



Clearwater County Highlights

SUMMER
2021

SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION INSIDE



**Municipal
Election
2021**

A NEWSLETTER
FOR RESIDENTS OF
CLEARWATER COUNTY

Advance Vote Day
October 4, 2021

General Election Day
October 18, 2021

Senate vote

Two Referendum Questions

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clearwatercounty.ca

A Message from the Reeve

Warm greetings from Clearwater County Council. Summer is a season where everything bursts with colour. The days are long and hot, work around the farm never seems to end. But there's nothing better than the thrill of harvest time. I hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer and have had a chance to relax.

The County's road maintenance programs are wrapping up, but we should still have a few weeks left of favourable weather to complete projects. On behalf of Council, I'd like to thank all the seasonal workers, as well as all County staff, for their tremendous efforts during this successful construction season.

This is an ideal opportunity to reflect upon what has been a busy summer for Clearwater County. We are forging ahead with an ambitious agenda to fulfil the commitments made by this Council to improve our community. The Broadband project is making steady progress with the completion of the Ferrier Acres Pilot Project where 15.7 kms of fibre has now been deployed between Ferrier Drive and the Clearwater County Office building. Installation of 115 km from Rocky-Caroline-Olds is in progress, as well as the connection between Ferrier and Nordegg.

Near the end of August, Council approved the connection of fibre optic cable to 300 plus residences along Clearwater County's Core Fibre Backbone route by the earliest feasible date. This Council has recognized that the digital divide in our community can only be solved with broadband being an essential service for our residents and businesses, we are pleased with the progress of this project and look



Cammie Laird
Reeve

forward to the next phases of installation with focus on the northern and eastern parts of the County.

Clearwater County's municipal election will take place on October 18, 2021 with advanced voting on October 4, 2021. In this special newsletter issue, there is special election information on pages 21-26 with an explanation of how the list of voters is being managed by administration. Residents are encouraged to vote and make their voices heard.

On another note, many of you already know that we are in the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Clearwater County will continue to ensure necessary measures are in place to protect the public and staff in accordance with provincial guidelines. Please note that masks are mandatory in all indoor public spaces, and we ask that you treat staff with respect as we are all in this together and we will see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"This Council continues to open doors of possibility for now and the next generation of families and businesses."

As the late Winston Churchill would say, "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

Until the next issue, have a safe and productive harvest.

Clearwater County Council



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Upcoming Council Meetings

- October 12, 2021
- October 26, 2021
- November 9, 2021
- November 23, 2021

Council meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 9:00 a.m. at Clearwater County's Council Chambers. To watch Council meetings online, please visit

www.clearwatercounty.ca/council

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting September 20, 2021 - Cancelled
2021 Organizational Meeting October 25, 2021



Council Highlights



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING April 13, 2021

Proposed Bylaw 1103/20 for Application No. 04/20 to amend the Land Use Bylaw No. 714/01

Council moved to consider first reading of proposed Bylaw 1103/20 for Application No. 04/20 to amend the Land Use Bylaw No. 714/01 at a future meeting. The Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) submitted a Land Use Bylaw amendment application that proposes to add a new District – the Clear Creek & North Raven River Buffer (CCNRRB) District – to the County’s Land Use Bylaw, as well as to redesignate +/- 33 quarter-sections from the Agriculture District “A” to the CCNRRB District.

2020-2021 Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Review

Council defeated a motion to postpone the 2020-2021 Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Review process pending completion of in-person public engagement.

Competitive Land Analysis for Industrial Properties in Clearwater County

Council received the January 2021 Competitive Land Analysis for Clearwater County Report for information. The analysis was performed by

McSweeney and Associates as part of a collaborative effort with the Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) to review the County’s existing industrial land supply, applicable policies and strategies for industrial land development. Council also directed Administration to schedule a workshop or strategic planning session to investigate the potential of expanding industrial property.

Exploration of Opportunities for Development of an Abattoir within Clearwater County

Council received the Clearwater County Abattoir Feasibility Study for information, which assessed the viability of a new abattoir and associated shop/store in Clearwater County. Council requested that the Agricultural Services Board (ASB) provide recommendations to Council on economic development growth and the reduction of barriers to agricultural production within the County. Council also directed Administration to prepare a report on opportunity development co-ops, potential benefits for the hamlets of Condor, Leslieville and Nordegg and economic development for communities.

