

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS



FALL 2023

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## Reeve's Message



As we look ahead to the fall season, I want to again express gratitude to everyone who worked in front of and behind the scenes during the Dunes West Wildfire. Your work was truly a team effort in getting residents back into their homes within two weeks.

We appreciated the resources from across Alberta, and the support of members of the military and firefighters from other departments, including as far away as Oregon. Also, County staff wore two hats to support our evacuated residents and the wildfire response while keeping the County's day-to-day business running.

Thanks to the crews who completed the initial 30 km pass of the Southeast Grande Prairie Firebreak ahead of schedule at the end of May. Read more about the firebreak and the added protection it will help provide on page 4.

### FIRESMART YOUR PROPERTY

This fall, I encourage everyone to make FireSmart your focus. See page 3 for tips from County Regional Fire Service to minimize the risk of fire to your property. Also, please reach out to them to book a FireSmart Home Assessment.

### PLAN YOUR COUNTY

In our Spring newsletter, we shared the effort the County is putting into reviewing and updating the plans, bylaws, strategies, and guidelines that shape local development. We're now halfway through the 'Plan Your County' project and have heard from hundreds of you at spring and summer events throughout the County. This fall, watch for a report and next steps. See page 11 for details.

### MUNICIPAL CENSUS AND ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

The County and its needs are constantly evolving. Because of the dissolution of the Village of Hythe in 2021, the County must review its number of councillors and divisions, and division boundaries before the 2025 municipal election. I want to remind you that as a first step, the County will conduct a municipal census in 2024 to determine whether growth or decline has created a population imbalance among divisions. Watch for updates and ways to get involved next year.

### CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

This fall, residents will be asked to share their thoughts in a Citizen Satisfaction Survey on the quality of life and the programs, opportunities, and services available in the County. I encourage you to complete this survey as it will help guide Council's decisions for the County, now and in the coming years.

### STAY INFORMED

We invite County residents to stay informed. Your feedback will be vital as we undertake these important projects. Use the links below to find out more, and as always, feel free to reach out to your Councillor.

- Sign in and view our Engage page to give feedback on current projects: [www.countygp.ab.ca/engage](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/engage)
- Subscribe to receive County news and alerts: [www.countygp.ab.ca/subscribe](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/subscribe)
- View our calendar and subscribe to receive a weekly digest of meetings, events, and activities: [www.countygp.ab.ca/events](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/events)

## IN THE COMMUNITY

We were thrilled to see so many of you at our County Open House events in June. Whether you joined us in Hythe, Bezanson, or at the Crosslink County Sportsplex, we hope you had fun and learned more about County programs and services.

## SUPPORTING OUR ECONOMY

Did you know our region on average is younger, better paid and has a lower cost of living than anywhere else in Canada? At a time when Canadians are facing record inflation and some families have given up on home ownership, it's still possible to get ahead here.

Much of our Economic Development efforts are dedicated to business retention and expansion, promoting investment and attraction to the region, and collaborating with regional partners for continued growth and development.

I invite you to share our new promotional video highlighting our quality of life. Find it on the County's YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/CountyofGP](https://www.youtube.com/CountyofGP), and our Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn platforms.

## PRIORITIZING ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Our residents have consistently rated roads as their top priority in our past Citizen Satisfaction Surveys. We agree. We continue to look to the future needs of our region and continue to fund capital projects to meet those needs. Approximately \$22.4 million – 59 per cent of the 2023 capital budget – is going towards capital road and bridge projects, including 16.3 km of proposed surface road overlay work.

We were pleased to see provincial funding secured in Budget 2023 for engineering and land to get the Highway 40X project construction ready. This will be a vital addition to our region's existing transportation network, and will support significant economic development opportunities, provide critical access, and increase transportation network efficiency and safety. We're also advocating for improved air and rail service to the region.

We're in the final phase of Highway 40 Twinning and Bridge Construction (cost shared with the province and MD of Greenview), with construction now underway on the south side of the river. The County made its final contribution of \$3.33 million, for a total of \$10 million toward the project.

County Council approved a utility rate subsidy for residents receiving water and wastewater service in the Hamlet of Clairmont. The subsidy offsets Aquatera's five-year increases that came into effect on May 1 and totals \$400,000 annually (\$2 million total).

## INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION

A collaborative paved two-kilometre trail project is underway with the support of federal grants and funding from the County and City of Grande Prairie to connect South Bear Creek Park in the City with the Dunes trails in the County. Read more about the project on page 6.

The County and City are working together to advocate for changes to electricity distribution rates. Our resolution was passed by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta to ask the province to adopt a new electricity pricing model for transmission and distribution which, if adopted, should help eliminate the disparity in pricing across Alberta.

## ADVOCATING FOR THE COUNTY

Advocacy is the way we communicate the urgent needs of our community to other levels of government and maximize the opportunities to maintain and enhance our quality of life in the County. Council continually reviews and updates our advocacy plan to reflect the needs and priorities of residents, businesses, and community members.

In addition to seeking economic development opportunities, we continue to promote awareness of transportation infrastructure needs in the County with the provincial and federal governments.

We're always looking to improve healthcare services to better meet local needs. We're currently asking for a commitment from the Government of Alberta for a new healthcare facility in Beaverlodge, as well as supporting attraction and retention efforts for healthcare professionals, and the development of the Maskwa Medical Centre.

## STAY SAFE

I wish everyone a safe and happy fall season. In addition to the FireSmart information, we urge everyone to review the road safety tips in this newsletter and take extra care around school buses and in school zones. We can all work together to get the school year off to a safe start.



# FireSmart Tips for Fall

Wildfires may be a fact of life, but there are steps we can all take to minimize the risks to our properties and buildings. In fact, fall is a great time to get started on being more FireSmart™.

## STEP 1: PICK UP A COPY OF THE FIRESMART BEGINS AT HOME GUIDE TO LEARN MORE.

The guide, produced by FireSmart Alberta, provides detailed diagrams and explanations about how and where fires start and spread. It covers fire behaviour, safer building and landscaping materials, as well as potential threats and their recommended distance from your home.

The tips in the guide are rooted in common sense but may not be obvious without guidance. Here are some of the top tips:

- Keep a 1.5 metre zone around your house and deck free of combustible material (including under the deck).
- Keep decks, balconies, gutters, and roofs clean and free of leaves and debris.
- Cut grass and weeds regularly; keep them shorter than 10 centimetres.
- Plant wildfire-resistant vegetation on your property to reduce flammability.
- Keep embers out of external vents (except dryer vents) by adding non-combustible three millimetre screens.
- Keep trees pruned to at least two metres from the ground.
- Store firewood at least 10 metres away from your home.
- Build sheds and other structures to the same safety standards as your home.
- Develop a wildfire evacuation plan for your household.

