can be submitted to the Agriculture department, either in-person at our County office at 100001 - 84 Avenue, Clairmont, or by email: [agfieldman@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:agfieldman@countygp.ab.ca).

*The Richards family was presented with a Pioneer Award in November 2024 by Councillors Karen Rosvold (left) and Bob Chrenek (right).*

## Agricultural Equipment You Didn't Know You Could Rent

The Agricultural Service Board offers a variety of equipment rentals for County residents, making it easier to tackle projects without the cost of owning specialized tools.

Rental equipment includes:

- Sprayers
  - 40- & 200-gallon skid sprayers
  - 40-gallon tow-behind UTV/quad sprayer
  - 20-gallon quad spot sprayer
- Seedling Tree Planter
- Plastic Mulch Roll Applicator
  - This tool lays mulch quickly and evenly to help conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and reduce maintenance time—supporting healthier, more productive plants. (Mulch not included)
- Truck Mount Applicator for grasshopper control

To learn more about rental rates, specifications, and availability, call 780-532-9727.



# Simplifying Planning Permits and Land Development

It can be confusing to understand when a development permit is needed or how to subdivide land. To make the process easier and faster, we're updating our key planning and development documents and bylaws. These updates will streamline applications, improve timelines, and help residents and developers know exactly what to expect.



## PHASE 1: Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Adoption

The first step was updating the Municipal Development Plan (MDP)—the County's long-term guide to growth and development.

Created with input from residents, the MDP guides where and how the County grows. All updates to policies and bylaws to come will follow the direction of the MDP.



## PHASE 2: Land Use Bylaw Update

In this current phase, we're updating the Land Use Bylaw, which outlines how land can be used and where different types of developments can occur.

This update will:

- Make development rules easy to understand
- Keep bylaws practical and helpful for residents and developers
- Streamline permits and applications
- Reduce delays and unnecessary steps



## PHASE 3: Improved Online Applications and Resources

As these updates are completed, we'll also be refreshing our website and online tools to help developers understand what's needed for different types of applications and how to apply.

We're also creating user-friendly guides so residents can easily determine what kind of permit they need for house upgrades like additions, fences, swimming pools, and more.

Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/planyourcounty](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/planyourcounty) to learn more, ask questions, or share your thoughts.

# Property Re-inspections Begin March 1

As part of their standard five-year cycle, County Assessors will be conducting property re-inspections beginning in April 2026. Re-inspections are expected to be completed in June. Properties are assessed to determine their estimated market value, which is then used to calculate property taxes.

## Which Properties Will Be Re-inspected?

In this cycle, County Assessors will be focusing on the Town of Sexsmith.

## Questions?

Contact the Assessment department at 780-513-3952 or visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/assessment](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/assessment) for more information.



# Update Your Mailing Address Today

Have you recently moved? Don't risk missing out on important information from the County of Grande Prairie—update your mailing address today.

How to change your address with the County:

- Fill out the change of mailing address request form found at [www.countygp.ab.ca/AddressChange](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/AddressChange).

Please note that changing your mailing address with the County does not update your information with Alberta Land Titles.

How to change your address with Alberta Land Titles:

- Call 780-427-2742, or
- Visit [www.servicealberta.ca](http://www.servicealberta.ca). On the website, search for "land titles," choose "Land Titles - Overview" from the search results, and then select "Land Titles and Surveys Forms" from the page menu to find the change of address form.

# New County Website: Built for You

In our last newsletter, we announced the launch of the new County website for a better user experience. The website is easy to navigate on any device and offers an improved search engine tool to ensure you are finding what you need, when you need it most.

Here's a quick overview of how our new website was built with you in mind:

- **Search bar:** Tell us how we help you today.
- **Home, Property & Environment:** Access to building and planning permits, municipal utilities, roads, emergency services, and more.
- **Parks, Recreation & Community:** There's so much to see and do! Discover County libraries, local events, recreation opportunities, community grants, FCSS, and history.
- **Agriculture & Livestock:** Explore programs for farmers and landowners.
- **Business, Building & Development:** Economic development, land use and zoning, maps, and Planning hearings and notices.

- **Council & Administration:** Meet your Councillor, access meeting agendas and livestreaming, learn what each department does, and find County bylaws and policies.

