

COUNTY CONNECTIONS



FALL 2018

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Reeve's Message



Fall may be around the corner, but I am still feeling the energy from the 2018 Alberta Summer Games. The County was proud to co-host the event in July with the City of Grande Prairie. These Games focus on positive youth development, create stronger communities, and provide tremendous economic and tourist opportunities.

Congratulations to the participants, volunteers, organizing committee, supporters/sponsors and spectators who, together, made these Games a success!

July also saw another celebration as members of County Council, the La Glace Fire Hall and the County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service were on hand for the La Glace Fire Hall groundbreaking. This new larger facility, with estimated completion set for spring 2019, will accommodate equipment, technology and training requirements for the expanding department.

The County is also pleased to commit \$3 million of grant funding to support the construction of the La Glace Regional Recreation Centre. The anticipated completion date for phase one of three of the project is late fall. We are also thrilled about the Bezanson Regional Community Cultural Centre, which we contributed \$1.8 million of funding to. They will be holding its grand opening celebration on September 8. These new community hubs will increase recreational and cultural opportunities for rural residents, and are central to local community-building.

With school commencing, we are excited to see the opening of the Whispering Ridge Community School and Playschool in Clairmont. The County is proud to partner

with Peace Wapiti School District on this project by building and operating the new playschool. The County's Family and Community Support Services employees will staff the playschool.

The County is planning and investing in capital infrastructure below ground as well. The following projects are underway:

- The West County Waterline to Wembley, which will provide the Town as well as the Dimsdale area with a sustainable, high-quality drinking water source. The line will be oversized to accommodate Dimsdale residents, and is planned to extend west in the future to serve Beaverlodge, Hythe and Horse Lake First Nation. A booster station is also being built in Dimsdale and will eventually become the water distribution centre for the area.
- The Clairmont Lagoon Discharge Expansion Project, which will support long-term growth in Clairmont.
- The Regional Lift Station in Clairmont, which will ensure adequate sewer capacity to strengthen the existing water system.
- The Hawker Waterline, which will support industrial development in the East County, from Crossroads Industrial Park to the Richie Brothers area.

In partnership with local communities, we continue to advocate for the replacement of the aging hospital in Beaverlodge. We are committed to working with the Province to see this project move forward. The County also continues to press the Province on Highway 40 improvements, the twinning of Highway 43 to the BC border, and Highway 43 and 733 intersection safety improvements.

Public transportation in the County is in motion. The County in partnership with the City of Grande Prairie and the towns of Clairmont, Beaverlodge, Sexsmith and Wembley and the Village of Hythe secured a \$640,000 Rural Transportation

Pilot Program Grant from the Province of Alberta. The grant will fund public transportation between these five communities, as well as Clairmont, and is especially beneficial for those unable to drive or access a vehicle or want to minimize their environmental footprint. More details are to come and are available at www.countygp.ab.ca/ruraltransportation.

With our local road network the backbone of the County for residents, business and industry, the County is committed to road safety and accessibility. As the economy improves, permits too are on the rise, and that means increased traffic. Last year, the County gave out a total of 105 well servicing permits. By June of this year, that number had already reached 141. This year, Council invested \$37.4 million in capital road projects and additional \$18.3 million in road maintenance. In 2017, Council also approved \$20 million towards road improvements throughout the County, with most of the projects taking place this year.

This summer, Council also approved borrowing \$1.9 million for an enhanced ditch cleaning program to clean up the topsoil washed into ditches due to unusually heavy spring run-off conditions. The program will help mitigate further flooding.

The County continues to look to enhance our opportunities to partner with neighbouring municipalities in a number of areas. The Tri-Municipal Partnership with the MD of Greenview and the City of Grande Prairie is moving forward. This project is capturing plenty of attention and has tremendous economic potential for our area – positioning us to bring large scale industrial projects that will benefit all local communities, the greater region and our province.

Many of you have been engaged in our Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDPs) development process underway with the County and the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, Wembley and the Village of Hythe, which will be used as a guide for long term land use planning and also provide a sound framework for local partnerships. Thanks to those of you who attended our recent open houses, completed the survey and provided feedback. IDPs set the framework for coordinated land use planning, economic development, and servicing and transportation issues on the lands adjacent to the partner municipality boundaries, while ensuring each community maintains its own autonomy. Stay updated and engaged in the process by visiting engage.countygp.ab.ca.

The County also appreciates the public's input provided earlier this year as we prepare for the legalization of recreational cannabis later this fall. With your input, the County amended our Land Use Bylaws:

- A minimum distance of 500 metres between a cannabis retail store, production or distribution facility and schools, recreation and provincial healthcare facilities will be required.
- A minimum distance of 100 metres between cannabis retail stores, and retail liquor stores as well as other cannabis retail stores will be required.
- Cannabis production or distribution is zoned for certain industrial areas. Retail activity is zoned for commercial areas.

I invite you to take a more detailed look into where County budget is being invested by reading Making Sense of the Budget in this issue. This year, our total budget amount is \$152.8 million, which includes estimated expenditures of \$78.3 million directed to general operations and \$74.5 million towards capital. This budget invests in critical road and infrastructure projects, and aims to create healthy and sustainable communities through services, programs and partnerships with local organizations.

With school starting and harvest kicking into high gear, I remind you to watch for students on school buses and agriculture equipment on roads. Be patient and be safe! May you all enjoy the upcoming beautiful, colourful and crisp season of fall.



Approved Budget Responsive to Needs of Growing Community

The 2018 Final Budget was approved by Council this spring and developed based on the County's strategic plan. The details of the budget are explained in the two-page overview called "Making Sense of the Budget" included on page 4 in this edition of County Connections.

The municipal tax revenue increase is 1 per cent, which equates to a 1.8 per cent or \$49 increase to the average residential property owner. The average non-residential owner will experience an increase of 0.82 per cent. These rates vary based on individual property assessments and changes to the market value. Average farmland taxes will increase by 2.68 per cent.

The increase to taxes this year are attributed to an unforeseen loss in revenue from linear modifiers, and the increase to the capital budget to maintain and enhance the County's transportation network and infrastructure.

The focus of the budget is on providing value. Council and senior administration put significant effort into developing the annual budget and carefully managing the money we get from ratepayers.

"Council is pleased with the 2018 budget as it is responsive to the needs of our growing community all while keeping tax rates reasonable," said Reeve Leanne Beaupre.

The 2018 budget invests in critical road and infrastructure projects, maintains and enhances services, programs and opportunities we provide to residents, and fosters healthy and sustainable community growth by partnering with and supporting community organizations.

For more information about the value the County provides to the community, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/budget.

County Initiatives Address Impact of Flooding

The County is currently working on a number of initiatives to repair the extensive damage caused by heavy run-off and flooding this past spring. Record snowfall in winter 2018 combined with a spring that brought high temperatures and winds, produced a rapid melt that caused damage throughout the County.

ENHANCED DITCH CLEANING PROGRAM

This summer, County Council approved borrowing \$1.9 million for an enhanced ditch cleaning program. The unusually heavy spring run-off conditions resulted in the County's road ditches becoming clogged with eroded topsoil, reducing their ability to handle future storm water events.

The program aims to clean up the topsoil washed into ditches and return it to farmers' fields to help mitigate further flooding. The Public Works department will be working with farmers throughout the area on coordinating clean-up. Work commenced earlier this summer and will continue throughout the fall.

If you have farm property where topsoil was washed into ditches due to flooding and would like assistance in returning topsoil to your field, or would like more information, contact the Public Works department at 780-532-7393 or by email at pubwks@countygp.ab.ca.

DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

With estimated damage from the flooding to County infrastructure over \$3.53 million, the County has submitted an application to the Province of Alberta for Disaster Recovery Assistance. Much infrastructure damage occurred to our roadways, bridges and campgrounds. Flooding also caused damage to properties in some residential subdivisions as well as industrial lots.

The County will target Disaster Relief Funding for the repairs and replacement of County-owned infrastructure.

For damage incurred on private property, landowners are encouraged to contact the Public Works department at 780-532-7393 or by email at pubwks@countygp.ab.ca to begin the application process.

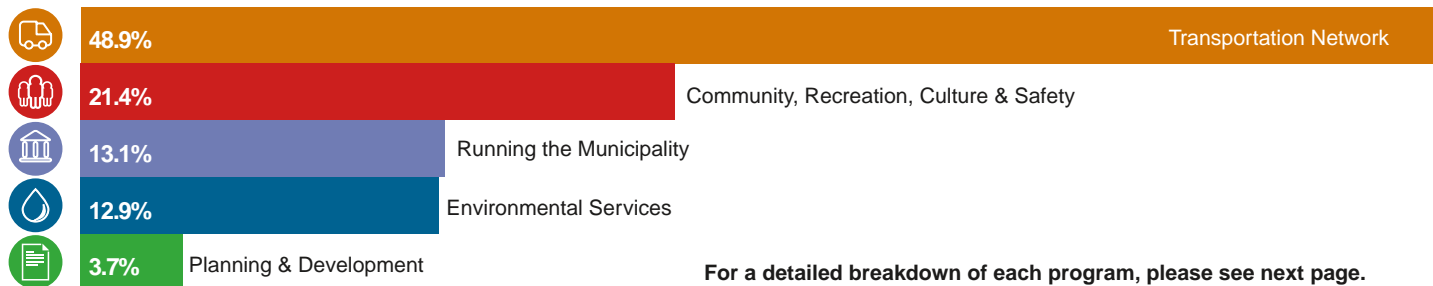


Making Sense of the Budget

The budget for the County of Grande Prairie works much the same as the budget you create at home. Simply put, a budget is a plan for money coming in and money going out. When setting the County's budget, Council and Administration are guided by legislation and input from the public. Setting the budget is a four-step process.