## STEP 2: GET A HOME ASSESSMENT FROM A PROFESSIONAL.

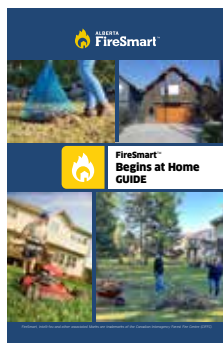


Your property is checked for hazards, then a customized report is developed with a comprehensive list of actions you can take to make your home safer.

Fire Marshal Ken Atamanchuk wants to help County residents be more prepared in case of fire.

“Residents can reach out to County Regional Fire Services to request a FireSmart Home Assessment,” he says. “We have all the resources and can provide the assistance property owners need to begin the process of becoming FireSmart.”

Your house is your biggest investment – find out how you can protect it by picking up a free copy of the FireSmart Begins at Home Guide at the County's Community Services Building, 10808 100 Ave, Clairmont, or read it online at [firesmartcanada.ca](https://firesmartcanada.ca). Then book a FireSmart Home Assessment by visiting [www.countygp.ab.ca/firesmart](https://www.countygp.ab.ca/firesmart) or calling 780-532-9727.



## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2023

Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14, 2023. Visit [www.nfpa.org/fpw](https://www.nfpa.org/fpw) for family-friendly safety tips and activities for kids of all ages. This year's theme, 'Cooking Safety Begins With You' offers simple but important actions you can take to keep yourself and those around you safe while cooking.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS Annual FireSmart Wood Waste Clean-up Events in September



Is your home or business near treed or grassy areas? If so, wildfire is a threat. Residents and business operators in the County are encouraged to bring wood debris, branches, and deadfall to the County's annual FireSmart Wood Waste Clean-up events for free disposal. For more information, call 780-532-9727.

### Riverview Pines Saturday, September 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Located on north on Range Road 71, west of Township Road 711, east on Township Road 704A.

### Mystic Ridge Saturday, September 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Located on Range Road 64, south of Township Road 710.



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

# SOUTHEAST GRANDE PRAIRIE FIREBREAK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

## Protecting People and Property from Wildfire



A firebreak has been constructed to help protect people and property from the threat of wildfire in the Grande Prairie region.

The Southeast Grande Prairie Firebreak is being funded by a \$5 million commitment from the Government of Alberta, and if required, an additional \$1.25 million each from both the County and City of Grande Prairie.

"We are grateful for the province's commitment to protect our region from wildfire," says County of Grande Prairie Reeve Bob Marshall.

Ryan Konowalyk, the County's Director of Public Works, says crews completed the initial 30-kilometre pass near the end of May, ahead of the expected initial 14-day work schedule. Work then moved on to widening strategic locations along the firebreak line to further enhance the protection it provides.

"We also want to tip our hats to everyone who was involved with establishing a fire guard during the Dunes West Wildfire to mitigate the loss of homes and property," adds Reeve Marshall. "The efficiency of County and City fire crews, along with

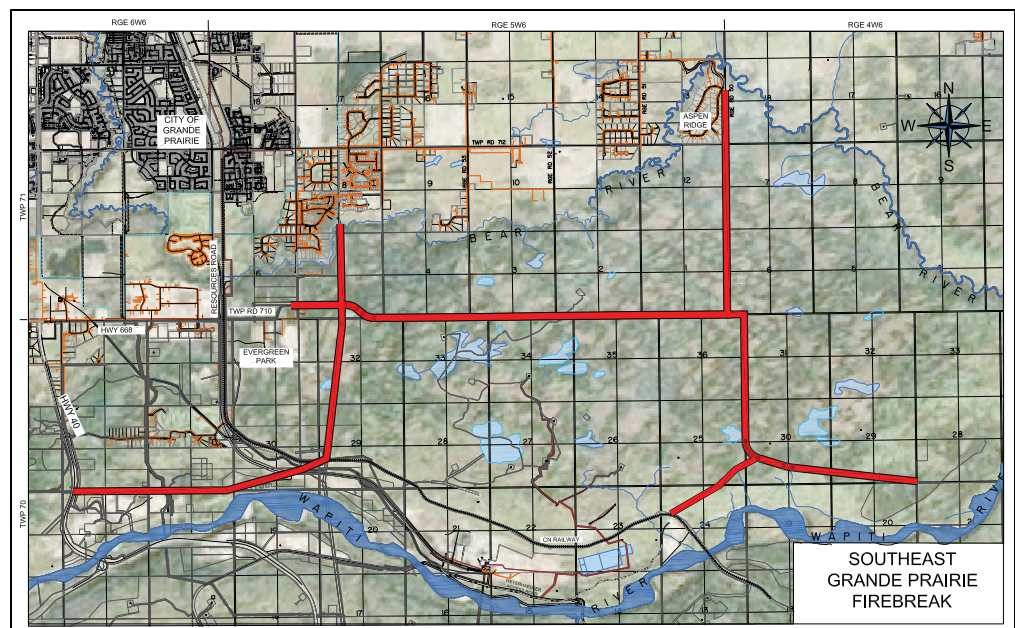
additional resources from across Alberta, members of the military, and firefighters from Oregon to create a fire guard within the wildfire perimeter was no small feat given that their work was achieved amid the state of local emergency."

"Working with our neighbours and partners to safeguard our city against the threat of wildfire provides immeasurable reassurance to our residents and businesses," says City of Grande Prairie Mayor, Jackie Clayton. "City Council is thankful for the collaboration with the Government of Alberta and County of Grande Prairie for this extraordinary measure to protect public safety."

The Southeast Grande Prairie Firebreak is located mainly on crown land and extends east from Evergreen Park, north to Aspen Ridge, south to the Wapiti River and west to Highway 40. A map outlining the path of construction is included below.

"About 1,900 County residents were displaced during the wildfire," says Reeve Marshall. "The Southeast Grande Prairie Firebreak project is one step to help protect our people, their property and our region's critical infrastructure now and into the future."

Additional work, including final clean-up, will extend into the winter season. Users of the areas may see equipment operating until the project is completed. Remember to use caution when visiting areas outlined on the project map below.





## Have Your Say! Participate in the County's Citizen Satisfaction Survey

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This fall, County of Grande Prairie residents will once again be asked to share their thoughts in a Citizen Satisfaction Survey.

Like past citizen satisfaction surveys, residents will be asked questions about their quality of life and the programs, opportunities, and services available to them.

Once the survey is completed, Council will then consider the feedback residents have provided to determine overall satisfaction. A follow-up report will be shared with County residents, highlighting key research topics.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY?