The homepage also includes several quick links to popular topics such as fire bans and restrictions, maps, and job opportunities. Here's how you can receive ongoing updates:

- Sign up for County notifications via Voyent Alert at [www.countygp.ab.ca/alerts](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/alerts)
- Read about our current projects and subscribe for updates at [www.countygp.ab.ca/engage](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/engage)
- Prefer news in your inbox? Sign up today at [www.countygp.ab.ca/subscribe](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/subscribe)
- Follow us on Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

Questions? Contact the Communications & Marketing department at [communications@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:communications@countygp.ab.ca).

## County Public Web Map Platform Receives Upgrade

The County's upgraded public web map launched in January.

### What's New?

The new map takes advantage of improved functionality and reliability offered by the upgraded platform. The County's GIS team rigorously tested the new map to ensure a seamless transition.

### Why Upgrade?

- **Software Retirement:** ESRI, the County's mapping software provider, retired the previous version in 2025.
- **Security:** The County's GIS computer servers were due for replacement; migrating the maps and services to new servers improves security and aligns with best practices.
- **New Features:** Users will find a similar-looking map. A "Getting Started" guide will help you navigate any changes to the tools and their location.

### How to Access the County Web Map:

Whether you access our maps out of personal interest or as part of your profession, continue to explore at [www.countygp.ab.ca/PublicWebMap](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/PublicWebMap).



## Register for Free Today!

**VOYENT ALERT!**

Voyent Alert! is a multi-purpose communication service provided by the County of Grande Prairie to keep you informed of critical events like fires or floods and day-to-day communications such as road maintenance and service disruptions.

1. **MOBILE APP USERS:** Get the Voyent Alert! app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. **EMAIL OR TEXT (SMS) USERS:** Register online to receive email or text-based alerts.
3. **LANDLINE PHONE USERS:** Register online to receive text-to-voice alerts. Sign up for all today to ensure you never miss an alert!

Download the app or register for alerts at [www.countygp.ab.ca/alerts](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/alerts).

# E-Book Borrowing Available Through Local Libraries

Did you know your library card gives you access to thousands of digital books?

To get started, you will need to log in with your library barcode and Personal Identification Number (PIN). Visit <https://countypibraries.ca/eResources> for detailed instructions and video tutorials or drop by your nearest library to have a librarian assist you.

For large collections, with selections from mysteries to children's novels, to classics and romance novels, try:

- Overdrive (also known as Libby): e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines
- CloudLibrary: e-books and e-audiobooks



Items borrowed through both can be downloaded to your phone, tablet, laptop, or e-reader. Apps for Apple and Android devices are also available through the App Store and Google Play.

Note that popular titles often have a waiting list. While you wait, check out Libby's "Skip the Line" and "Available Now" sections.

## There's always something happening at County Libraries

Find social, educational, and creative activities for all ages and interests on the County Libraries events calendar: <https://countypibraries.ca/Events>.

Check often to see what we have planned at libraries in Elmhurst, Hythe, La Glace, and Valhalla.

# County Grant Helps Local Businesses Address Technology Gaps

The County of Grande Prairie's new **Business Retention and Expansion – Infrastructure Technology Grant Program** is already showing results after launching on October 11, 2025. The program was developed in response to findings from the County's annual Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E) surveys, where businesses consistently identified infrastructure-related technology gaps as a barrier to operating and growing within the region.

To address this challenge, County Council approved a \$26,000 grant fund, aimed at supporting small- and medium-sized County businesses in upgrading infrastructure technology. County businesses can access up to \$2,000 in matching funding to invest in equipment upgrades, stronger connectivity, and digital tools that help operations run smoother and more efficiently.

Within its first three months, funding was awarded for a range of technology upgrades designed to strengthen business efficiency and service delivery. Projects supported so far include a temperature-controlled trailer to expand cooling and freezing capacity for safer food handling

and delivery and a Samsung tablet to improve communication, on-site coordination, and drawing management for construction operations. Additional investments include upgraded phone systems, laptops, and iPads to streamline administrative workflows, enhance customer communication, and support mobile work across various business environments. Together, these early improvements demonstrate how the program is helping local County businesses modernize and address the infrastructure-related technology gaps identified through the County's BR+E surveys.

If your County business could benefit from tech upgrades, we encourage you to apply. Funding is limited and renewed annually.