Step One: Set the Operating and Capital Budgets

Almost every program and service in the County has an associated cost. Every year, Council makes financial decisions by allotting money for each of them into the operating and capital budgets. Expenditures for 2018 will be \$152.8 million and include:



Operating Budget

In the same way that you pay bills to keep the lights on at your house, the operating budget goes towards the day-to-day costs required to keep everything running smoothly. Examples include enforcement and fire services, parks and leisure facilities, and County staff salaries.

The 2018 operating budget has been set at \$78.3 million.

Capital Budget

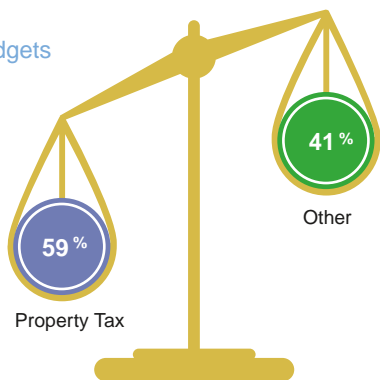
The County's capital budget is also similar to your household budget - it funds major fixed assets for the future. At home, capital costs include your home, vehicles and renovations. At the County, capital costs include machinery, vehicles, buildings and roads.

The 2018 capital budget has been set at \$74.5 million.

Step Two: Funding the Budgets

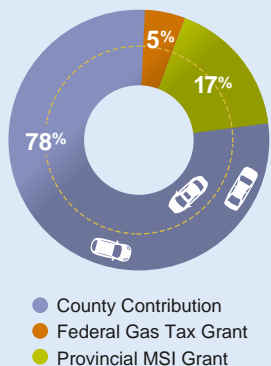
Funding for budgeted programs and services comes from several sources. Property taxes comprise the largest portion of funding.

For a detailed breakdown of other budget funding sources, please see next page.



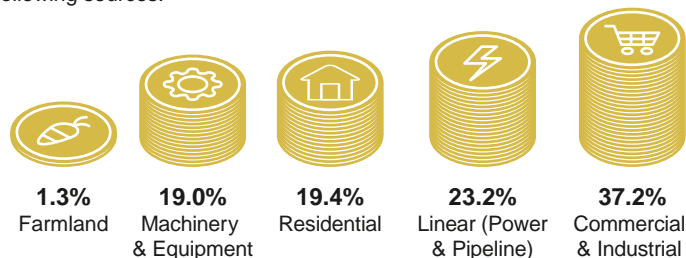
Funding County Roads & Bridges

Maintenance of 3,600 kilometers of roads and 317 bridges and bridge culverts are some of our biggest expenses. In 2018, we budgeted \$24.6 million for new road construction, including 23.3 kilometers of road surfacing. This year, the County will receive a \$1.2 million Federal Gas Tax grant as well as a \$4.3 million Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant, which will assist us to build and revitalize our local public infrastructure.



Step Three: Setting Property Taxes

After establishing how much money is needed to fund the budgets, the County determines how much revenue will be collected from external grants and funding sources. The difference between the two amounts is generated from property taxes. Assets subject to property tax include the following sources:



Step Four: Provincial Education & Seniors Foundation Taxes

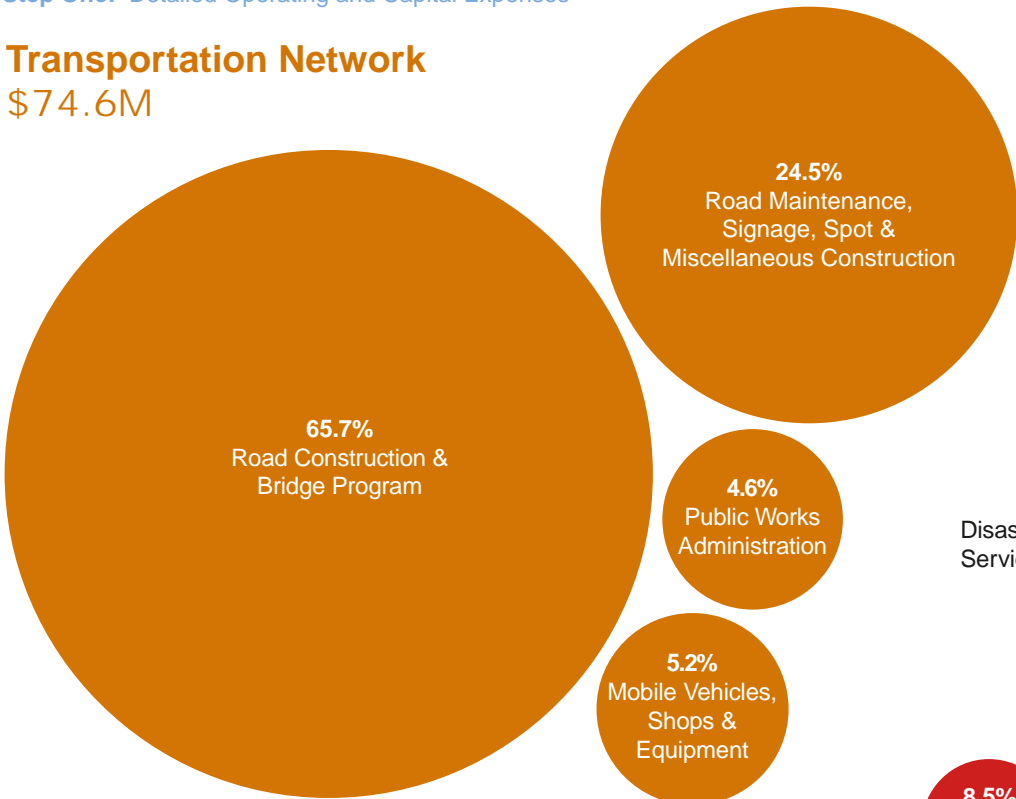
All Alberta municipalities are required to collect taxes on behalf of the Government of Alberta. Approximately 22.2% of County residential taxes are collected for the province to support education, 0.3% is to support the Seniors Foundation and 0.09% is for Designated Industrial Properties.

- Total Taxes Collected **\$100.6M**
- Provincial Education **\$22.3M**
- Seniors Foundation **\$0.3M**
- Designated Industrial Properties **\$0.094M**

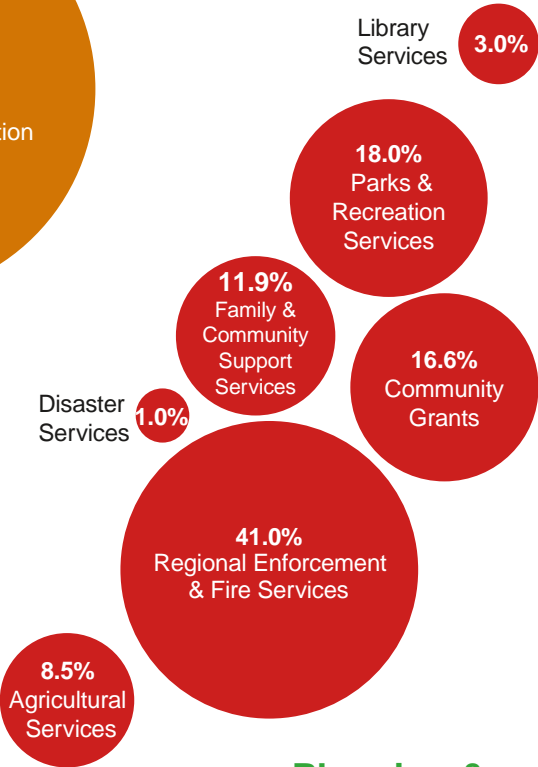


Step One: Detailed Operating and Capital Expenses

Transportation Network
\$74.6M



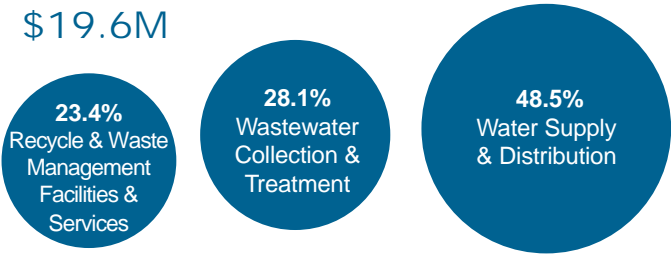
Community, Recreation, Culture & Safety
\$32.6M



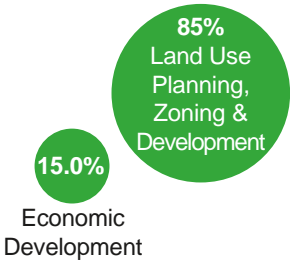
Running the Municipality
\$19.9M



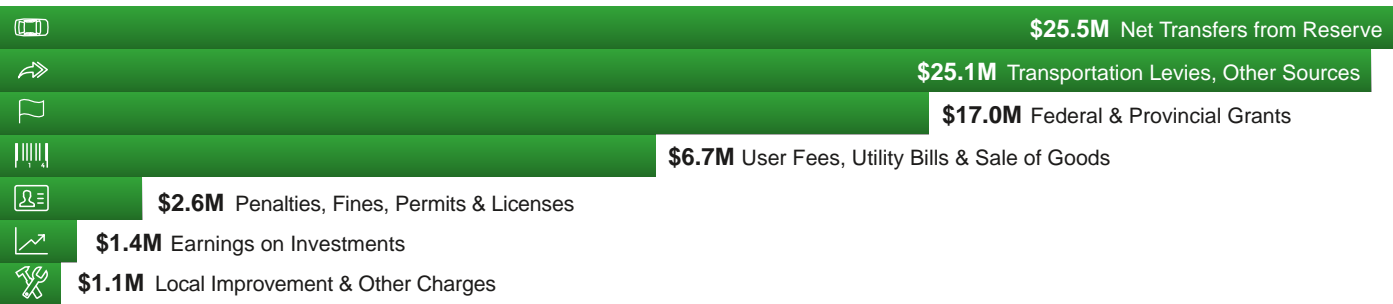
Environmental Services
\$19.6M



Planning & Development
\$5.7M



Step Two: Detailed Breakdown of Other Funding Sources



For more information, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/budget.