As County residents, the survey is a way you can provide your feedback that will help guide Council's decisions for the County, now and in the coming years.

Be assured as you complete the survey that the results will be confidential. Your thoughts will provide a greater

understanding of what our residents deem to be priorities. The results will help guide the County's strategic planning processes and will also provide valuable insights into what is currently working well and opportunities for improvement.

### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Residents seeking more information can read about the Citizen Satisfaction Survey and review results from past surveys at [www.countygp.ab.ca/satisfaction](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/satisfaction) or contact the Communications department at 780-532-9722 or [communications@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:communications@countygp.ab.ca).

Would you like to receive ongoing information about the survey as well as other work the County is doing? Find options below on how you can sign up and stay up to date!

## Sign Up and Stay Up to Date

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Want to know what the County is up to in your community? We have a number of ways to keep residents informed of the work we are doing.

- Sign in and view our Engage page to provide your feedback on current projects at [www.countygp.ab.ca/engage](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/engage)
- Subscribe to receive all our news and alerts at [www.countygp.ab.ca/subscribe](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/subscribe)
- View our calendar and subscribe to receive a weekly digest of meetings, events, and activities across the County at [www.countygp.ab.ca/events](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/events)



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

# Federal Grant Paves the Way for Outdoor Trail Network Between City and County of Grande Prairie



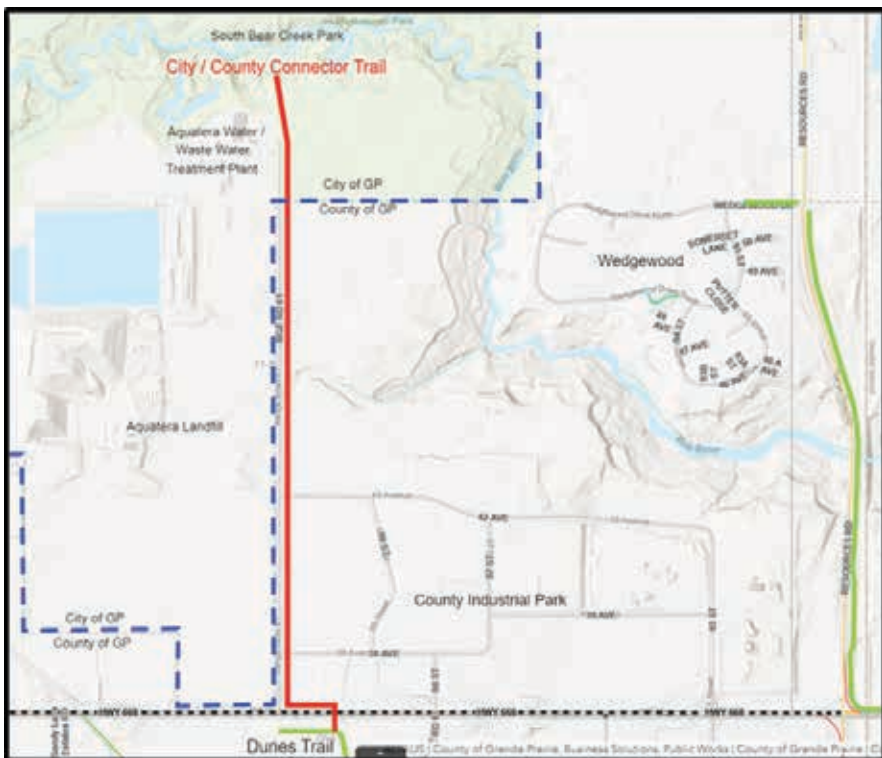
A collaborative trail project connecting the County of Grande Prairie and City of Grande Prairie is underway with the support of federal grant funds, creating a link between two large existing trail systems – South Bear Creek Park in the City to the paved Dunes trails in the County.

The million-dollar infrastructure investment is being supported by a \$750,000 grant from the Canada Community Revitalization Fund, a \$500 million national infrastructure program to revitalize communities across Canada. County Council earmarked \$263,000 of municipal reserve funding for the project, while the City of Grande Prairie has budgeted \$48,981 for the portion of the trail that runs on City lands.

“By working with and listening to municipalities, our government is making important investments to revitalize and enhance local infrastructure used every day by residents and visitors. This new trail project connecting the county and city of Grande Prairie will encourage a healthy lifestyle year-round,” said the Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs, PrairiesCan and CanNor.

“Open spaces, recreational amenities and accessible gathering places are at the heart of Alberta’s vibrant communities,” said the Honourable Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Tourism and Associate Minister of Finance. “This investment in this new outdoor trail will provide residents and visitors with opportunities for inclusive, active and healthy living while supporting the Grande Prairie region’s high quality of life for years to come.”

The municipalities identified an opportunity to take advantage of the



federal grant funding opportunity to create a recreational trail to benefit residents from across the region.

The paved two-kilometre trail will run along the east side of Range Road 61 past the Aquatera landfill and include the addition of a pedestrian road crossing at Secondary Highway 668 (Correction Line).

"This project is an excellent example of the positive work being achieved through our Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee," says County of Grande Prairie Reeve Bob Marshall. "By discussing and collaborating on mutually beneficial opportunities, we are working together to improve the quality of life for residents across the region."

"This collaborative investment to connect the trail networks between the City and County is a strong example of the benefits working regionally brings to our residents," says City of Grande Prairie Mayor Jackie Clayton. "The South Bear Creek Park and Dunes both provide endless opportunity for outdoor recreation year-round, and we are looking forward to working with our partners to bring this project to life, promoting active lifestyle and supporting Council's Strategic Priority of Quality of Life."

The project is currently underway with plans for completion this construction season.

#### **FEDERAL GRANTS AWARDED TO OTHER PROJECTS IN THE REGION**

In addition to funding announcement in June for the outdoor trail network between the city and the county, Minister Vandal officially unveiled a new PrairiesCan service location located in Centre 2000 in Grande Prairie to enhance collaboration between Albertans and the federal government and to help capitalize on economic opportunities across northwest Alberta. As part of the launch, Minister Vandal announced more than \$9.4 million in PrairiesCan investments for 23 projects to support tourism, community economic development, innovation, and economic growth across northwest Alberta, including two County-based projects:

##### **The River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society:**

\$315,628 to launch interactive tourism experiences that increase awareness of and visitation to northwest Alberta and the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum.

##### **Hythe & District Agricultural Society:**

\$192,327 to build the Mustang Spray Park, an accessible and family friendly outdoor spray park in Hythe.