Scan here for information about the grant program and to apply [www.middleofeverywhere.ca](http://www.middleofeverywhere.ca)



*Lucille Hooper*  
Economic Development  
Coordinator



*Hetti Huls*  
Economic Development  
Officer



*Cindy Paton*  
Economic Development  
Officer

Connect with us to explore how we can support your next step: [ecdev@countypg.ab.ca](mailto:ecdev@countypg.ab.ca)

# Spring Activities for Families and Seniors



## Hythe and Area Community Programming

### FutureWorks – Job Search Supports & Resource Centre

Tuesday, March 3 | 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Hythe & Area FCSS Office,  
10011-100 Street  
Drop in for help with your job search, resume and job application, get career guidance and more!

### Babysitter Basics – Cost: \$40

Friday, March 20 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Ages 11-15, Hythe & Area FCSS Office,  
10011-100 Street  
Call 780-933-7212 or  
online at [www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe)

### Service Canada Outreach Clinic

Drop in every second Tuesday of the month | 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Hythe & Area FCSS Office,  
10011-100 Street

### Mega Awesome Spring Fling – Cost: \$10

Wednesday, April 8 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Hythe Regional School gym  
Register by March 31. Call 780-933-7212  
or online at [www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe)

### Home Alone Safety – Cost: \$10

Friday, May 1 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Ages 9 to 11, Hythe & Area FCSS Office,  
10011-100 Street  
To register, call 780-933-7212 or  
online at [www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe)

For more information on the above programs or to register for Home Alone, Mega Awesome Spring Fling or Babysitter Basics, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/hythe) or contact the Hythe and Area Community Program Coordinator at 780-933-7212. Call ahead to book an appointment.

## Wellington Resource Centre (WRC) Community Programming 10407-97 Street, Clairmont

### Sexsmith and Area Foodbank

Hamper pick up on Wednesdays between noon and 2 p.m.  
Please call 780-567-2843 prior to Wednesdays to set up an appointment.

### Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Free help to file your income tax return. Open to students, seniors, families or single parents with a modest to low income and simple taxes. Filing for the 2025 tax season begins March 2026. Please call 780-567-2843 to book an appointment.

### Service Canada Outreach Drop-In Clinic

Drop in on February 27, March 13 & April 17 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Wellington Resource Centre

### Future Works – Job Search Supports & Resource Centre

March 18 & April 17 | 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Wellington Resource Centre

### Seniors Walk and Talk

Drop in on Thursdays until May 7 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

J.D.A. County Sportsplex  
Drop in on Tuesdays until May 7 10 a.m. to noon  
Bezanson Community Event Centre

### Mega Awesome Spring Fling – Cost: \$10

Tuesday, April 7 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Ages 10 to 13, Clairmont Community School. Register by March 31 online at [www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc) or call 780-567-2843

### Free Youth Drop-In Group

Drop in every 2nd Thursday of the month 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.  
Ages 10 to 15  
Wellington Resource Centre  
Parent consent required prior to first time. For more information, email [youth@sp-rc.ca](mailto:youth@sp-rc.ca) or call 780-539-7142

### Babysitter Basics – Cost \$40

Learn the skills you need to become a babysitter. This course will teach you basic first aid, safe play, bedtime routines, handling emergencies, and how to prepare healthy meals. Ages 11 to 15  
Register online at [www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc) or call 780-567-2843

### Tentative Dates

Friday, March 20 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Whispering Ridge School

Friday, April 24 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Clairmont Community School

Friday, May 1 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Bezanson Community Events Centre

### Home Alone Safety – Cost: \$10

Friday, June 12 | 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Ages 9 to 11  
Bezanson Community Event Centre  
Register online at [www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc) or call 780-567-2843

### Respect to Red Flags: Exploring What Makes Relationships Safe Workshop

Tuesday, April 9 | 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Ages 14 to 18  
Clairmont Community School

For more information on the above programs or to register, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/wrc) or contact the Wellington Resource Centre at 780-567-2843.

### Playschool Applications

Opening March 2 online:  
[www.countygp.ab.ca/EarlyChildhoodDevelopment](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/EarlyChildhoodDevelopment)

Watch the County website and Facebook page for Seniors' Week events and registration that will take place during **Seniors' Week, June 1 to 7.**

# County of Grande Prairie Shines Spotlight on Volunteers

The County says it best: volunteers are the backbone of our communities. Through the *It Takes a Volunteer* program, we're celebrating individuals and groups whose volunteer efforts improve life in the County.