Regional Emergency Management

Council directed Administration to work with the Summer Village of Burnstick Lake and the Village

Council Highlights

of Caroline Administrations to renew the regional emergency management agreement and create related bylaws that anticipate a Ministerial Order, under the section 14(d) of the Local Authorities Emergency Management Regulation in order for the Summer Village and Village to delegate their respective emergency management powers in Clearwater County.

Alberta Fire Chiefs Association – Wildland Urban Interface Program Extension

Council directed Administration to pursue – on behalf of Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) – the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) project extension grant for a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Team. Council also approved amending Clearwater County’s 2021 Operating Budget to increase revenues for Regional Fire (WUI) by \$343,500 and Regional Fire (WUI) expenses by \$343,500 in order to proceed with the 2021-2022 Wildland Urban Interface Program.

Draft Policy Revisions: Grader Maintenance Contracts PW-1000-01

Council approved amendments to ‘Grader Maintenance Contracts Policy PW-1000-01’, which establishes Council’s requirements and expectations relating to the fair distribution and awarding of grader maintenance contracts to eligible grader contractors.

Core Backbone Project 2020-2025 Phase 2 Construction

Council postponed the construction of the Core Backbone Project 2020-2025 Phase 2 and the Nordegg Interim Solution pending the completion

of a Council workshop scheduled for mid-May, a review of input from Internet service providers (ISPs) and an update of recent Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) applications.

Direction for 2021 Clearwater County Tax Rates

Council directed Administration to draft a 2021 Tax Rate Bylaw to reflect a 0 percent tax rate increase and penalty dates for tax arrears as September 15 at 8 percent, December 15 at 4 percent and March 31 at 4 percent.

Appointment of Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Council appointed Director, Corporate Services Murray Hagan as Interim Chief Administrative Officer for a term effective April 17, 2021 until a new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is appointed by Council. The CAO position will be vacant due to the retirement of outgoing CAO Rick Emmons and the ongoing recruitment of a new CAO.



For highlights of Council meetings, please visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/highlights



Council Highlights

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING April 27, 2021

First Reading of Bylaw 1103/20 for Application No. 04/20 to amend the Land Use Bylaw No. 714/01

Council defeated a motion to grant first reading of Bylaw 1103/20. The purpose of Bylaw 1103/20 was to add a new District to the County's Land Use Bylaw No. 714/01, being the Clear Creek & North Raven River Buffer District (CCNRRB); and to redesignate +/- 33 quarter-sections from the Agriculture District "A" to the Clear Creek & North Raven River Buffer District (CCNRRB).

Fire Services Assistance Agreement – Stoney Nation and Clearwater County

Council endorsed the 2021 Fire Services Assistance Agreement between The Stoney Nation and Clearwater County.

2020 Accumulated Surplus Allocations

Council approved allocation of accumulated surplus transfers for year ending December 31, 2020, to identified internally restricted accounts.

Tax Rate Bylaw 1107/21

Council granted first reading of Tax Rate Bylaw 1107/21. Council also directed Administration to develop options for tax rebates, to be brought to a future Council meeting.

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA)

Council endorsed Clearwater County's nomination for the Municipal Director position on the Board of Directors at NSWA's 2021 Annual General Meeting election.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING May 11, 2021

Fire Services Aid Agreement: Summer Village of Burnstick Lake

Council endorsed the 2021 Fire Services Automatic Aid Agreement between the Summer Village of Burnstick Lake and Clearwater County with an amendment to reference the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Summer Village for the wildland urban interface fire protection equipment.

Support Agreement: Rocky Mountain House Volunteer Search and Rescue

Council endorsed an agreement – with amendments to the numbering sequence – relating to support provided by Clearwater County to Rocky Mountain House Volunteer Search and Rescue including operational grants, vehicle maintenance and insurance.

Report: Options Relating to the Possibility of a Property Tax Rebate

Council received the 'Options Relating to the Possibility of a Property Tax Rebate' report for information and directed Administration to schedule a workshop within the next four months to discuss further options for a tax rebate or incentive program.