## **Maintain a Neighbourhood Ice Surface: Volunteers Welcome!**

There's nothing like gliding across the ice at an outdoor rink on a frosty winter day. The County of Grande Prairie makes it easy for that to happen.

The Neighbourhood Ice Surface Program allows temporary ice surfaces (rinks) to be built and maintained by local volunteers. Volunteer applications are due by December 31, 2023.

Another option for interested residents is to apply to manage their local recreational stormwater pond ice surface. Designated stormwater pond skating surfaces are maintained by volunteers. The County oversees the program and coordinates training for volunteers who apply. Volunteer applications are due by November 30, 2023.

These ice surfaces are intended for the enjoyment of both residents and the public. Spread the winter cheer and invite everyone to experience the magic.

For more information, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/icesurfaces](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/icesurfaces) or contact Parks and Recreation at 780-532-9727.



# Let it Snow



## ALL ABOUT SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

Snow and ice control is the County's priority throughout the winter season. Dedicated equipment and crews work to keep everyone moving safely across paved and gravel roads, bridges, and trails. Crews dedicated to snow removal operate 20 graders, eight plow trucks, one large tractor, and three loaders to clear and maintain over 3,700 km of roads across the County.

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

- High-volume and high-speed roads (also known as arterial or hard-surfaced roads) are cleared first, once eight cm of snow has collected. A reasonable effort will be made to ensure these roads are cleared within three business days.
- Gravel roads are cleared once 15 cm of snow has collected. A reasonable effort will be made to ensure these roads are cleared within five business days.
- Intersections, curves on roads, and hills are salted, sanded, and/or gravelled, also starting with priority roads.
- Hamlets and residential subdivisions (subdivisions with a concrete curb and gutter) are cleared by a dedicated crew once 15 cm of snow has collected. Within these areas, high-volume (main) roads and school zones are priority, and a reasonable effort will be made to ensure these roads are cleared within a 12-day cycle.

## WHAT ABOUT LARGE SNOWFALL EVENTS?

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

Want to learn more? The Winter Road Maintenance policy is available at [www.countygp.ab.ca/snowremoval](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/snowremoval).

## SUBSCRIBE TO STAY IN THE KNOW ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SNOW REMOVAL

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

### Areas include:

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

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

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

The screenshot shows a web form titled "News" with the subtitle "Stay up-to-date on County of Grande Prairie news". It contains six checkboxes arranged in a 2x3 grid. The "Residential Snow Removal" checkbox is checked, while all other checkboxes are unchecked.

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

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



### WHAT ABOUT OTHER NEIGHBOURHOODS LIKE CARRIAGE LANE AND GOLDENROD ESTATES?

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

### CLEARING PAVED TRAILS

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

### PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS

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

### DO YOUR PART FOR SAFE SNOW REMOVAL

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

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

### SENIORS SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

Residents aged 65 or older or individuals with disabilities, who live on two or more acres of land and have difficulty clearing their driveway, can apply to the Senior Snow Removal Program.

Following a snowfall event, once County roadways are cleared, crews will clear the driveways of the more than 400 residents who are supported by this program. Private driveways cannot be cleared upon request, so make sure to register for the program if you qualify.

#### Age 65+

To register, complete the online form at [www.countygp.ab.ca/seniorsnowremoval](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/seniorsnowremoval) or contact Public Works at 780-532-7393.

#### Residents with a Physical Disability

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



# Be a Good Neighbour this Winter

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## **FOLLOW THE COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW**

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

## **CLEAR YOUR SIDEWALKS WITHIN 24 HOURS**

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

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

## **KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR & ACCESSIBLE**

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

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

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

## **DIRECT YOUR DRAINAGE**

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

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

## **REPORTING**

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

Read more about the Community Standards Bylaw at [www.countygp.ab.ca/csb](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/csb).



# Plan Your County

In the spring 2023, we invited residents to help Plan Your County in reviewing and updating the documents that shape how our region grows. Here's a summary of what we've learned so far and what's coming next.

## WHAT WE HEARD (SO FAR)

Starting with a survey in April, we received over 50 responses regarding the future of our County's hamlets. We then engaged with hundreds of residents, collecting over 120 sticky notes at events like the Grande Prairie Stompede, the Home and Garden Show, and our own County Open Houses. To get more detailed feedback, three drop-in sessions to talk about the Hamlet Resiliency Strategy and five community workshops for the Municipal Development Plan were held throughout the County. A technical workshop and many one-on-one interviews were also organized with local developers, ag societies, and other affected groups.

Our team also visited five schools across the County, asking local students to be Planners for a day and develop their own fictional communities. This both taught students about municipal government and gave us valuable insight into what our youth value and want for the County's future.

Some of the initial themes that we have heard were about the importance of:

- Outdoor recreation and nature
- Agricultural land and local producers
- Maintaining and improving roads and public services
- Protecting our community and the people
- Balanced development

As we reach the halfway point of this project, we want to thank everyone who has taken the time to give us feedback – your input is vital to setting the County's growth and development priorities.

## WHAT'S NEXT

This fall, we will report back on what we heard through the spring and summer. Also coming this fall are more opportunities to provide feedback on the Hamlet Resiliency Strategy with an online survey and in-person events. Subscribe to [www.countygp.ab.ca/PlanYourCounty](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/PlanYourCounty) for project updates and opportunities in your email inbox.

## QUESTIONS?

To find out more about the Plan Your County initiative, please call 780-513-3950, email [planyourcounty@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:planyourcounty@countygp.ab.ca) or visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/PlanYourCounty](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/PlanYourCounty).



# Community Groups Corner

## JOIN US IN OCTOBER TO RECONNECT

Community groups are invited to join their colleagues in person at Reconnect 2023 – the County of Grande Prairie's Regional Community Groups Conference.

### RECONNECT 2023

Saturday, October 14, 2023 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Evergreen Park, 55051 Township Road 710

It's a chance for community groups, non-profits, and volunteer organizations to connect, socialize, and learn from one another. There are valuable workshops and presentations planned, including sessions on volunteer recruitment and retention, financial literacy and funding diversity, governance, and managing facilities and buildings. For more information, check [www.countygp.ab.ca/communitysupport](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/communitysupport).

## RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

It can be difficult to navigate all the resources available for groups working in communities. Finding valuable, relevant, and current information online is easier if you start on the County's Community Groups webpage. We have gathered the best resources for generating revenue for your organization, getting training, safety and risk management,

and information for groups that manage facilities. Sign up for our newsletter and receive updates, reminders, and grant information in your inbox:

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

## GRANT APPLICATION REMINDER

Community Capital Grants are available for organizations that deliver recreation or cultural services to County residents.