2018 Road Construction Projects

Another busy road construction season is wrapping up in the County later this fall.

Council approved \$37.4 million to go towards capital road projects. This includes upgrades to roads and bridges.

Furthermore, an additional \$18.3 million has been allocated to road maintenance including grading, oiling, gravelling, signage, spot and miscellaneous construction and winter road maintenance. This brings our total investment into transportation infrastructure to over 44 per cent of the annual budget of \$152.8 million.

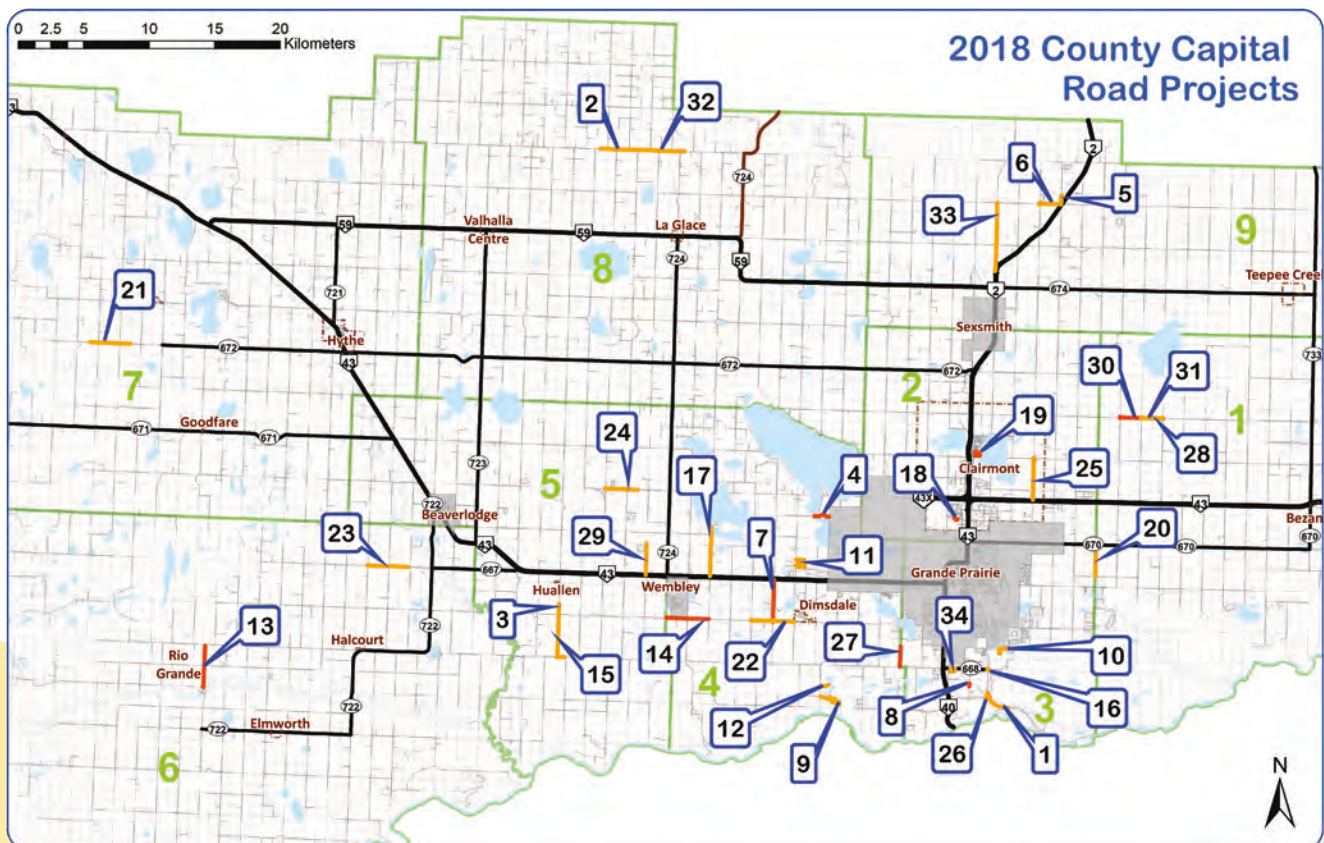
They also approved an additional \$20 million in June 2017 for road improvements in all nine divisions of the County to be completed over 2017 and 2018.

New construction this year included 23.3 km of road surfacing including the paving of gravel roads, surfaced road overlays, and re-construction, with divisional road projects to be determined. This year, the County will receive a \$1.2 million Federal Gas Tax grant as well as a \$4.3 million Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant, which will assist us to build and revitalize our local public infrastructure.

The County would like to thank residents and commuters for their patience through construction season this year.

The following is a list of activities on County roads that are planned for the 2018 construction season. The projects are labelled from 1 to 34 as shown on the 2018 Road Projects Map. Spot construction is not included in this list of projects; however, is underway throughout the construction season.

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction to view the interactive map with all roads being upgraded this construction season, project timelines and potential traffic impacts.



PROJECT #	ROAD PROJECT	TYPE OF WORK
1	Resource Road hill climb	Chip seal 1.7 km
2	Township Road 750 from Range Road 85 to Range Road 91 and intersections	Base, pave 3.2 km
3	Range Road 92, north on Township Road 712	Base, pave 0.8 km
4	Township Road 721	Grade 1.2 km
5	Range Road 53 north on Township Road 744	Base, pave 0.7 km
6	Township Road 744 from Range Road 53 to Range Road 54	Base, pave 1.9 km
7	Range Road 74 from Township Road 712 to Highway 43	Grade 3.2 km
8	Range Road 61 from Canfor Road south to existing pavement	Grade, base, pave 0.3 km
9	Riverview Pines	Overlay 2.8 km
10	Pinebrook Estates	Overlay 1.15 km
11	Lakeview Estates	Base, pave 2.9 km
12	Spring Creek	Base, pave 0.65 km
13	Range Road 121 from Township Road 704 to Township Road 710	Grade, base, pave 3.2 km
14	Township Road 712 from Range Road 81 to Range Road 82	Grade 2.03 km
15	Range Road 92 from Township Road 710 to Township Road 712	Base, pave 3.2 km
16	Resources Road and Township Road 710	Signalization and median intersection improvements
17	Range Road 81 from Highway 43 past Township Road 720 toward Saskatoon Lake Provincial Park	Overlay 3.9 km
18	Whispering Ridge School sidewalks and road extension	Grade, base, pave 0.34 km
19	Clairmont East – 104 Avenue, 103 Avenue, 102 Avenue and 101 Avenue	Grade, base, pave
20	Range Road 51 from Township Road 714A to Highway 670	Chip seal 2.4 km
21	Township Road 732 from Range Road 124A to Range Road 130A	Base, pave 3.2 km
22	Township Road 712 from Range Road 73 to Range Road 75	Base, pave 3.4 km
23	Township Road 714 from Range Road 103 to Range Road 105	Base, pave 3.2 km
24	Township Road 722 Range Road 84A to Range Road 90	Base, pave 2.4 km
25	Range Road 54 from Highway 43 to Township Road 724	Base, pave 3.2 km
26	Township Road 704A and Resource Road	Intersection improvements
27	Range Road 64 north on Township Road 710	Grade, base, pave 1.6 km
28	Township Road 730 from Range Road 44 to Range Road 45	Base, pave 1.6 km
29	Range Road 84 north on Highway 43	Grade 2.4 km
30	Township Road 730 from Range Road 45 to Range Road 50	Grade, base, pave 1.7 km
31	Township Road 730 from Range Road 44 to Range Road 45	Grade 1.9 km
32	Township Road 750 from Range Road 83 to Range Road 85	Base, pave 3.2 km
33	Range Road 60 from Highway 2 to Township Road 744	Base, pave 5.3 km
34	Sandy Lane Estates	Overlay 0.82 km

County Breaks Ground to Mark Construction Start-up of the new La Glace Fire Hall



Last month, Council members, Grande Prairie-Wapiti MLA Wayne Drysdale, and members of

the County Regional Fire Service, the La Glace Fire Station and the community joined together to turn sod to mark the beginning of construction of the new fire hall in La Glace.

"As the County grows so does the scale of services required to keep our communities safe," said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. "We look forward to the benefits that this new fire hall will bring to County and area residents."

The \$1.9 million new facility will replace the current fire hall, built in 1994.

"Providing our firefighters with the resources and space they need to serve County residents is critical," said Fire Chief Dan Verdun. "The new space will allow the department room to grow, train and respond while helping to attract recruits."

Located adjacent to the UFA in La Glace, the new building will have areas dedicated for training, maintenance, offices, laundry, kitchen storage and equipment storage. The new hall will have a three-bay drive through set-up, which has room for six vehicles, instead of the three that the current hall holds. The anticipated time of completion is spring 2019.

For more information about Regional Fire Service, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/fire.

Fire Prevention Week October 7-13, 2018

Once again, the County invites you to help us celebrate Fire Prevention Week, which will take place October 7 – 13, 2018. This year's theme is "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere." The campaign provides an opportunity to learn about the three basic, but essential steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire, as well as how to escape safely in the event of one.

"LOOK" for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

"LISTEN" for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should meet.

"LEARN" two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

This year we welcome Sparky the Fire Dog® and his new friend, Simon, who is helping teach this year's messages. Simon is a smart, resourceful character who will join Sparky in spreading fire-safety messages to adults and children alike.

Smoke Alarms

Install smoke alarms on every level and keep clean and dust-free, checking them monthly. Replace batteries yearly and alarms every 10 years.

Remember:

- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported home fire in half!
- Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, or no working smoke alarms.
- Interconnected smoke alarms throughout the home increase safety. When one sounds, they all sound.