Council Highlights

2021 Contractor Rate Review

Council directed Administration to draft and present a survey of current and past contractors to provide feedback on potential amendments to the current 'Hiring of Equipment' policy for Council's approval. Council also approved the 2021 Clearwater County Contractor Equipment Rate schedule with a five percent fuel index added to the base rate.

Agricultural Pests Act and Soil Conservation Act Appointments

Council appointed Agriculture and Community Services staff members as Weed Inspectors and Pest Inspectors under the Agricultural Pests Act. Council also appointed the County's Landcare Supervisor as the Soil Conservation Inspector under the Soil Conservation Act.

Town of Rocky Mountain House Request for Joint Letter of Support

Council moved to send a joint letter with the Town of Rocky Mountain House and the Village of Caroline requesting that Alberta Infrastructure reconsider the Non-Government User Space Use Policy for non-profit organizations, which would increase rental costs for the Rocky Community Learning Council (RCLC) to operate the Rocky Learning Centre, located at the Old Provincial Building.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING May 25, 2021

Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) FireSmart Program 2021 Grant Application

Council endorsed Clearwater County's 2021

expression of interest for a Forest Resource for a Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) \$70,000 grant application, for Wildfire Preparedness Guide creation and implementation in the non-Forest Protection Area (FPA) section of Clearwater County.

Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Community Aggregate Payment Levy Member Survey

Council provided input and feedback on the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Community Aggregate Payment Levy Member Survey indicating that Clearwater County is not supportive of the Community Aggregate Payment levy being mandatory for all municipalities.

Municipal Organization Support Transfer (MOST) Funding for Caroline and District Senior Drop-In Centre and Rocky and Caroline Curling Clubs

Council approved providing the Caroline and District Seniors Drop-In Centre with \$5,520 to be funded from a portion of the Municipal Organization Support Transfer (MOST) grant. Council also supported consideration of a budget line for grant funding for the Caroline and District Senior's Drop-In Centre operational expenses during 2022 budget.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING June 8, 2021

Appointment of Chief Administrative Officer

Council appointed Christopher Read as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), effective June 1, 2021.



Council Highlights

Regional Emergency Management Bylaw and Agreement

Council approved first, second and third reading of Bylaw 1108/21 Regional Emergency Management, endorsed the new Regional Emergency Management agreement with the Village of Caroline and the Summer Village of Burnstick Lake and directed Administration to seek a Ministerial Order for the Joint Emergency Management Committee and Regional Emergency Management agency included in Bylaw 1108/21.

Delegation: Keys2Housing Communities

Council received the April 2021 Village of Caroline and Clearwater County Seniors' Housing Assessment for information. The report was conducted in partnership with the Village of Caroline, the Caroline Chamber of Commerce and the Caroline & District Recreation and Agricultural Society to identify and assess the potential development of a seniors housing facility within the community.

Broadband Internet Project

Council approved the construction of Phase 6 (Ferrier Acres to Nordegg) of the Core Backbone Broadband Internet Plan in 2021, cancelled the interim microwave solution for Nordegg and reallocated the funding towards Phase 6 in 2021. Council also directed Administration to resume construction of Phase 2 (Rocky Mountain House to Olds), approved the hiring of a temporary full-time technician for a one-year term to assist with the Broadband Internet Project.

Equipment Contractors Survey

Council approved the Equipment Contractors Survey as amended and directed Administration to publish the survey.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 22, 2021

Amendment to Elections Bylaw 1102/20

Council approved first, second and third reading of Bylaw 1109/21 to amend the Municipal Elections Bylaw 1102/20 to include prescribed procedures governing the enumeration of electors.

Delegation: RCMP Detachment Commanders

Council received updates from RCMP Detachment Commanders of Rocky Mountain House, Sundre and Rimbey.

Bylaw 1110/21 for Application No. 01/21 to amend the Land Use Bylaw

Council approved first reading of Bylaw 1110/21 and proceeding to a public hearing, which would amend the Land Use Bylaw to allow for the redesignation of approximately 31 acres of the subject property to the Recreation Facility District "RF" for the purpose of developing a campground.