### Capital Grant Program:

Community groups and neighbouring municipalities can apply for financial assistance to construct, repair, or expand recreational or cultural facilities that serve County residents. These grants are subdivided into two streams – Major Capital and Capital Assistance. Applications opened August 1 and will be accepted until September 30, 2023.

### Community Assistance Grants:

Not-for-profit community groups can apply for funding or donations to support operating costs, fundraising efforts, achievements, and milestones associated with the delivery of programs, services, and events. Funding streams include Multi-Year Operating Funding; Community Wellness and Safety; and Event Sponsorship, Donations, and Community Support. Applications are open throughout the year.

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

## Recognize an Outstanding Farm Family

Do you know an exceptional farm family in the County of Grande Prairie who exemplifies unwavering dedication to agriculture and actively contributes to their community? Now is your chance to honor them by nominating them for the prestigious 2024 Farm Family Award. Don't miss the opportunity to highlight their remarkable achievements and inspiring impact!

## NOMINATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 1, 2023

Have a family in mind? Complete the nomination package at [www.countygp.ab.ca/farmfamily](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/farmfamily) or pick one up at the County Community Services Building. Our doors are open from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., excluding statutory holidays. For more information, contact the Agriculture department at 780-532-9727.



2023 Farm Family Award Recipients – The Drysdale Family of Kendal Farms



APPLY BY SEPTEMBER 30

## Board or Committee Membership

Would you like to know more about local government processes and decision-making, or contribute in a new way to your community? Then sitting on a board or committee is for you!

Much of the behind-the-scenes work to build and strengthen our community is done by boards and committees of Council. They bring elected Councillors and constituents together to reach common goals on a variety of topics.

Each fall, Council appoints new members to boards and committees as positions become available, such as when a term expires, or a member resigns. From reviewing information to making recommendations to Council, members work to create efficiencies that help Council make informed decisions. Some boards and committees also have a quasi-judicial role under the Municipal Government Act, which means they have the authority to make decisions and judgments.

Herb Pfau, Chair of the Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, says it feels wonderful to give back.



"My story might be a little different than most in that I was also fortunate to work for the County for more than 40 years," says Pfau.

"It's quite rewarding to serve the County in this way. Council needs the input of residents who can listen to both sides of an argument to put forward a recommendation to help them make an informed decision."

Pfau believes in municipal government and its ability to do a good job. But to make it even better, he says, "Lay people are needed to serve on boards and committees."

Residents with expertise, time, and the willingness to contribute are needed. Apply by September 30 at [www.countygp.ab.ca/boards](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/boards). All applications will be reviewed, and Council will appoint members at large to the various boards, committees and commissions at their annual Organizational Meeting in October.

## County Conducting Annual Property Inspections



As part of their ongoing annual inspection cycle, County Assessors are conducting property inspections throughout the County.

### WHEN WILL ASSESSORS BE IN MY AREA?

Assessors only conduct inspections during regular business hours throughout the year. If you are not at home, Assessors may leave a call-back card on your front door.

### HOW WILL I RECOGNIZE THE ASSESSOR?

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

### QUESTIONS?

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



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

# We Heard You! New Road to Improve Recycling Access



We're thrilled to announce that the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management will soon see the addition of a secondary access road, providing a direct scale-free route to our transfer station where you can dispose of batteries, donate bottles, utilize clothing donation bins, and recycle cardboard, electronics, fluorescent bulbs, glass, and hazardous household waste. We also accept paint, paper, plastics, and propane tanks. While there, check out our 'Shelve and Share' for gently used items. Don't forget to bring your used oil and jugs. Stay tuned for more details as we strive to enhance sustainability in our community!



## TRANSFER STATION

Batteries  
Bottle donation trailer  
Clothing donation bins  
Cardboard  
Electronics  
Fluorescent bulbs  
Glass  
Household hazardous waste

Paint  
Paper  
Plastics  
Propane tanks  
Shelve and Share  
Tin  
Used oil and jugs

LEGEND: Recycle | Reuse

Scan the QR code for more information about the Clairmont Centre Access Program, navigating the facility and more.  
[www.countygp.ab.ca/clairmontcentre](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/clairmontcentre)



## We all win by weighing waste.

# Recycling Corner

## BE GREEN THIS HALLOWEEN

Black and orange may be the standard Halloween colours, but you can also make it green with these tips.

### DECORATIONS:

Craft, build, or buy decorations that can be reused. Or use materials that can be composted, such as pumpkins or straw bales, or recycled, like newspaper.

### COSTUMES:

Upcycle, recycle, or reuse items from thrift stores or garage sales for fabulous costumes. Check online for inspiration!

### PUMPKINS:

Carve your pumpkin and toast the seeds rather than throwing them away. Ask a local farmer if they want it after Halloween for animal treats. At the very least, put your pumpkin and any leftover party food and treats in the compost, not the garbage.



## RECYCLING ROUNDUP

**Hythe Curling Club | Saturday, September 9 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The Annual Recycling Roundup is back for 2023! Get rid of your unwanted TVs, computers, tires, paint, household hazardous waste, and more – safely and free of charge! Presented in partnership with Alberta Recycling. Enter to win a propane fire pit or County gift basket filled with eco-friendly, local items. Learn more at [www.countygp.ab.ca/recyclingroundup](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/recyclingroundup).

## CALLING ALL CONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

# Are You Interested in Working with the County?



*The Freezin' Hub, caterers for the 2023 County Open House in Bezanson*

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

**NEW:** In addition to providing a copy of a valid Food Handling Permit issued by Alberta Health Services, caterers bidding on food service opportunities for County events in 2023 onward must also complete the County's Contractor and Vendor Prequalification Package.



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

# Fall & Winter Activities for Families and Seniors

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## PARENT AND TOT PLAYGROUPS

Are you a parent or caregiver of a child, or children, ages 0 to 6? Drop into a parent and tot playgroup near you from 10 a.m. to noon! This free program provides a safe and trusting environment for parents to connect with other parents, children to play and interact, and participants to have fun, learn and grow together.



### Saskatoon Lake Hall

2nd & 4th Monday of the month | Starting September 11

### Bezanson Community Event Centre

Every Tuesday | Starting September 12

### Five Mile Hall

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month | Starting September 13

### Wellington Resource Centre in Clairmont

Every Thursday | Starting September 14

### Hythe FCSS Office

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month | Starting September 20

Learn more about Early Childhood Development Programs through County FCSS at [www.countygp.ab.ca/parentandtot](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/parentandtot).