Escape Planning

- Most home fire fatalities take place between 2 and 4 a.m., while occupants are asleep. It is critical to develop an escape plan, because you need to react quickly.
- Develop an escape plan. An entire home can be engulfed within five minutes.
- Most people are killed by smoke inhalation, not the flame of the fire.
- Since most fire deaths occur while you are sleeping, practice your plan during the day and at night. Get down on your hands and knees with a flashlight while crawling to safety. Heavy smoke impairs breathing, which is why staying close to the floor increases chances of escape.

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/fireprevention to learn more about developing and practicing a fire escape plan.

LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.

Be aware.
Fire can happen anywhere.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: OCTOBER 7-13, 2018
firepreventionweek.org





Making Our County Campgrounds Safer

County campgrounds are now accredited as official registered sites by STARS air ambulance, which enables a more efficient response in the event of a medical emergency. The designation will also assist the County's Regional Fire Service with their emergency response in the Demmitt, Hommy, Pipestone Creek, Bear Lake and Kleskun Hill campgrounds as well as the Old Bezanson Townsite area.

Our Park Hosts received landing zone training through the STARS Operational Outreach Program. Campgrounds with onsite hosts, namely Hommy, Pipestone, Bear Lake and Kleskun Hill will also be outfitted with Automatic External Defibrillators (AED).

In addition to being a proud supporter of STARS through our Community Assistance Grant Program, the County was thrilled to be able to work directly with the STARS community outreach division to help make our campgrounds a safer place for everyone.

Sign up for the New Community Recreation E-Newsletters

The Parks and Recreation department has launched three new electronic newsletters (e-newsletters) to help keep County residents and the public informed on everything related to recreation, including project updates, recreation and culture grant program information and upcoming recreation programs and events. **Sign up for any of the following newsletters to stay in the loop at www.countygp.ab.ca/parksandrec.**

- **Community Groups:** Keep informed on County, Provincial and Federal grant programs, announcements on new initiatives and facility operation best practices.
- **Wapiti Recreation Area:** Follow the progress of this project as it moves from the design phase to the decision making stage in fall 2018 and beyond.
- **Recreation Program:** Get a heads up on upcoming County recreation programs, events and workshops such as snowshoeing, outdoor safety and more!

Feel free to tear away this contact information and place it in a familiar place for your reference.



How to reach County Regional Enforcement Services

Do you have questions, concerns or complaints? Would you like information about traffic safety and enforcement? The following is a list of important contacts in case you ever need to reach Regional Enforcement Services.

Phone: 780-532-9727

Email: enforcementservices@countygp.ab.ca

Online: www.countygp.ab.ca/occurrencereport

In person: Community Services Building. Open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and on statutory holidays

Occurrence Reporting form: Pick up a pamphlet at any local municipal office, complete and submit it.

Secure Fax: 888-779-5895

How to reach the Grande Prairie Regional Animal Care Facility

For animal shelter, pound services and adoptions:

Phone: 780-830-0199

Email: regionalpound@countygp.ab.ca

Fax: 780-532-4745

In Person: Brochu Industrial Park, 12220 – 104 Avenue, Grande Prairie.

Open Monday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Closed between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and on statutory holidays.

How to Report a Drug House

Phone: 780-830-5889

Online: www.countygp.ab.ca/drughouse

Report a drug house form: Pick up a pamphlet at any local municipal office, complete and submit

For Emergencies

EMERGENCIES (POLICE, FIRE & EMS)	911
RCMP GRANDE PRAIRIE	780-830-5700
RCMP BEAVERLODGE	780-354-2485
LITTER – CROWN LAND/TRAILS	1-800-222-6514
WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES	1-800-642-3800
PUBLIC LANDS ABUSE	1-800-642-3800
REPORT A POACHER	1-800-642-3800
REPORT A DRUG HOUSE	780-830-5889
SAFE COMMUNITIES (SCAN)	1-866-960-SCAN (7226)
WILDFIRE HOTLINE	310-FIRE (3473)
ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES	1-800-222-6514
PUBLIC WORKS EMERGENCIES	780-532-7393
ALBERTA SPCA	1-800-455-9003
DANGEROUS GOODS	1-800-272-9600
POISON AND DRUG INFORMATION	1-800-332-1414
PET POISON	1-800-213-6680
ANIMAL POISON	1-888-426-4435
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY	1-866-415-8690
CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE CRISIS UNIT	1-800-638-0715
CANADIAN NATIONAL (CN) RAIL	1-800-465-9239



countygp.ab.ca

Grant Program Application Now Available Online

The Parks and Recreation department has launched new software for online applications for Operating Assistance, Capital Assistance, Major Capital and Community Assistance grants as well as event sponsorship requests. This means all 2018 applications for these grant programs must be submitted online. The new online tool is available at www.countygp.ab.ca/grants.

Not a techy person? Parks and Recreation will be hosting an information session on Wednesday, September 5 from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Community Services Building located at 10808 – 100 Avenue in Clairmont. Please RSVP to Parks and Recreation at parksandrecreation@countygp.ab.ca or by phone at **780-532-9727**.

Community groups that do not have access to a computer or smart device with internet can book a one-on-one grant application appointment with Parks and Recreation staff at **780-532-9727**.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENT CHANGES FOR CAPITAL ASSISTANCE AND MAJOR CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAMS

For 2018, the application deadline for Capital Assistance and Major Capital grant programs has changed to September 15, 2018 to allow for a new step in the process.

The new step involves applicants who are seeking funding for structural improvements to facilities working directly with the Parks and Recreation department and an engineering firm, to provide a report as a condition of their application. The cost of the engineer's report will be covered by the County.

For more information, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/grants.

HOW TO MAKE REQUESTS FOR EVENT SPONSORSHIP AND COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Are you a community group or organization looking for support whether it is through sponsorship for a fundraiser or community event? If so, the County may be able to help you. In order for your request to be properly processed and considered by the Recreation Advisory Committee and County Council, the following steps must be completed:

- Apply online at www.countygp.ab.ca/sponsorships.
- Requests will only be accepted quarterly. Submit the request form for sponsorship, or silent auction items/door prize items by the following deadlines:

Event Date	Request Form Deadline
October, November, December 2018	September 1, 2018
January, February, March 2019	December 1, 2018
April, May, June 2019	March 1, 2019
July, August, September 2019	June 1, 2019

For more information or assistance, contact the Parks and Recreation department at parksandrecreation@countygp.ab.ca or **780-532-9727**.



Hats Off to a Successfully Co-Hosted Alberta Summer Games

The 2018 Alberta (AB) Summer Games that took place July 19th – 22nd were a huge success for the County of Grande Prairie and the City of Grande Prairie who co-hosted the games in their communities.

An estimated 3,000 young athletes, as well as coaches, parents, supporters and spectators traveled to the region for the Games, which featured 13 different sports. The County was especially proud to have numerous events held at local facilities including the opening ceremonies at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, lacrosse at the Crosslink County Sportsplex, baseball at Evergreen Park, and mountain biking at the Wapiti Nordic Ski Club.



The AB Summer Games provides many benefits to their host communities, and this year was no exception. Overall, the event generates about \$3 million for the region and brings thousands of visitors to the area. Other benefits of the Games include increasing the number of local sports officials, raising the exposure of local sport organizations, celebrating the culture and heritage of our region and creating a shared sense of belonging among residents and volunteers.

The County would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and efforts to make this event a major success and a source of local pride for years to come! As well, congratulations to all the participating athletes especially local Zone 8 athletes who won the Spirit of Sports Award for demonstrating the spirit of fair play, sportsmanship, team spirit and co-operation on and off the field of play.



Wapiti Recreation Area Update

The County has secured ISL Engineering to provide design services for the proposed Wapiti Recreation Area. The engineering firm will be working with County Council, staff and community stakeholders to create a design that reflects the community's needs to develop a low impact outdoor recreation area that balances active recreation with new habitat and ecosystems.

The gravel leases to be remediated are located on 130 hectares just south of Grande Prairie, north of the Wapiti River and east of Highway 40.

Site development will be completed in stages, as the eastern gravel pit is still in use. The first stage of development includes multi-use trails for snowshoeing, walking and cycling, as well as a day-use area. Additional components will be determined upon further analysis of community stakeholder feedback.

Design options for the area will be presented to County Council this fall for review and approval. At that time, Council will decide whether to proceed with development and construction based on costs and the priorities of other recreation projects.

To learn more about Wapiti Recreation Plan, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/wapitirecplan.

Follow the progress of this project and receive updates as it moves from the design phase to the approval process this fall and beyond by signing up for the Wapiti Recreation Area electronic newsletter at www.countygp.ab.ca/parksandrec.



Slo-Pitch and Fishing New at the County Sportsplex

Following a successful sports field conversion project, the two new slo-pitch diamonds at the Crosslink County Sportsplex opened earlier this spring and have been met with rave reviews by several user groups.

The diamonds are being very well used by the Grande Prairie Slo Pitch Association, who contributed \$80,000 towards the installation of the sod, and the South Peace Ball Association who also donated \$100,000 towards the project.

Groups wishing to rent the slo pitch or baseball diamonds can contact the Crosslink County Sportsplex at **780-830-7407**.

The County is proud to have collaborated with the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) to help meet their mandate of increasing angling (fishing) opportunities in northern Alberta. Approximately 2,200 trout were released into the Sportsplex Storm Water Pond this summer.

Community members can now fish and kayak in the County Sportsplex Pond at their leisure, using the newly installed floating dock. The pond can be accessed by the footpath beside the maintenance building (behind the playground) in the east parking lot.

The Parks and Recreation department will be offering adult and children's fishing programs in the future. Program details will be posted to www.countygp.ab.ca/recreationprograms as they are confirmed so stay tuned!

Persons between the ages of 16 – 65 require a fishing license to fish at the pond. For more information on Alberta Fishing Regulations and how to obtain a fishing license in Alberta, visit www.albertaregulations.ca.



countygp.ab.ca



Community Tribute Program Bench Honours the Life of Jody Evans

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The first bench in the County's Community Tribute Bench Program has been installed in memory of Jody Evans, who tragically passed away in 2016.