O'Chiese Road Grading, Base/Pave Project

Council received and update on the O'Chiese Road Grading, Base/Pave project. The report outlines the status of Twp Rd 42-5A (O'Chiese Road), which is the primary access route for the O'Chiese First Nation community. Council moved to increase its advocacy efforts for the paving of O'Chiese Road, including sending letters to the federal and provincial governments requesting partnership funding for the project. Council also directed Administration to proceed with a detailed engineering design for the paving of O'Chiese Road.

Alberta Aerobatics Club

Council granted \$2,000 to the Alberta Aerobatics Club in

Council Highlights

support of the Central Air Tour event scheduled for July 10, 2021, pending the award of matching grant funding to the Alberta Aerobatics Club by the Town of Rocky Mountain House.

Notice of Motion Item 10.1 - Engineering Design for Fibre to the Premises for Rural Subdivisions, Procurement of Materials and Installation Schedule

Following discussion, Deputy Reeve John Vandermeer withdrew his Notice of Motion to complete an engineering design for fibre to the premises for all rural subdivisions between Crimson Lake and James River Bridge within two miles of the Core Fibre Backbone build; and, that Administration identifies procurement of materials and the quickest installation schedule for the design.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 13, 2021

Delegation: RCMP Central Alberta District

Council received an update from the RCMP Central Alberta District Commander and District Liaison for the Rocky Mountain House, Sylvan Lake, Rimbey, Blackfalds, Innisfail and Red Deer detachments.

Delegation: Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce

Council received an update from the Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce that included a demonstration of the 'Discovering David Thompson Trails' Mobile App.

Delegation: TC Energy

Council received an update from TC Energy regarding the proposed NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd.'s (NGTL) West Path Delivery 2022 Project.

Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce Funding Request for Central Alberta Aviation Tour Event

Council approved a funding request for \$2,000 from the Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce for the Central Alberta Aviation Tour event held on July 10, 2021 and, that funds from the 2021 operating budget, contingency, be reallocated to economic development for the funding request.

Town of Rocky Mountain House & Clearwater County Wastewater Lagoon Agreement

Council directed Administration to connect with the Town of Rocky Mountain House to schedule an Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (ICC) meeting at the first opportunity to discuss the Wastewater Lagoon Agreement between the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County with the intent of renewing and modernizing the agreement.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 27, 2021

Lightcatch Ambassador Program

Council directed Administration to provide a report with information on the Lightcatch Ambassador Program for the mobile crime tracking application and other similar/comparable mobile application options and, that the report includes any policy and financial implications.

O'Chiese First Nation

Council passed a motion to send a joint letter with the O'Chiese First Nation advocating for provincial and federal cost sharing with Clearwater County to reconstruct and pave Township Road 42-5A (O'Chiese Road) and advocating for federal funding to repair O'Chiese Bridge.



Council Highlights

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 24, 2021

Bylaw 1110/21 Application No. 01/21 to amend the Land Use Bylaw

Council approved second and third reading of Bylaw 1110/21, for the redesignation of approximately 31 acres of the subject property to the Recreation Facility District "RF" for the purpose of developing a campground.

Bylaw 1112/21 for Application No. 04/21 to amend the Land Use Bylaw

Council approved first reading of Bylaw 1112/21 and proceed to public hearing for the bylaw, which would amend the Land Use Bylaw to allow for redesignation of approximately 2.48 acres of the subject property to Light Industrial District "LI" for the purpose of developing a storage yard that will be ancillary to the use of the Westend Husky & RV property.

Nordegg Development Plan - Public Engagement Results

Council received the Nordegg Public Engagement Results Report on the Nordegg Development Plan for information.

Connecting FibreOptic Cable to Residences Along Backbone Route

Council approved the connection of fibre optic cable to 300 plus residences along Clearwater County's Core Fibre Backbone route by the earliest feasible date.

Medical Clinic Property Lease Agreement

Council approved the execution of the property lease agreement with the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Rocky Medical Agent Ltd. For the Rocky Medical Clinic building.