## KEEP ACTIVE WITH THE SENIORS WALK AND TALK PROGRAM

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

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



### TENTATIVE DATES:

#### Gymnasium in the Bezanson Community Event Centre

Tuesdays 10 a.m. to noon | Starting October 3

#### Happy Trails Track at the Crosslink County Sportsplex

Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Starting October 5

#### Gymnasium in the Hythe Community Centre, Hythe

Thursdays 10 a.m. to noon | Starting October 5

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

## WELLINGTON RESOURCE CENTRE (WRC) PROGRAMMING

10407-97 Street, Clairmont

### Babysitter Basics – Cost: \$50

Friday, September 15 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

Bezanson Community Event Centre

Friday, October 20 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WRC, Clairmont

### After School Yoga

October 17 - November 7 | 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

### Home Alone – Cost: \$10

Friday, November 24 | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WRC, Clairmont

Friday, December 15 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Bezanson Community Event Centre

### Mega Awesome New Years Camp – Cost: \$10 per day

Wednesday & Thursday, January 3 & 4, 2024

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open to youth ages 10 to 13.

Register by December 22, 2023.

### Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Free help to file your income tax return. Open to students, seniors, families or single parents with a modest income and simple taxes. Filing for the 2023 tax season begins March 2024.

### Sexsmith and Area Foodbank, Clairmont location

Wednesdays, noon to 2 p.m.

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

## HYTHE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

10011-100 Street, Hythe

### Home Alone – Cost: \$10

Friday, October 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Babysitter Basics – Cost: \$50

Friday, November 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information on the above programs, 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.



## COMMUNITY SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

# Supporting Students' Mental Health

Behind-the-scenes support is key in any emergency. During the Dunes West Wildfire, a very capable team of professionally trained counsellors ensured students, families and staff who were evacuated, or placed on evacuation alert, received the help they needed.

Krystle Bush and Lana Clarke are two of a team of seven Community School Liaison Counsellors (CSLCs) employed by Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) to provide service to Peace Wapiti Public School Division (PWPSD) schools within the County.

CSLCs provide Tier I and II preventative wellness interventions, supporting the positive mental health of students and staff through classroom presentations, one-to-one counselling with a focus on healthy relationships and friendships, stress management, emotional wellbeing, and professional development for teachers and staff. They also collaborate with teachers, principals, parents, and other mental health professionals in the community.

"Helping maintain calm in the schools was an important part of our response during the wildfire," says Bush. "For two weeks, we moved into Emergency Social Services roles while maintaining our CSLC responsibilities at our respective schools."

"Accessing firsthand information from evacuees helped us understand their needs and then convey those to our schools, right down to which students required snacks, lunches and supplies," says Clarke.



Lana Clarke (left) and Krystle Bush (right).

In addition to creating a safe space and providing adults students could talk to, the CSLC team connected evacuated families with community resources, including where to source kids' clothing.

### HELP IS AVAILABLE:

The CSLC team is just one of the supports available to PWPSD students and families. Mental Health Therapists provide Tier III and IV supports which include more treatment-focused responses to the needs of children experiencing mental health distress. A recent addition to the range of services for families includes an Outreach Team of professionals who help create connections between families, community services and the school with the goal of supporting disengaged students in rebuilding their involvement in their education. Reach out to your school or FCSS at [www.countygp.ab.ca/csdc](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/csdc) to learn more about mental health supports for students and families.



## November is Family Violence Prevention Month



Albertans will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime

November is Family Violence Prevention Month and an opportunity to learn how to help. Family violence can happen to anyone; help is available for everyone.

### REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT:

- Call 911 if you or someone you know is in immediate danger.
- Alberta's Family Violence Info Line: Talk or text toll-free at 310-1818, or chat at [www.alberta.ca/SafetyChat](http://www.alberta.ca/SafetyChat)
- Odyssey House 24-hour Crisis Line: 780-532-2672
- Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence: 1-866-403-8000
- Family and Community Support Services: 780-532-9722



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

## WELLBEING IN WILDFIRE SEASON:

# How to Access Mental Health Services

Have the wildfires and related evacuation orders and alerts or other life events taken a toll on your mental wellbeing? Don't keep it bottled up inside. If you or someone you know needs emotional support or feels overwhelmed, remember you are not alone. Contact one of the resources below for help. For more information about additional resources and supports, visit [www.alberta.ca/mentalhealth](http://www.alberta.ca/mentalhealth).

RESOURCE	CONTACT	ABOUT
<b>Alberta 2-1-1</b>	Call or text 2-1-1 <a href="http://www.ab.211.ca">www.ab.211.ca</a>	For information/referrals to Alberta's community, social, health-related, and government services.
<b>Alberta Health Services (AHS) Integrated Crisis Access Team</b>	587-259-5513	Walk-in support for adult mental health concerns, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.
<b>AHS Child/Youth Addiction &amp; Mental Health</b>	780-538-5162 Call after 8 a.m. to book a session.	Single session and walk-in counselling for children/youth, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, 4th floor, Nordic Court, 10014-99 Street, Grande Prairie
<b>AB Mental Health Helpline</b>	1-877-303-2642	Support for mental health concerns.
<b>AB Addiction Helpline</b>	1-866-332-2322	Support for alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and problem gambling.
<b>Adult Bullying Help Line</b>	1-888-456-2323	Support for adults experiencing bullying or harassment.
<b>Kids Help Phone</b>	1-800-668-6868	Support for struggling youth under 20.
<b>Crisis Text Line</b>	Text "HOME" to 686868	Text support by a trained crisis responder.
<b>Distress Line</b>	1-780-482-HELP (4357)	Confidential, non-judgmental short-term crisis intervention, emotional support, and distress resource.
<b>Family and Community Support Services</b>	780-567-5584	Not sure who to call? FCSS can provide information and referral to the appropriate service.
<b>Family Violence Information Line</b>	780-310-1818	Anonymous help in 170 languages.
<b>Help Seeker</b>	<a href="http://www.helpseeker.org">www.helpseeker.org</a>	Free location-based help services network.
<b>Indigenous Mental Health Help</b>	1-855-242-3310	Indigenous community support and counselling in Cree, Ojibway, and Inuktitut.
<b>Money Mentors</b>	1-888-294-0076 <a href="http://www.moneymentors.ca">www.moneymentors.ca</a>	Credit counselling, debt consolidation, and financial education agency.
<b>Income Supports</b>	1-866-644-5135	Support for individuals and families for basic expenses like food, clothing, and shelter.
<b>Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention</b>	780-539-6680 <a href="http://www.sp-rc.ca">www.sp-rc.ca</a>	Free drop-in Men's Support Group, Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Nordic Court, Room 200, 10019-99 Street, Grande Prairie.
<b>Virtual Rapid Access Counselling</b>	1-877-244-2360 <a href="http://www.rac.janeapp.com">www.rac.janeapp.com</a>	Call or book online for free counselling sessions.