Jody was part of the County of Grande Prairie Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) department from September 2007 to August 2016, first working as a Community Programmer; then as a Community School Liaison Counsellor; and finally as the Child, Youth, Family and Community Team Lead.

Jody was known by her family, friends and the community for living life to the fullest; her hugs and her smile; her compassion; her work in the community; and for speaking up for others when she felt their voice was not being heard. This tribute bench will help commemorate Jody's life and the positive impact she had on so many people.

There are several options through the Community Tribute Program for those wishing to acknowledge an event, occasion or a loved one. Applicants can have a tree planted, or dedicate a bench with a custom plaque, which will then be installed in a County park or greenspace of their choice.

If you are interested in participating in the Community Tribute Program, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/tribute or contact the Parks and Recreation department at 780-532-9727.

Supporting Our Students

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Families with children enrolled in Peace Wapiti School Division schools and the Valhalla Community School have access to the Community School Liaison Counsellor Program.

Youth can experience a variety of situations throughout their life, like:



- family conflict
- separation and divorce
- family/school relationships
- difficulties with friends or peers
- behavioural concerns
- social and emotional health

The Community School Liaison Counsellor Program helps make the lives of students easier by supporting their emotional needs; increasing functioning in school; strengthening the relationships between students, their families and peers, and the school; and improving family function and overall well-being.

Accessing the program is easy. Referrals can come from parents, teachers, school administrators, community agencies or the students themselves.

For more information regarding the Community School Liaison Program, contact Family and Community Support Services at fcss@countygp.ab.ca or 780-532-9727.



Need a Hand With Your Tax Return?

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Access our Community Volunteer Income Tax Program!

If you have a modest income and your tax situation is simple, our year-round, free Community Volunteer Income Tax Program can help!

Bring your tax slips and forms to the Wellington Resource Centre in Clairmont and they will prepare your Income Tax and Benefit return at no cost.

In order to be eligible for this free service, there are requirements. For more information, to find if you are eligible for the program, and to book your appointment, call 780-567-2843 or email wrc@countygp.ab.ca.

Fun for Everyone

Fun should be accessible for everyone! Qualifying low-income families and individuals living in the County may be eligible to receive a free 10-punch pass to one of the following recreational facilities of your choice:

- Crosslink County Sportsplex
- Beaverlodge Recreation Centre
- Eastlink Centre

The Recreation Fee Assistance Program helps make facilities more accessible to all County residents.

For more information about the program, to apply or to refer an individual or family to the program, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/rfa or contact FCSS at 780-532-9727 or by email at fcssreg@countygp.ab.ca



Nominate a Kind Heart Today

Kind Heart Awards are given to County residents who deserve to be recognized for their good deeds or altruistic acts. Recipients willingly give their time and energy to help others in need, without being asked or paid.

Eligible acts of kindness include any good deed, like helping a farmer clear a crop, mowing the neighbours lawn or bringing a warm meal to a family experiencing hardship.

The awards were created to honour those who go out of their way to help others and create community spirit. Thank you to the following Kind Heart Award recipients for your contributions to our community:

Kim Tissington

Maurissa Hietland nominated Kim for being a significant and active part of the Dimsdale Community. Kim is a reliable and dependable neighbour who loves to support her community. She puts the needs of the others ahead of herself and ensures that all neighbourhood children can play soccer, the lawn at the Dimsdale Community Hall is always mowed, and the snow is shovelled.

Hedzer Sietsma

Megan Atkin nominated Hedzer for being a kind-hearted neighbour who snow blows her driveway and the alleyways for herself and her neighbours. Hedzer is always willing to help his neighbours out with yardwork and anything they may need.

Gordon and Leona Farnsworth

Megan Atkin nominated the couple for always lending a hand in the community and never asking for anything in return. Gordon shovels the snow off sidewalks and driveways. Leona helps at the Twilight Centre and takes neighbours for groceries and other running around. They even lend out their equipment so others can help in the community, and it is always done with a smile!

Several other residents have been nominated for Kind Heart Awards since the program's inception in spring 2017. Let's keep the momentum going. Nominate a Kind Heart today!

To learn more about the Kind Heart Awards Program or to nominate a deserving person, go to www.countygp.ab.ca/kindheartprogram or contact FCSS at 780-532-9727.



Playschool & Parent and Tot Programs



The County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) department offers Playschool as well as Parent and Tot programs for families throughout the County.

The programs are licensed by the Human Services Ministry of the Government of Alberta. Our instructors are caring, qualified individuals that meet the standards set out in the Child Care Act and Regulations.

For program locations, contact information and scheduling, see below:

PROGRAM	INSTRUCTOR NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION	DAYS/TIMES OF OPERATIONS
Bezanson Playschool	Theresa Mcleod	bps@countyg.ab.ca	Monday & Wednesday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Clairmont Playschool	Tracy Johnston	cps@countyg.ab.ca	2 Day (3 years old) program Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. 3 Day (4 years old) program Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. 3 Day (4 years old) program Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 12:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Elmworth Playschool	Angie Sanderson	eps@countyg.ab.ca	Monday & Wednesday 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
La Glace Playschool	Elissa Moe	lps@countyg.ab.ca	Monday & Wednesday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Valhalla Playschool	Reanna Stockham	vps@countyg.ab.ca	Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.
Whispering Ridge	Megan Van Bavel	wrps@countyg.ab.ca	Two programs: Monday & Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Clairmont Parent & Tot	Pam Rintoul	780-933-0964	Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Start Date: September 13, 2018
Bezanson Parent & Tot	Pam Rintoul	780-933-0964	Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Start Date: September 11, 2018
Beaverlodge Little Tykes	Trina Kirscht	780-354-2204	Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Start Date September 12, 2018

For more information, please contact the program instructor in your area or Jolene Nellis at jnellis@countyg.ab.ca or by phone at 780-532-9727.

Find information about other programs offered by County FCSS at www.countyg.ab.ca/fcss.



Ditches and Rocks Don't Mix!

COUNTY ASKS FOR YOUR HELP IN ENSURING ROCKS DO NOT BECOME SAFETY HAZARDS.

This time of year, crews are busy mowing ditches throughout the County to manage weed control. These efforts are appreciated by residents as they have the added benefit of improving the aesthetics of the front areas of their properties.

One very serious and often dangerous challenge that our mowing crews face is the presence of large rocks in the ditch. Hitting a rock can be costly, both in terms of equipment and time lost. Large rocks also present a major safety concern. It is difficult to see rocks in ditches, as often the tall grass completely covers them from view.

The County is taking this issue very seriously and staff are spending a considerable amount of time to clear rocks from ditches. We ask that residents ensure the rocks from their land are not placed in ditches. This is important not only so we can conduct our jobs more efficiently, but for the overall safety of our mowing crew.

FCSS Family and Community Support Services Since 1966
WeBuildAlbertans

Seniors Walk and Talk

- Free track admission
- Take a walk, jog or run around the 240 metre Happy Trails Track
- Meet and greet with other seniors!
- Enjoy hot coffee

Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. starting October 4, 2018 through May 30, 2019

Crosslink
COUNTY SPORTSPLEX

Located west of the County Administration Building – 7407-108 Street, Clairmont

For more information on programs and schedules visit crosslinkcountysportsplex.com, call 780-830-7407 or email info@cgpsportsplex.com

Attention Producers: Environmental Stewardship Funding Available

The new Canadian Agricultural Partnership Alberta (formerly Growing Forward 2) is now accepting applications for the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change – Producer program at www.cap.alberta.ca.

The purpose of this program is to support producers in reducing negative impacts on the environment, while enhancing sustainable production, managing climate change and increasing profitability in the agriculture sector. The program focus will be on activities and practices that:

- reduce the risks of agricultural contaminants entering water
- enhance sustainable production, while mitigating carbon emissions that impact air and soil quality
- help producers manage and adapt to climate change

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SUCH AS:

- watering systems
- riparian fencing
- livestock facility management
- improved manure storage facilities
- manure application
- sectional controls
- agricultural plastic bag rollers
- shelterbelts

Applicants are required to complete an Alberta Environmental Farm Plan as a prerequisite at www.albertaefp.com. For more information please contact Jill Henry, Rural Extension Officer at 780-532-9727 or email jhenry@countygp.ab.ca.

Families Recognized for a Century of Farming in the County



From left to right: Councillor and Agricultural Service Board Chair Corey Beck; Deputy Reeve Ross Sutherland; and Pioneer Farm Family Award winner Beverley Van Schaick

This July, the County recognized two local farm families, the Normans and the Van Schaicks, for a century of history in the County through the 100 Years of Farming Awards.

"The County congratulates the Normans and Van Schaicks on receiving 100 Years of Farming Awards," said Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman. "Our County has such deep roots in agriculture; roots that have strongly shaped our heritage and values. We admire the commitment and dedication these families have shown to agriculture and our community."

Beverley Van Schiack was presented with the Pioneer Farming Family Award to honour his family's history of farming in the County for more than a century.

The Van Schaick Family homesteaded their quarter of land, just southeast of Wembley, in 1916 and it has remained in the family's name since. Their father, Floyd, moved to the area with his family when he was a teenager and established his family homestead after returning from WWI. Beverley Van Schaick farmed alongside his father and eventually took over ownership. It has only been recently that the quarter has been rented out, while Beverley and his wife Francis enjoy their time gardening.

"This is the only quarter of land that is still in the Van Schaick family's name so this award is important to our family legacy," said Beverley Van Schaick.

The Pioneer Family Award recognizes families that lived and farmed or ranched in the County of Grande Prairie for 100 years, on land they have owned or rented.

Anson Norman and his family were presented with the Heritage Homestead Award, which recognizes the family's 100 years of continual farming in the County and ownership of their original homestead land.