Regional Governance Study Community Information Session in Nordegg on August 23, 2021

Regional Governance Study Update

During July and August, several in-person Community Information Sessions and an online survey were available for residents and stakeholders to learn more about the Regional Governance Study and provide their comments on the Recommendations Report. To learn more about this third party consultation process, please visit the external website at: ccrregionalgovernancestudy.ca/updates

Council Appoints New CAO



On June 1, 2021, Clearwater County welcomed a new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Christopher Read, who comes to the County after spending the last five-and-a-half years at Yellowhead County as the director of community services and on the executive leadership team.

Christopher's background includes experience as acting CAO in previous communities and has 20+ years of experience in various municipal roles. Christopher has a Community Economic Development Certificate, and both levels of the National Advance Certificate in Local Authorities Administration, leading to his designation as a Certified Local Government Manager.

In a recent interview, Christopher said this designation denotes that "I am versed and skilled and trained in every aspect of municipal operations. So it's not that I can necessarily drive a grader or build a road or fight a fire or administer taxes but I understand every part of that operation and I am prepared to support it in whatever ways it needs."

Christopher continued by saying, "When someone is working in section A, they are experts there. Then we go all the way to section Z and they are experts there. We have a bunch of experts and my job is to make sure our team - and our leadership team in particular - is operating based on the strategic plan of Council."

"There is a balance of communication and relationship. Council is my employer. Every other employee in this municipality is my employee. My role is to empower Council with good information to make good decisions and then empower the staff to provide excellent service. Council sets the direction and then the staff makes it happen. We are a strong organization with very strong employees lead by a strong Council. My leadership style is to take a team that is already great and work with them to make them excellent."

"This is my dream job in a dream location." - Christopher Read, CAO

Christopher started his career in municipal government as a lifeguard in Parkland County, this early experience has shaped his view as a CAO, believing that the most important relationship is the front line relationship of providing efficient and effective service to the residents.



Public Works Infrastructure Update

Gravel Road Rehabilitation

Crews are working various projects throughout the county, including Range Road 4-5 east of Stauffer, Range Road 6-0 south of Caroline and Township Road 37-2 west of Dovercourt.



Highway 11A and RR73A (River Road) Intersection Upgrade

Construction is underway on the intersection upgrade. Central City Asphalt is contracted to construct, base and pave improvement to Highway 11A and River Road intersection.



Leslieville East Road Base Pave Project

Pidherney's Inc. has commenced work on the 6.28 km project. Contractor is to reconstruct road grade to a paving standard for future asphalt surfacing. The contractual completion date is Oct. 15, 2021



Public Works Infrastructure Update

Speight Road Base Pave Project

The contractor, Central City Asphalt, has commenced work on the 6.85km project. Contract includes subgrade prep, base gravel and asphalt surfacing .



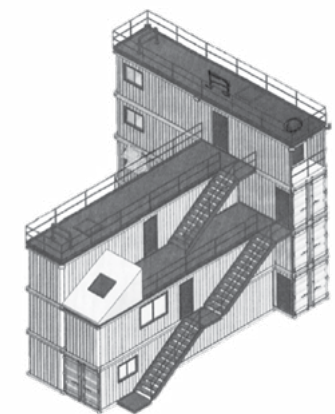
Leslieville Public Services Building

Construction was completed on the building in the summer and opened Clearwater Regional Fire Station 10.



Leslieville Fire Training Tower

Fabrication of the units are nearly complete and are set to be fully fabricated in September. The new training tower will be located at the Leslieville Public Services Building and will provide local access to live fire training for the Regional Service as opposed to taking external training in other municipalities. Starting in the 2022 training calendar year local Regional Service members will be able to be locally certified to professional standard.



(Concept Drawing)



Public Works Infrastructure Update

Nordegg Historic Commercial Core

Shallow utility construction is scheduled to start in September. Landscaping contract awarded to AIC Construction is underway with stairs, fence and retaining wall to be installed.



Nordegg Trail

Contractors, Surespan, have commenced design to add a deck and hand rail to an existing bridge structure. This will allow ATV's and recreational users to safely cross the bridge. Construction is to be completed December 1st, 2021.