## Need Funds for College or University?

Attention high school graduates and parents of graduates. Did you know the County offers a \$500 scholarship in memory of long-time County Administrator Ron Pfau? County residents who have graduated high school, and who will be pursuing or are currently enrolled in post-secondary studies in the fields of business, commerce, or public office administration are invited to apply. The scholarship serves as a tribute to Ron Pfau's lasting impact on our community.

Submit your application online by October 31, 2023 at [www.countygp.ab.ca/ronpfau](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/ronpfau).

# Intergenerational Pen Pal Program Builds Connections

Dale Bond, Home Support Coordinator for Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), reflects on the origins of a pen pal program between students at Elmworth School and local seniors, and the profound impact it has had on them.

"The art of letter writing is becoming a memory for the older generation and not something that is commonly practiced anymore," says Bond.

In the spring of 2021, individuals and families found themselves in and out of isolation, bringing increased loneliness.

"The pen pal program was born out of an opportunity that FCSS saw as a way to bring people together using a practice from the past," adds Bond. "We facilitated the letter exchanges between the seniors and students, and the program provided a much-needed social connection and support system for both groups.

"We started by pairing students with seniors. Although there was minimal time to exchange letters, their excitement was clear to see."

The impact on both generations was evident as the program continued the following school year and relationships started to blossom.

"In the 2022-23 school year, letters were exchanged between 22 pen pals – 10 seniors and 12 Grades 3 and

4 students at Elmworth School," says Bond.

"Deeper connections formed with each letter; the bonds surpassed expectations and enriched their lives.

"The pen pals shared stories about their families, animals, favourite activities, vacation plans, and more. With each exchange, the generational gap between the participants appeared to be decreasing."

This year's program wrapped up with a special gathering hosted by FCSS and Elmworth School.

"The pen pals played games, shared stories, and ate lunch together," Bond recalls. "The event highlighted the true connections made in their monthly letter exchanges. Conversations were easy and smiles were plenty."

Reflecting on the overall benefits of the pen pal program, Bond smiles.

"Both groups had a much deeper experience than what was anticipated. The connections gave the seniors a sense of purpose and fulfillment, and they embraced the opportunity to pass along their history and knowledge. The younger students gained wisdom, empathy, and a friend. We were impressed by the students' compassion and kindness and the celebratory event is a day that will be carried in the hearts of all involved."



## Extended Hours at the Lendery

The Lendery is a set of secure smart lockers at the Wellington Resource Centre that allows library members to request items from the Grande Prairie Public Library and have them delivered right to Clairmont. Anyone with a valid local library membership can pick up or return items during the new extended hours, from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Please note that the Lendery is closed on all statutory holidays. Find more information about library membership and the Lendery at [www.gppl.ca](http://www.gppl.ca).



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

## OCTOBER IS CANADIAN LIBRARY MONTH

# Become a Library Member and Enter to Win

If you already use your local library, you know what a valuable resource it is. And if you don't, County libraries in Elmworth, Hythe, La Glace, and Valhalla want you to find out. They are celebrating YOU for Canadian Library Month.



Between October 1 and 31, anyone who signs up for a new library card or renews an expired one in those communities will receive an entry into their grand prize draw. Already have a library card? Bring a family member, friend, or acquaintance to get or renew a membership and you'll both get an entry. The more people you refer, the more chances you'll have to win!

Whether or not your name is drawn, your library card is still a great prize. Your membership gets you more than access to books:

- Free membership and no late fees
- Free wi-fi in the library
- Printing, scanning, and faxing (for a small fee)
- Access to materials in public libraries all over Alberta
- Access to e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines

Please note: The contest is only taking place in Elmworth, Hythe, La Glace, and Valhalla, but all libraries are great places to read, learn, work, and connect in your community. Learn more at [www.countygrip.ab.ca/libraries](http://www.countygrip.ab.ca/libraries).

## County Internet Towers and the Public Web Map



### INS & OUTS OF INTERNET TOWERS

Getting online is essential, which is why the County is involved in providing towers so residents can arrange service from local internet service providers (ISPs).

To be placed on the waiting list for a County-sponsored internet tower, contact Expert Mobile Communications online at [www.expertmobile.ca](http://www.expertmobile.ca) or call 780-539-3962. You will need to provide proof of residence (photo ID and a utility bill) and then arrange pick-up when an internet tower becomes available.

Do you have an unwanted internet tower on your property? Find more information and complete the Internet Tower Removal Request form at [www.countygrip.ab.ca/InternetFAQs](http://www.countygrip.ab.ca/InternetFAQs).

### PUBLIC WEB MAP

Did you know the County's Public Web Map provides access to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) resources for residents, businesses and organizations across the County of Grande Prairie and our partner towns? This valuable online tool can be used to help you search for an address or legal land location, access real-time updates on permanent road bans within the county and find your Electoral Division. With the addition of recent aerial imagery, you can also gain a unique perspective on the region's geography.

The web map offers an assortment of tools to measure distance, make notes on a map, create printable PDFs, and much more. Explore this online resource today at [www.countygrip.ab.ca/publicwebmap](http://www.countygrip.ab.ca/publicwebmap) or scan the QR code.





## Let's Work Together for Back-to-School Safety

Riding a school bus is one of the safest ways for kids to travel. Superintendent Stuart Rempel, Manager of County Regional Enforcement Services knows that while kids are safe inside the bus, we can all help keep them safe outside.

"September is one of the busiest times on the roads," Rempel says. "A little more awareness and a lot less speed make the roads safer for everyone."

The first step is to pay attention: drivers should slow down and watch for buses and pedestrians. Be aware of school and playground zones and obey speed limits. Slow down at crosswalks — if someone is ready to cross, make eye contact so they know you see them.

Pedestrians should pay attention, too. Watch for traffic, make eye contact with drivers, and wait for vehicles to stop. Show your kids you care about safety: before you cross the road, put away your phone and remove earphones.

Try to schedule mornings to minimize rushing. Remind your kids to pay attention getting on and off the bus and always listen to the driver.

Rempel says County Peace Officers patrol school zones all year but especially during the first two weeks of school. Hefty fines and demerits are designed to help you remember:

- \$567 and six points for failing to stop for school buses when the red lights are flashing
- \$810 and four points for failing to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk
- \$81 - \$2,000 and two to six points for speeding in a school zone, including license suspension for speeds of 50+ km over the posted rate.

Let's all work together to get the school year off to a safe start.