From left to right: Councillor and Agricultural Service Board Chair Corey Beck; Heritage Homestead Award winners David Anderson, Vella Anderson, Jason Anderson, Larry Anderson and Anson Norman; and Councillor Karen Rosvold

The Norman Family grew up on the family farm northeast of La Glace. Their father emigrated from Norway to the United States before moving to Alberta where he established the family homestead. The eldest son – Anson, took over the family farm, where he still lives and farms grain to this day.

"Recognizing family legacy is important," said Anson's sister Vella Anderson on behalf of the Norman family. "Our family is honoured to receive this beautiful and meaningful award."

THE COMPLETE LIST OF THIS YEAR'S 100 YEARS OF FARMING AWARD RECIPIENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Pioneer Farming Family Award recipients

Dahl Family
Van Schaick Family

Heritage Homestead Family Award recipients

Anson Family
Christensen Family
Hawryluk Family
Pandachuck Family
Rosvold Family
Slette Family
White Family

The 100 Years of Farming Award honours families that have developed an agriculture legacy in the County over the past century. For more information about the 100 Years of Farming Awards visit www.countygp.ab.ca/100years.

Students Step into Farm Life at Annual Youth Agriculture Tour



The County of Grande Prairie's third annual Youth Agriculture Tour took place in June. It was a fun-filled day with two farm stops and a BBQ picnic that had Grade 4 students connecting with farms, farmers and food. Students also learned how animals are raised, about equipment and grain safety, and explored where food comes from and how it's grown.

While some students visit farms belonging to friends or relatives, for others, this was their first time setting foot on a farm. We were fortunate to have Kim, Dan, Shayla and Shelby Richards of the Scenic Heights Farm, and Clint and Jennifer Slette of the La Glace Hereford Farm share their farms with us.

Chatting with some of the students after the tour, Jill Henry, Rural Extension Officer and coordinator of the tour was able to find out what they enjoyed most and what they learned.

Brooklyn has visited farms with her grandma, mom and brother. They go to farms to look at the animals before buying meat from the farmer. "And," she told Jill, "I even held a chicken!" For a class assignment, she wrote a book about animals, with one page dedicated to cows. Her favourite part of the day was seeing and learning more about the cows.

Mason visits his grandma and grandpa's farm. "They raise cows and horses, and grow grain," he told us. His favourite part of the day was seeing all the animals and learning tractor safety.

Jenna learned that if you shear a sheep too close to its skin, you can hurt the sheep because they have very delicate skin, and they can even sunburn. Sophia's favourite part of the day was Hank the Tank, a potbelly pig whose belly was only a couple inches off the ground. At the La Glace Hereford Farm, Mason liked learning about different breeds of cows.

When Jill asked why farming is important to everyone, we were happy to hear answers such as "We live off food and depend on the land to grow it!"

Jill added, "just like we say in our classroom agriculture presentations, they told me that it is important for farmers to take care of their soil because there is only a certain amount of land on earth suitable for growing food, and soil can be washed away, or blown away, if left bare."

"The Grade 4s had a full-on day of learning during the Youth Agriculture Tour, but they even taught myself and other Agriculture staff some things we didn't know," said Jill. "For example, Payton taught us that ducks have two sets of eyelids – and one of the sets act like goggles for ducks when they are underwater, and Austin taught us that pigs are very good swimmers!"

If you are interested in the Classroom Agriculture Program, or have youth that would be interested in joining the tour next year, please contact Jill Henry, Rural Extension Officer at 780-532-9727 or by email at jhenry@countygpr.ab.ca.



Building for the Bumbles

Bumblebees are among the largest and easiest to recognize of our native bees in Alberta. Each spring, millions of queen bumblebees wake up from hibernation and begin looking for potential nesting sites.

Our bumblebee population, however, is facing change and adversity, and their population is declining. The Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society and the County are working to maintain and enhance the bumblebee population, as they are native pollinators. The vast majority of agricultural crops and plants throughout the world depend on pollination. Without bumblebees and other pollinators in our area, like bats, birds and other insects, we would be without many of our flowers, garden vegetables, fruit trees and bushes.

Gardeners and landowners can be instrumental in helping bee populations bounce back.

The queens prefer to make their homes in places that are dry, protected from the elements and near good sources of food. Depending on the species, such places can be found under piles of rock or deadfall, as well as in the hollows of trees, thick bunch grasses, or abandoned rodent burrows.



Photo courtesy of
Kathy Lowther



Photo courtesy of
Kathy Lowther

You can become more actively involved in helping grow populations by building a well-designed, properly-installed bumblebee house.

The County's Rural Extension Program is pleased to partner with the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society to educate and inform residents about the importance of providing habitat for our native pollinators.

Check the County's Events Calendar at www.countygp.ab.ca for upcoming workshops, or for more information, contact Jill Henry, Rural Extension Officer at 780-532-9727 or by email at jhenry@countygp.ab.ca.

Interested in building your own bumblebee house? Check out the instructions on the next page.

Do You Have a County Tower on Your Property?



If you have a County tower on your property and are using it, that is great! Please continue to do so.

If you have a County tower on your property and are NO longer using it, please contact the County and we will have the tower removed at no charge to you.

Also, please note that you are required to notify the County when you change Internet providers. You can do so by contacting us with the name of your new Internet Service Provider.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding County towers or Internet service in the County, please visit www.countygp.ab.ca/internetfaqs or contact the Systems department at 780-532-9722 or by email at servicedesk@countygp.ab.ca.

Time to Spray Thistle

As we draw closer to fall, it is time to get after that prickly pest that seems to be ever present – the infamous Canada thistle – a well-known noxious weed under the Alberta Weed Control Act.

To effectively control thistle, the Agriculture department recommends that herbicide is applied to thistle any time from late August until frost arrives.

During this time period, thistles are taking all the resources they are getting from the sun and moving them down into their roots to store up for winter. This also means that any herbicide will also be moved down into the roots, where it has a much better opportunity to kill the plant. Thistles spread and persist most effectively from the roots. If you don't get to the "root" of the problem, you will not be able to successfully get rid of this weed.



For more information on proper weed control, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/weedcontrol or contact the Agriculture department at 780-532-9727.

How to Build a Bumblebee House

SUPPLIES REQUIRED:

- ¾ inch (") plywood (approximately 2½ sq ft)
- Saw to cut plywood to size
- Sixteen 1½" screws
- One hinge
- Four ½" screws (for fastening hinge)
- Latch and 2 eyehole screws
- Approximately 6" of plastic pipe (Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) or similar material), with interior diameter of 5/8" (ideally) or ¾".
*Note that plastic pipe is not necessary if you are planning on installing your house above ground.
- Pruners
- Drill and/or screwdriver
- Drill bit for making an entranceway hole. If you are not using a plastic pipe (for aboveground houses), the hole should be 5/8". If you are using a plastic pipe (for underground houses), the hole will need to be slightly larger to accommodate the outside diameter of the pipe.
- Approximately 6" x 12" of bedding material such as upholsterer's cotton, or non-surgical white bleached cotton
- Approximately 10½" x 10" of plastic sheeting, at least 4 millimetres thick
- Staple gun and staples

BUILDING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut plywood into sized pieces for a box with a 6" x 6" x 6" internal diameter, an overhanging lid, and two skids, as follows:
 - One 8½" x 8" piece (lid)
 - Two 7½" x 6¾" pieces (front and back)
 - Two 6¾" x 6" pieces (sides)
 - One 6" x 6" piece (bottom)
 - Two 7½" x ¾" pieces (skids)
2. If you are installing your house below ground and using a plastic pipe use the pruners to cut your plastic pipe to a 6" length. Cut one end at 90° and the other end at a 45° angle.
3. Drill a hole into the center of the piece of plywood that will become the front of the house.

- If you are installing your house above ground and not using a pipe the hole should be 5/8" in diameter.
 - If you are installing your house below ground and using a pipe the hole should be large enough for your plastic pipe to fit in snugly and should be drilled at a slight angle (10-15°) so that the pipe angles downward away from the house. This will prevent water from draining into the house.
4. Screw together the front, back, sides and bottom pieces together using the 1½" screws, to make a basic box shape.
 5. Screw the skids onto the bottom of the box using the 1½" screws.
 6. Using the ½" screws, screw half of the hinge on the back edge of the lid (on the underside surface) and then screw the other half onto the top edge of the back side of the box (on the back-facing surface).
 7. Screw the eyehole screw and latch into the front edge of the lid (on the underside surface) and screw the other eyehole screw into the front side of the box where the latch can fit into it snugly.
 8. If you wish, at this stage you can apply a coat of outdoor paint to the outside of the house. Do not paint the inside of the box. Bumblebees are sensitive to the smell of paint, so painting should occur a few months before installation.
 9. Fold the 6" x 12" piece of cotton and place it inside the box so that the fold is against the back wall. Ensure that there is a gap between the layers of cotton at the entrance hole (this will allow the queen bee to burrow in between the layers and make her nest).
 10. Drape the 10½" x 10" piece of plastic sheeting over the lid so that it overhangs it by about an inch on all sides. Staple it to the lid.
 11. If you are installing your house underground, insert the plastic pipe into the entrance hole so that the straight cut side is flush with the inside of the front piece of plywood, and the 45° angle cut side is rotated to create a "landing pad" for the bees. If the hole is too large and the pipe is loose fitting, it can be sealed into the hole with some caulking.



Photo courtesy of Mark Wonneck



Photo courtesy of Dr. Ralph Cartar

Pest and Disease Inspections Kicking into High Gear Soon

Harvest time for canola is upon us, and you will soon see our Pest and Disease Inspector, Nancy Mayo, bounding over swaths of canola looking for any evidence of Clubroot. Nancy has had a very busy season of tree and crop inspections, as well as doing counts of Bertha Army Worms, Diamondback Moths and Wheat Midge – all of which were found in very low levels this year.

Many trees have succumbed to the combined effects of pests and drought this year, from tent caterpillar to Bruce spanworm. The best way to protect your trees from pests and diseases is to keep them very well-watered. Drought stress is often the trigger for pest and disease infections.