"Everybody has something to give back to their community, and volunteering is very rewarding," said Sheri Funk, Hythe Minor Hockey Volunteer, during a video interview for the *It Takes a Volunteer* program. "Volunteering makes a huge difference in our communities."

Since launching in 2023, the program has recognized 33 individuals and 23 organizations for their contributions. Honorees are featured on the County's Volunteer Wall of Fame and receive appreciation packages. Their volunteerism ranges from organizing local events to supporting vulnerable residents and promoting recreation.

To see the County's Volunteer Wall of Fame and watch our *It Takes a Volunteer* video series, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/ITAV](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/ITAV).

## Why Volunteer?

Volunteering doesn't just support the community; it benefits the volunteer. It's a great way to meet new friends, learn skills, and gain experience.

"I would encourage youth to volunteer, because everyone sees what you're doing and it means a lot," said Lexi Sazan of the youth-led 4H Beef Club. "You can see firsthand the impact your actions have on people."

## How to Nominate

Do you know an organization that's worthy of highlighting? Consider nominating them in the *It Takes a Volunteer* program!



Residents can nominate outstanding volunteers in two categories: individuals or organizations and teams. Nominees must serve in unpaid roles that benefit County residents. Nominations open February 1 and close on March 1, with honorees announced and recognized during National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, 2026.

Since 2023, the County has received dozens of worthy nominees, showcasing them on our Volunteer Wall of Fame, presenting them with an appreciation package, and featuring some in short videos.

## Get Involved

There are countless ways to make a difference. Whether you have a few hours or want a bigger role, opportunities are available. To learn more or submit a nomination, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/volunteers](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/volunteers) or call Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) at 780-532-9727.

## Parent and Tot Programs

Bring your little ones, ages 0-6, for a fun drop-in program designed for kids and caregivers. Enjoy free play, structured activities, and a welcoming space to share ideas while bonding with your child. It's social, educational, and completely free thanks to FCSS funding. Come explore, laugh, and grow together! Visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/EarlyChildhoodDevelopment](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/EarlyChildhoodDevelopment) to learn more.



The J.D.A County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

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

## TENDER TOTS

Come play at the Trican Fieldhouse from 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays until May 15. Walk the track or socialize with friends and other parents while your child plays with our variety of toys and balls on the indoor turf field. Some date exceptions apply—please view the online calendar for a complete schedule:

[www.jdacountysportsplex.com/calendar](http://www.jdacountysportsplex.com/calendar)

## SPRING BREAK CAMP, APRIL 6-10, 2026

Kids aged 5 to 12 are invited for a week of fun-filled activities. Experience games, crafts, recreational sports, and skating on our indoor ice rink. Our camp is designed to spark the imagination, confidence, independence, and communication skills of all our campers. Watch our website for more information and upcoming registration: [www.jdacountysportsplex.com](http://www.jdacountysportsplex.com)

## OTHER PROGRAMS OFFERED AT THE J.D.A. COUNTY SPORTSPLEX

- Public Skate
- Stick & Puck
- Seniors Walk & Talk (Free on Thursday mornings until May 2026)
- Active Tots: Montessori Sports Academy for 3- to 5-year-olds



## 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 20 years of experience with both beginner skaters and those looking to improve their skating skills. Register online:

[www.jdacountysportsplex.com/register](http://www.jdacountysportsplex.com/register)

## BOOK YOUR NEXT PARTY OR EVENT AT THE SPORTSPLEX!

The J.D.A. 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 bouncy castles. Bring your own food or choose in-house catering from either Quick Meal or the Bulldogs Sports Lounge. Contact us at 780-830-7407 or email [info@cgpsportsplex.com](mailto:info@cgpsportsplex.com) for more information about party costs, packages, and to secure your booking.





## SHOP WITH US

Surprise your friends and family with a unique gift from our online store or an unforgettable experience with our palaeo team this summer! Buy gift cards now for the Summer 2026 river float, guided excavation, and bonebed tour programs.