Serve on a Board or Committee

Bring your experience, share your passion and shape Clearwater County's future. Clearwater County invites applications from interested residents for the following boards and committee:

Board/Committee	Vacancies	Term	Effective
Agriculture Services Board	2 members	4-Year	November 1, 2021
Caroline & District Recreation and Agricultural Society	1 member	2-Year	November 1, 2021
Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP)	1 member	1-Year	November 1, 2021
Clear Water Landcare Board	2 members (1 acreage / 1 farm resident) 1 member (1 student)	3-Year 1-Year	January 1, 2022
Clearwater Heritage Advisory Board	1 member	2-Year	January 1, 2022
Municipal Planning Commission	2 members	1-Year	November 1, 2021
North Saskatchewan Recreation Board* *must be a rural resident within Township 37 Ranges 8-10, Township 38-40 Ranges 7-10, Township 41 Ranges 6-10, Town 42 – 44 Ranges 5 – 10, or Township 45 – 47 Ranges 8 – 9 within the boundaries of Clearwater County.	1 member	3-Year	November 1, 2021
Raven Recreation Board* *must be a rural resident within Township 31 Ranges 7 – 13, Township 32 Ranges 7 – 14, Township 33 Ranges 7 – 19, Township 34 Ranges 4 – 19, Township 35 Ranges 4 -20, Township 36 Ranges 4 – 21, or Township 37 Ranges 5 – 7 within the boundaries of Clearwater County.	1 member	3-Year	November 1, 2021
Rocky and District Recreation, Parks and Community Service Board	1 member	3-Year	January 1, 2022
Rocky Mountain House Library Board	1 member	3-Year	January 1, 2022
Rocky Senior Housing Council	1 member	1-Year	November 1, 2021
Subdivision Development Appeal Board (SDAB)	1 member	3-Year	November 1, 2021

Clearwater Community Policing Advisory Committee is seeking public members at large. The next meeting is October 13 at 6:00 pm at the Clearwater County Administration Building. For more information, email cheggart@clearwatercounty.ca

For complete details on board positions or to complete an application form, visit the County Office or website below. Submissions will be received for the above positions from County residents at the County office until **Friday, October 8, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.** Applications may be submitted as follows:

Fax: 403-845-7330
E-mail: thaight@clearwatercounty.ca
Mail: Clearwater County, Box 550, Rocky Mountain House, AB, T4T 1B4
Attn: Tracy Haight



Solid Waste Disposal Access Cards



Introducing Clearwater County's **NEW** Solid Waste Disposal Access Card.

At the beginning of April 1, residents of Clearwater County, and non-residents, can fill out an application form and receive access cards for use at the Clearwater Regional Landfill and Clearwater County Solid Waste & Recyclables Transfer Stations.

The **Solid Waste Disposal Access Card** allows for drop off of recyclables and disposal of residential and light agricultural waste at both the transfer stations and the Clearwater Regional Landfill (excluding recyclables) for no additional costs. All other over-sized loads and/or commercial loads will still incur fees, at the Clearwater Regional Landfill.

Clearwater County requires all regional and non-regional residents to have their access card. After June 1, 2021, loads will not be accepted at the transfer stations without an access card, or proof of an access card. However, Station Attendants will instruct and direct the user to the Clearwater Regional Landfill.

Fees

- Clearwater County Resident:** the cost to Clearwater County residents, to operate this service, is incorporated into the resident's current taxes.
- Non-Resident:** Non-residents may apply for a Solid Waste Disposal Access Card for \$204.00 (including GST).