### 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@countypg.ab.ca](mailto:enforcementservices@countypg.ab.ca)

**Online:** [www.countypg.ab.ca/OccurrenceReporting](http://www.countypg.ab.ca/OccurrenceReporting)

**Secure Fax:** 888-779-5895

### HOW TO REACH THE GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL ANIMAL POUND

For Pound Services:

**Phone:** 780-830-0199 | **Email:** [regionalpound@countypg.ab.ca](mailto:regionalpound@countypg.ab.ca)

**Fax:** 780-532-4745

### CRIMESTOPPERS

**Phone:** 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) | **Online:** [www.P3tips.com](http://www.P3tips.com)

### FOR EMERGENCIES

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

### LOCAL CRIME PREVENTION CONTACTS, FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

<b>Grande Prairie District Rural Crime Watch Assn.</b>	<b>780-831-4390</b>
<b>Beaverlodge District Rural Crime Watch Assn.</b>	<b>780-882-2584</b>



[countypg.ab.ca](http://countypg.ab.ca)



# Come Play!

The Crosslink County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

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

## GET FIT WHILE HAVING FUN!

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

- Parent & Tot Skate
- Public Skate
- 15+ Stick & Puck/Shinny
- 11 - 14 Stick & Puck
- 10 & Under Stick & Puck
- Learn to Skate
- Indoor Minor Soccer Fun League
- Fieldhouse Drop-Ins
- Tender Tots  
(weekday parent & tot program)
- Bouncy Castle Days
- Indoor Batting Cage
- Seniors Walk & Talk  
(Free on Thursday mornings during October 2023 - May 2024)

To register, or for more information about programs and drop-in activities, including class descriptions, times, and locations, visit [www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com](http://www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com).

## INDOOR MINOR SOCCER FUN LEAGUES

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

## TENDER TOTS

Come play in the Trican Fieldhouse from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays starting October 2023. Walk the track or socialize with friends and/or other parents while your child plays with our variety of toys and balls on the indoor turf field.

## WINTER BREAK AND SPRING BREAK CAMPS 2024

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

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

Watch our website for more information and upcoming registration:

[www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com](http://www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com).

## Other programs offered at the Crosslink County Sportsplex:

- Active Tots - Montessori Sports Academy for 3-5 year olds
- Be Yoga Fly - Aerial Yoga for all ages

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

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

The Crosslink County Sportsplex is the place to be for your next party or event. You can book the ice rink or fieldhouse with the option of adding the bouncy castles. Leave the catering to either Quick Meal or the Over-Time Family Sports Lounge. Contact us at **780-830-7407** or email [info@cgpsportsplex.com](mailto: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](http://crosslinkcountysportsplex.com), or contact **780-830-7407** or email [info@cgpsportsplex.com](mailto:info@cgpsportsplex.com)





# PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

## FALL PROGRAMMING

### AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER



Have you met Mack the Tortoise? Mack joined the museum last winter and has been helping teach people about turtle fossils. He already has a fan base in Wembley. We sat down with him for an interview.

**INTERVIEWER:** Hi Mack, thank you for agreeing to meet with me. I'm excited to be allowed this time to learn more about you.

**MACK:** Dandelions

**I:** What?

**M:** Did you bring the dandelions? That was the agreement. You have my attention if you have food.

**I:** Ah, yes, of course. I did remember. Here you are. Now, we are all dying to know – who is Mack? You say you are a herbivore, but turtles often eat things like bugs, fish, jellyfish, and small animals. Are you trying to make a statement with this vegan diet?

**M:** I'm not making a statement. I am a natural herbivore. I'm not just any turtle, I'm a tortoise. I'm a type of turtle that lives exclusively on land and eats only plants. That's my biology and I evolved for this.

**I:** You mean you don't know how to swim?

**M:** Next question.

**I:** Final question. You seem to have built up a respectable fan base. Who would you consider your biggest fan?

**M:** The Wembley Fire Department have been my biggest fans since day one. Justin Bieber has his "Beliebers," I have the WFD "Mack Pack."

### LAST CHANCE TO SEE 'DINOSAURS AMONG US'!

Learn about the relationship between dinosaurs and birds. This temporary exhibition was developed by the American Museum of Natural History with specimens from the Royal Alberta Museum and University of Alberta.

### VISIT THE MUSEUM THIS FALL

Museum hours are Thursday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Experience lab tours, activities, movies and more. Don't forget to visit the gift shop to find your favourite dinosaurs, books, and STEM kits.

### WHAT'S ON IN THE LAB?

Did you know that the museum has been 3D scanning the collection? The scans will be part of an online archive and game that you can visit any time. Come see our model dinosaur brain!

### BOOK YOUR SCHOOL FIELD TRIP, OFFICE PARTY OR EVENT

Did you know the museum hosts sleepovers for school groups? Or that your office can book the museum for a Christmas party with the dinosaurs? We also offer birthday parties. Contact us for pricing and information.

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



countygp.ab.ca

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



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

## COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION

### Councillor Amanda Frayn

Division 1  
780-518-3197  
afrayn@countygyp.ab.ca

### Councillor Kurt Balderston

Division 2  
780-814-8404  
kbalderston@countygyp.ab.ca

### Councillor Leanne Beaupre

Division 3  
780-814-3121  
lbeaupre@countygyp.ab.ca

### Councillor Steve Zimmerman

Division 4  
780-831-0864  
szimmerman@countygyp.ab.ca

### Reeve Bob Marshall

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

### Deputy Reeve Peter Harris

Division 6  
780-933-3074  
pharris@countygyp.ab.ca

### Councillor Brian Peterson

Division 7  
780-228-0034  
bpeterson@countygyp.ab.ca

### Councillor Karen Rosvold

Division 8  
780-831-0902  
krosvold@countygyp.ab.ca

### Councillor Bob Chrenek

Division 9  
780-897-3577  
bchrenek@countygyp.ab.ca

## SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

### Joulia Whittleton

Chief Administrative Officer  
780-933-8712 | jwhittleton@countygyp.ab.ca

### Nick Lapp

Director of Planning & Development Services  
780-532-9722 | nlapp@countygyp.ab.ca

### Darryl Martin

Director of Community Services  
780-532-9727 | dmartin@countygyp.ab.ca

### Ryan Konowalyk

Director of Public Works  
780-532-9722 | rkonowalyk@countygyp.ab.ca

### Carol Gabriel

Director of Corporate Services  
780-532-9722 | cgabriel@countygyp.ab.ca

### Mark Schonken

Director of Financial Services  
780-532-9722 | mschonken@countygyp.ab.ca

## COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

### EMAIL:

info@countygyp.ab.ca

### ADDRESS:

10001 - 84 Avenue  
Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

### WEBSITE:

www.countygyp.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**


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