## BOOK YOUR CLASS TODAY

We offer museum field trips, virtual programs, and Night at the Museum sleepovers for school-aged children. Book now to experience our K-12 school programs, featuring curriculum connections in paleontology, evolution, earth sciences, social studies, and paleoart.

## GO BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Meet Bosswell, the Pachyrhinosaurus lakustai skull! Collected in 2002, our dedicated fossil preparator spent the last year meticulously prepping this impressive specimen to completion. Now, in 2026, it is done! See Bosswell up close and behold the 300-pound skull in all its glory.

## ANCIENT ANIMAL ABSURDITY IS BACK!

Join us this April for our interactive online tournament! Follow along as an epic lineup of prehistoric marine animals battle it out for the title of #AAA2026 champion. Don't miss our palaeontologist-curated Creature Guide, creature stats, lesson plans, and more. Who will reign supreme this year?

## YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Our Winter and Spring youth programming is well underway! Spend a Night at the Museum, make slime in PD Camp, sing along at Nesting Grounds, or dive into hands-on learning during Homeschool Days. There is something for everyone! Book your spot today.

## UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

Check out the Dino Museum for prehistoric fun! Mark your calendars for our exciting upcoming events: Easter Egg Hunt, April 4, and International Museum Day, May 16.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A FOSSIL

- 1. Leave It Where It Is:** fossil excavation requires a permit in Canada.
- 2. Record the Location:** take pictures of the fossil and nearby landmarks to relocate the spot.
- 3. Contact a Palaeontologist:** send your pictures to [curator@dinomuseum.ca](mailto:curator@dinomuseum.ca) so the fossil can be identified and collected safely. It might be the next big find of the region!

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



# County Contact Information

**EMAIL**  
 info@countygp.ab.ca

**ADDRESS**  
 10001 - 84 Avenue, Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

**WEBSITE**  
 www.countygp.ab.ca

**OFFICE HOURS**  
 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., including over the lunch hour. Closed 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, Recreation and Culture

**780-532-9727**

Watch us on YouTube

Like us on Facebook

Subscribe to  
 Our Newsletter



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Councillor Kurt Balderston, Councillor Brian Peterson, Councillor Terri Beaupre, Councillor Marty Tissington, Reeve Amanda McDonald, Councillor Brian Grant, Councillor Karen Rosvold, Deputy Reeve Bob Chrenek, Councillor Brian Lieveise

## Meet Your County Councillors

**Reeve Amanda McDonald**  
 Division 1  
 780-518-3197  
 amcdonald@countygp.ab.ca

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

**Councillor Terri Beaupre**  
 Division 3  
 780-933-5537  
 tbeaupre@countygp.ab.ca

**Councillor Marty Tissington**  
 Division 4  
 780-876-3252  
 mtissington@countygp.ab.ca

**Councillor Brian Lieveise**  
 Division 5  
 780-814-4017  
 blieveise@countygp.ab.ca

**Councillor Brian Grant**  
 Division 6  
 780-876-4222  
 bgrant@countygp.ab.ca

**Councillor Brian Peterson**  
 Division 7  
 780-228-0034  
 bpeterson@countygp.ab.ca

**Councillor Karen Rosvold**  
 Division 8  
 780-831-0902  
 krosvold@countygp.ab.ca

**Councillor Bob Chrenek**  
 Division 9  
 780-897-3577  
 bchrenek@countygp.ab.ca

## Senior Administration

**Joulia Whittleton**, County Manager  
 780-933-8712 | jwhittleton@countygp.ab.ca

**Nick Lapp**, General Manager  
 Planning and Development Services  
 780-532-9722 | nlapp@countygp.ab.ca

**Ryan Konowalyk**, General Manager  
 Transportation and Utilities  
 780-532-9722 | rkonowalyk@countygp.ab.ca

**Rory Tarant**, General Manager  
 Corporate Services and Strategy  
 780-532-9722 | rtarant@countygp.ab.ca

**Rob Beaupertuis**, General Manager  
 Financial and Business Planning Services  
 780-532-9722 | rbeaupertuis@countygp.ab.ca

**Charlotte Bierman**, General Manager  
 People and Organizational Development  
 780-532-9722 | cbierman@countygp.ab.ca

**Lee Brachmann**, General Manager  
 Community Services  
 780-532-9722 | lbrachmann@countygp.ab.ca