Applying For Your Card

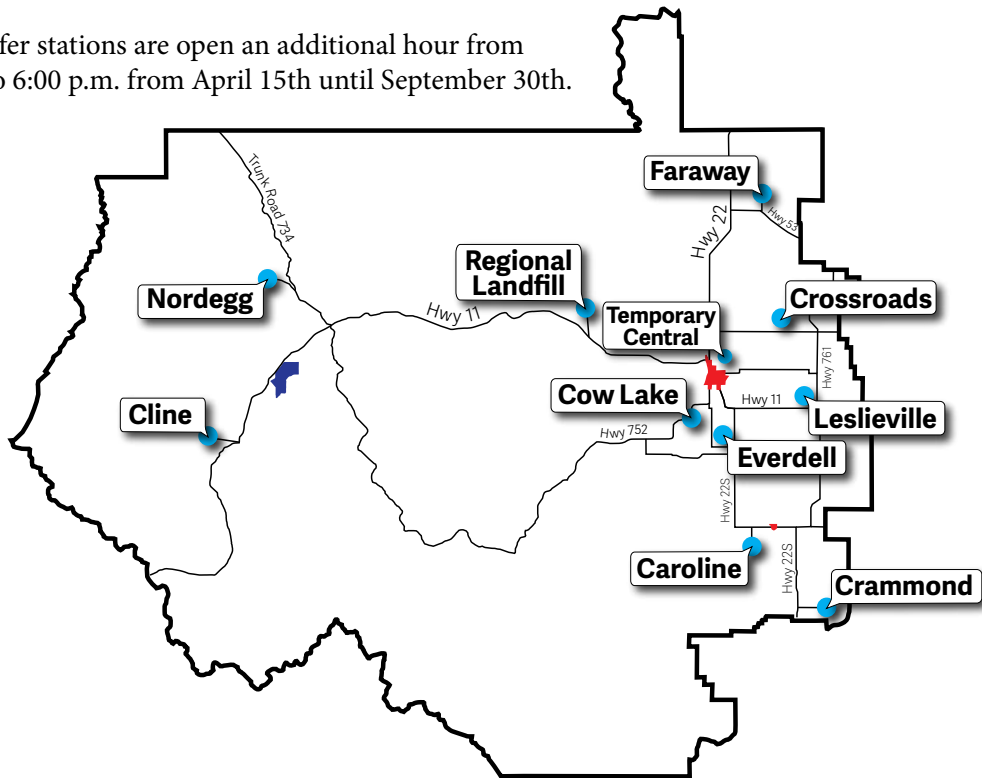
You may apply for a Solid Waste Disposal Access Card if:

- You are a Clearwater County Residential property owner and/ or own land within Clearwater County.
- You are a landlord/landowner wanting to provide a card to a tenant or additional cards for separate residences.
- The registered landowner must apply for additional cards and is ultimately responsible for that card.

Additional cards cost \$35.00 (including GST).

Solid Waste & Recycling Location Hours

Rural transfer stations are open an additional hour from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. from April 15th until September 30th.



STATION	LOCATION	HOURS	STATION	LOCATION	HOURS
Regional Landfill	NE 12-40-09-W5M Off Highway 11	Mon to Fri: 8 AM to 4 PM	Caroline	SW 18-36-6-W5 South Off Highway 22	Sun: 10 AM to 2 PM Tues: 2:30 PM to 6 PM Wed: 2:30 PM to 6 PM Sat: 2:30 PM to 6 PM
Temporary Central	NE 03-40-7-W5M East Off Highway 22 North	Tues to Sat: 8 AM to 4 PM	Crossroads	SE 26-40-5-W5 On Highway 12	Thur: 10 AM to 6 PM Sat: 2:30 PM to 6 PM
Everdell	SE 3-38-8-W5 West Off Highway 22 South	Sun: 10 AM to 2 PM Wed : 2:30 PM to 6 PM	Cline River	26/27-37-18-W5 West On Highway 11	Open April 15 to September 15
Cow Lake	SE 26-38-8-W5 On Highway 752	Sun: 2:30 PM to 5 PM Wed: 10 AM to 2 PM	Leslieville	SE 2-39-5-W5 Highway 11 and Highway 761	Tues: 10 AM to 6 PM Wed: 10 AM to 6 PM Sat: 10 AM to 6 PM
Crammond	SW 16-35-5-W5 On Highway 22	Sun: 2:30 PM to 6 PM Tues: 10 AM to 2 PM Wed: 10 AM to 2 PM Sat: 10 AM to 2 PM	Nordegg	SW 32-40-15-W5 On Trunk Road 734	Sun: 12 PM to 6 PM Mon: 10 AM to 6 PM Wed: 2 PM to 6 PM
Faraway	NE 10-43-6-W5 On Highway 53	Tues: 10 AM to 2 PM Sat: 2 PM to 6 PM			

ONLINE
clearwatercounty.ca/
solidwaste

IN-PERSON
4340-47 Ave.
Rocky Mountain House
Mon-Fri: 8AM - 4:30PM

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403-845-4444
for more information
Mon-Fri: 8AM - 4:30PM