If you would like more information about the Pest and Disease Program including the pest and diseases commonly found in the County and where to look for them, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/pestprogram or contact the Agriculture department at 780-532-9727.



Reduce Your Household Waste – Compost or Digest Your Organics

The County is encouraging residents to join the Backyard Organics Diversion Program home composting initiative! According to Environment Canada, approximately 40 per cent of municipal solid waste collected is made up of organic material that can be composted. It's simple, cost-effective and easier than ever to divert your household waste.

BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING AT HOME INCLUDE:

- saving money on chemical-based garden fertilizers and other products
- helping your soil retain moisture, reducing the amount of water needed for your garden or flower bed
- minimizing plant disease leading to a healthier garden
- reducing the greenhouse gas production caused by organic waste decomposing in the landfill without oxygen

Purchase your very own Earth Machine Composting Unit or Green Cone Food Digester at www.countygp.ab.ca/homecomposting.

EARTH MACHINE COMPOSTER – \$60

- accepts grass clippings, leaves and debris, fruits and vegetables
- converts organic material to nutrient-rich soil (compost)
- easy-to-use and assemble
- easy to remove composted material
- 10-year warranty
- rodent resistant



GREEN CONE FOOD DIGESTER – \$120

- accepts kitchen scraps including meat, bones, dairy, cooked and processed foods, grains and pet waste
- converts material to liquid and enters surrounding yard providing nutrients to the soil
- simple and easy-to-use
- no need to stir
- no by-product



For more information, contact the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management at 780-567-4194.

What Can I Recycle and Where?

Take a look at this handy guide that will help plan your next trip to the local recycle and waste management facility.

	CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT	WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL	DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION	TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION	ELMSWORTH TRANSFER STATION
Electronics & Appliances	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Propane Tanks (Under 100lb)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Refundable Bottles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cardboard & Boxboard	✓	✓			
Vehicle Batteries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fluorescent Bulbs	✓	✓			
Pesticide Jugs	✓	✓		✓	✓
Tires	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Metal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clothing	✓				
Agricultural Plastics	✓	✓			
Rechargeable Batteries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paper, cardboard, tin & glass	✓	✓			
Drop n Swap program	✓			✓	
Concrete	✓	✓			
Used Oil	✓	✓			
Household Hazardous Waste & Paint	✓	✓			

Tear it out and post it where you can refer to it often.

There are also 14 recycling bins that accept paper, cardboard, tin and glass located throughout the County. Recycling some of your household waste means you can feel good about protecting our environment, reducing waste in our landfills and helping to reduce air and water pollution.

For more information about recycling and waste management visit
www.countygp.ab.ca/recycleprograms.

Keep Refundable Bottles and Containers out of the Trash

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY –
GIVE THEM TO THE COUNTY'S BOTTLE DONATION
PROGRAM INSTEAD!**



Are you throwing your refundable containers like cans, bottles and juice cartons in the trash instead of turning them in for cash at the depot or donating them? Look no further, the County has a donation program that will gladly accept your bottles. This program helps support local non-profit and charitable organizations each year.

To donate, simply drop off your refundable bottles at any of the County's five Recycling and Waste Management facilities including the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste

Management, the West County Regional Landfill or the transfer stations in Demmitt, Elmworth and Teepee Creek. Driving an extra mile or two to donate will greatly benefit your community and the environment!

A total of \$8,800 was given out to eight local non-profit organizations this year, \$2,300 more than last year's total. Groups that benefited from the program include the Grande Prairie Rugby Club, Charles Spencer Girls Basketball, Valhalla Community School, Hythe Community Choir, Grande Prairie Aquarians Swim Club, Grande Prairie 4H Achievers, Grande Prairie Skating Club, and the Clairmont Minor Hockey Club.

Are you involved in a local non-profit organization that is looking to raise funds? Apply to be a recipient of the County's Bottle Donation Program! Applications are available at www.countygp.ab.ca/bottleprogram or at the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management.

For more information, please contact the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management at 780-567-4194.



The Grande Prairie Rugby Club used the funds awarded from the Bottle Donation Program to subsidize fees for youth to participate in indoor rugby at the Crosslink County Sportsplex.



The Charles Spencer Senior Girls Basketball Team used the funds awarded to help cover the cost of their provincial tournament.

Recycling and Waste Management Facility Hours

Tear it out and post it where you can refer to it often

CLAIRMONT CENTRE FOR RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

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

WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL LANDFILL

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

DEMMITT TRANSFER STATION

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

ELMWORTH TRANSFER STATION

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

TEEPEE CREEK TRANSFER STATION

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

Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/recyclingprograms to view an interactive map of all the County's waste management and recycling service facilities and to learn more about our various recycling programs. For further information please call our Landfill Information Line at 780-513-3967.

Recycling at Events Made Easy

Are you hosting an event? The County's here to help make the disposal of recyclables a breeze!

Book the County's Recycling Trailer for your next event and we will deliver it to you beforehand then pick it up when you are done. Best of all, it's completely free!

The trailer allows your guests to recycle their cardboard, paper, bottles, cans, plastic and tin items on site. Use the County's Recycling Trailer and feel good knowing that you're helping to protect the environment!

To book the trailer, contact the Public Works department at 780-532-7393.



Become a Cardboard Recycling Champion



Did you know that many household items can be recycled at the Clairmont Recycling and Waste Management Centre, including cardboard? Landfill attendants are on site to help residents guide their recyclable materials to the proper place; not the landfill.

Everything that's thrown into the garbage takes up space in our landfill, including cardboard. The decomposition process, when the material breaks down, releases greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming.

Cardboard and paper is recycled into similar products, such as boxboard, recycled cardboard, pulp, roofing felt, and recycled paper. One tonne of recycled paper and cardboard products can save 17 trees, 1,440 litres of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy and 26,500 litres of water!

Are you curious about what can be recycled in the County and where? Visit page 21 to view the chart "What Can I Recycle and Where?"

New to the County? Check out the Guide to County Living!

Do you want to learn more about life in the County? Are you interested in building permits, recreation programs and facilities, County campgrounds and day use areas, or our bylaws for pet ownership? The Guide to County Living contains a ton of helpful information about life in the County. It answers all of the questions above, plus so much more!

The Guide is a must-read for all residents, even those of us who are lucky enough to have lived here for years. New residents and those considering making the move will also find the Guide particularly useful as it provides answers to the common questions that come up after you relocate to a new area.

The Guide covers many topics, including:

- Animal Control and Bylaws
- Careers and Employment
- Education
- Emergency Preparedness
- Family and Community Support Services
- Governance
- Health and Emergency Services
- Home-based Businesses
- Housing
- Leisure and Recreation
- Libraries
- Living in a Rural Community
- Recycling and Waste Management Services
- Roads
- Senior Citizens
- Staying Informed
- Weed Control



For information about life in the County, download the Guide at www.countygp.ab.ca/guide.



countygp.ab.ca

The Crosslink County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

U4, U6, U8 & U11 Indoor Soccer Fun Leagues

Register your children for these fun-filled Saturday leagues that will be split into smaller age groups to accommodate all skill levels if there are enough registrants from each age group (3–4, 5–6, 7–8 & 9–11). Registration includes a t-shirt and a season-ending medal. Parents who coach or assistant coach will receive a \$30 refund at the end of the session. This session runs from Saturday, September 22nd to Saturday, December 15th, 2018. All participants must be pre-registered before September 17th, 2018. *Please note that soccer will NOT run on October 6th and November 2nd, 2018.

Santa Skate & Play

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town! Join Santa in the Trican Fieldhouse and on the ice in Overland Transport Rink on December 9th, 2018. Santa will be available to play games with the kids in the Fieldhouse from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and to skate with everyone on the ice from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Join Santa, Sparky and our County Firefighters for some hot chocolate and candy canes! Admission is by donation of food or cash.

Learn to Skate

An introductory program for skaters aged 3–12 years old with an emphasis on fun in a structured class environment! Skaters of all abilities will learn new skills and improve their overall skating. The first session will run from October 1st to November 8th, 2018 and following sessions will continue running six week sessions all the way until March 2019! You can register at www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com.

Peace Country Ringette

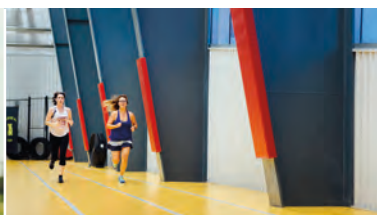
On September 15th, 2018, Peace Country Ringette (PCR) is hosting a Come Try Ringette Session as well as their 2nd annual PCR Colour Fun Run. If you have never heard of the ringette, or are curious about the sport, come give it a try! The event is open to players aged 4–14. After the event, they will be putting on their Colour Fun Run with more colour stations and a party when you cross the finish line! To register for the Come Try Ringette Event, visit www.cometryringette.ca, click events and scroll to the event in Clairmont. To register for the PCR Colour Fun Run, visit www.eventbrite.ca and search "PCR Colour Fun Run". If you're interested in participating, volunteering, or becoming a Colour Fun Run station sponsor, contact Kim at colourrun@peacecountryringette.com or call 780-933-0198.

12th Annual GPAA Oilmen's Hockey Tournament

This tournament, taking place on October 25th–26th, 2018, is open to all good standing Grande Prairie Petroleum Association members, members from other associations, as well as industry workers. In the past, they have brought in ex-NHL players to play with the teams, which makes for an exciting event! The tournament raises money for great charities; past recipients include, KidSport, Wembley Minor Hockey, STARS, Sunrise House for Troubled Youth, and the Desk and Derrick Club. Register by September 1st at www.gpoilmen.com.

The Grande Peace Athletic Club Anniversary

The Grande Peace Athletic Club (GPAC) is celebrating another year of success! GPAC is showcasing their new look on October 27th, 2018 at their home arena in the Crosslink County Sportsplex. They will be hosting five GPAC league games, a 50/50 draw, silent auctions and some great activities, not to mention excellent hockey. Come on out!





Introduction to Hockey

Designed for aspiring young hockey players, this program focuses on the fundamental skills of skating and explains the game of hockey in simple terms. Age and skill appropriate drills will focus on power skating, puck handling, passing and receiving. To sign up, participants should already be able to skate forward, fall down and get up without assistance. Full hockey equipment is required. Sign up for this session at www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com.

Hockey 101

Hockey 101 focuses on the fundamentals of the sport and is designed for players who are new to the game of hockey as well as first year house league players. This program improves overall skills teaching proper technique in power skating, puck control, passing and receiving.

Seniors Walk & Talk

Seniors are invited to take a walk, jog or run around the Happy Trails indoor track. This free event runs on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. from October 4th, 2018 to May 30th, 2019. Enjoy free track admission, hot coffee, and meet and greet with other seniors. All other drop-in dates and times require a \$3 drop-in fee, or you can purchase a convenience 10 punch pass for \$30.

Book Your Next Party or Event at the Sportsplex!

The Sportsplex is the place to be for your next party or event! Book the ice rink, fieldhouse, meeting room, KnockerBalls or bouncy castles! You can leave the catering to us – choose from a wide variety of food and drinks from either the Over-Time Family Sports Lounge or Tito's Concession.

Contact the Sportsplex for more information about party costs and packages, to view menus, and to secure your booking. For more information about the Sportsplex and the programs and events available, visit www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com, or contact **780-830-7407** or info@cgpsportsplex.com.

GET FIT WHILE HAVING FUN!

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

- Introduction to Hockey & Hockey 101 programs
- Stick and Puck
- Fieldhouse Activities
- Adult Shinny and Stick and Puck
- Lunch Time Stick and Puck
- Tender Tots
- Bouncy Castle Days
- Seniors Walk and Talk
- Ball Hockey
- Aerial Yoga
- KnockerBalls
- 13 and Under Stick & Puck and Shinny
- Lacrosse
- U4, U6, U8 and U11 Soccer League
- Learn to Skate
- Indoor Batting Cage
- Adult Non-Contact Hockey League and Industrial League. Register your team for the next season!
- Fung Loy Kok Taoist Tai Chi

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



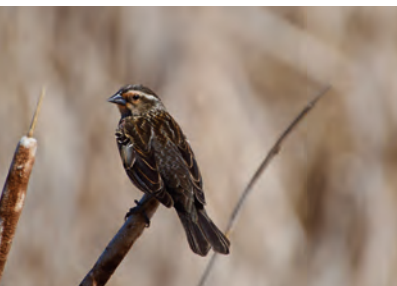
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PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

Upcoming Exhibits, Programs & Events

Visit www.dinomuseum.ca/events for more information.



Volunteer Opportunities

Join our team and help us in our mission to discover, preserve, and share the dinosaurs of northwestern Alberta. The museum has many different ways to get involved – whatever your interest or skill level is, there's an opportunity for you!

Learn more about how you can get involved, or sign up to attend a free volunteer orientation session at www.dinomuseum.ca/volunteering.

Free Lecture Series

Learn about dinosaurs, palaeontology, and other fascinating topics from experts in the field at our free lectures, held throughout the year. This fall, don't miss exciting speakers like the Royal Alberta Museum's Dr. Chris Jass on October 27.

Find details on upcoming lectures at www.dinomuseum.ca/lecture-series.

Aykroyd Family Theatre – A National Geographic Experience

Experience dinosaurs, nature, history, and more on the big screen at the museum's Aykroyd Family Theatre – the only National Geographic-licensed theatre in Canada. Learn about advances in robotics in the recently added film *Robots*, follow the story of one of the world's most beloved conservationists in *Jane*, or meet some enormous prehistoric mammals in *Titans of the Ice Age* (beginning October 1)! And if you haven't seen *Walking with Dinosaurs* yet, stop in soon, as it leaves our theatre on September 30.

Find more information and showtimes at www.dinomuseum.ca/movies.

Feed Your Dino-Sized Hunger

Did you know that museum houses a full-service in-house restaurant – no gallery admission required? From burgers to pizza, salad to hot wings, there's something for everyone!

Check out the full menu online at www.dinomuseum.ca/food.

Our Feathered Friends

Starting in early September, learn about local living dinosaurs in our latest special exhibit on the birds of Canada.

Stay tuned to our website and social media channels for details.

Alberta Conservation Association Gallery

The museum has partnered with the Alberta Conservation Association to bring the wonders of nature to our visitors through a new gallery and learning space featuring amazing exhibits and fascinating educational resources. There's never been a better time to learn about what the great outdoors has to offer!

Follow us on social media to learn more.

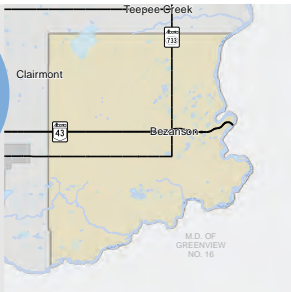
School Programs

Bring dinosaurs into your child's classroom with our hands-on school programs based on official Alberta curriculum standards for all grade levels. Make and paint real replicas of ancient fossils, hang out with some witty puppets, or solve the mystery of a disappearing dinosaur! All schooltrips include full access to our award-winning galleries.

Learn more or register for a program at www.dinomuseum.ca/schools.

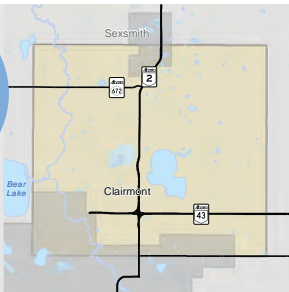
County Divisions & Area Councillors Contact Information

Find out what division you live or do business in, what Councillor represents you based on your location, and how to reach them. Find out what boards and committees they serve on at www.countygp.ab.ca/committees.



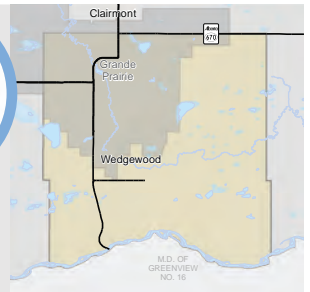
DIVISION 1 COUNCILLOR:
HAROLD BULFORD

780-876-9009
hbulford@countygp.ab.ca



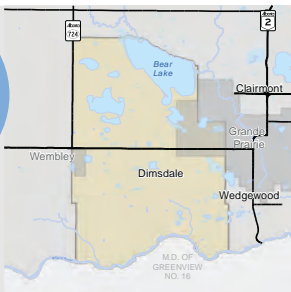
DIVISION 2 COUNCILLOR:
DARYL BEESTON

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dbeeston@countygp.ab.ca



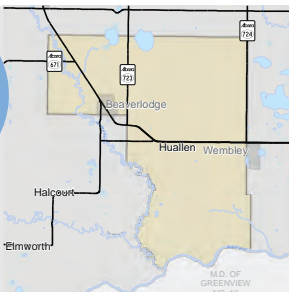
DIVISION 3 COUNCILLOR AND REEVE:
LEANNE BEAUPRE

780-814-3121
lbeaupre@countygp.ab.ca



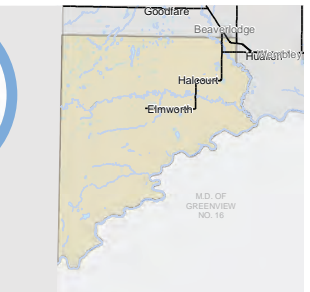
DIVISION 4 COUNCILLOR:
DEPUTY REEVE ROSS SUTHERLAND

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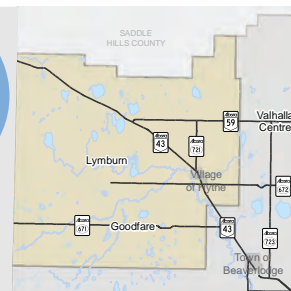
DIVISION 5 COUNCILLOR:
BOB MARSHALL

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



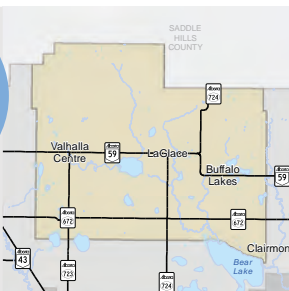
DIVISION 6 COUNCILLOR:
PETER HARRIS

780-933-3074
pharris@countygp.ab.ca



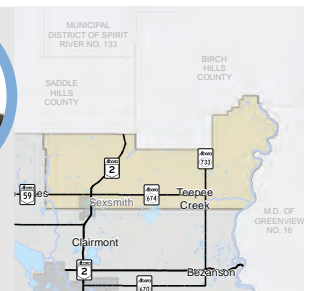
DIVISION 7 COUNCILLOR:
LINDA WADDY

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DIVISION 8 COUNCILLOR:
KAREN ROSVOLD

780-831-0902
krosvold@countygp.ab.ca



DIVISION 9 COUNCILLOR:
COREY BECK

780-831-6394
cbeck@countygp.ab.ca



countygp.ab.ca



TOP ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Councillor Harold Bulford, Councillor Bob Marshall, Councillor Peter Harris, Councillor Corey Beck

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Councillor Linda Waddy, Councillor Daryl Beeston, Reeve Leanne Beaupre, Deputy Reeve Ross Sutherland, Councillor Karen Rosvold

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

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Nick Lapp

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Services Director
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Dan Lemieux

Community
Services Director
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Dale Van Volkingburgh

Public Works Director
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Dawn Sauvé

Corporate Services Director
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COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

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10001 – 84 Avenue
Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

WEBSITE:

www.countygp.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
and on statutory holidays

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS

Administration, Assessment,
Economic Development, Finance
& Systems, Communications, Human
Resources, Public Works, Planning &
Development Services

780-532-9722

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDINGS

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

780-532-9727



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Watch us on YouTube



Like us on Facebook

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