MAIL
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Rocky Mountain House
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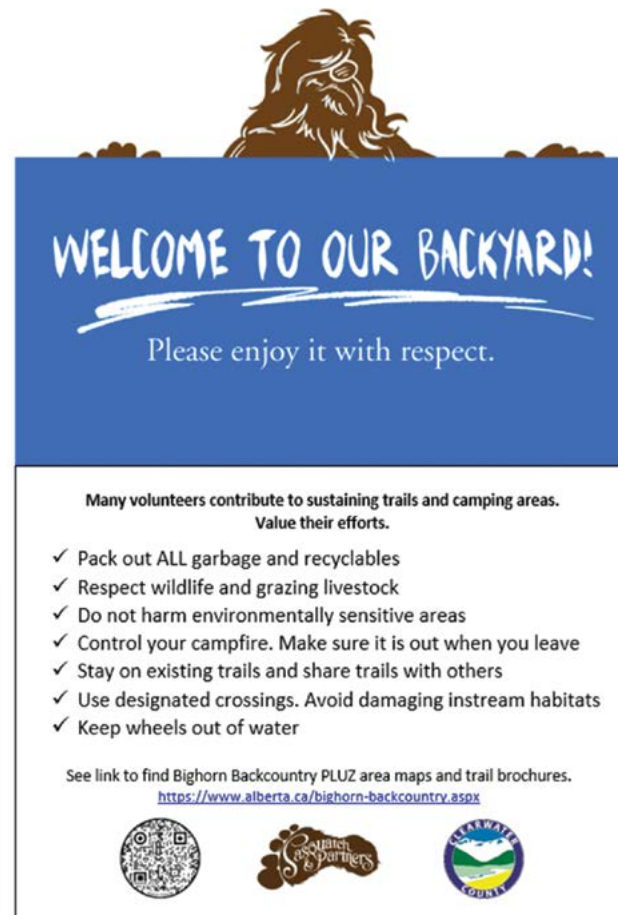


Sasquatch and Partners

Due to the increase in public activity over the last year, Landcare staff – in support from Councillor Jim Duncan with the Clearwater Trails Initiative (CTI) – put together Sasquatch & Partners ‘rule’ signage that has been installed at two locations: Cutoff Creek and Hummingbird Staging area. Two more signs will soon be installed at Bighorn Dam and Eagle Creek. The intent is that these signs educate the public on best practices in the backcountry and curb some irresponsible activities that have been taking place.



In June, with efforts to push the backcountry messaging further, Landcare staff advertised a Sasquatch & Partners T-shirt & Prize package giveaway. There were many entries received, one lucky winner will be chosen after September 7 to collect the prize giveaway.



County North Quarter Shelterbelt Project

In June, Landcare staff took on a shelterbelt planting project at Clearwater County's North quarter property. This project is an educational component on the property that will be show cased at future tours or workshops.

To start, the 480m area was sprayed with herbicide, prepped with plastic and biodegradable mulch, seeded with seed donated from Brett Young Seeds and Benalto Ag, and then flagged for tree planting. The tree planters took 3 hours to plant 638 seedlings on June 13. A 3-D electric fence was placed around the planted seedlings to avoid being eaten by ungulates. To date, seedling establishment is high.

A special thank you goes out to Agriculture & Community Services seasonal staff for their help with getting this project completed and partner collaborators on the project including: Repsol, Brett Young Seeds and Benalto Ag.



Municipal Election 2021



The next municipal election is Monday, October 18, 2021.

In Clearwater County, each of the seven electoral divisions elects one Councillor. The term of office is for four years with no limit on the number of times a Councillor can be re-elected. After the general election, the seven Councillors elect from among themselves a Reeve and a Deputy Reeve at an Organizational Meeting held on October 25, 2021.

Nominations for Councillors were accepted until 12:00 noon on Monday, September 20, 2021.

School board trustee nominations for the Wild Rose School Division, Wolf Creek School Division and Red Deer Catholic Schools were also accepted until 12:00 noon on Monday, September 20, 2021 at the School Division Office.

Important Upcoming Election Dates

- **Monday, October 4, 2021** Advanced Voting
- **Monday, October 18, 2021** General Election Day
- **Friday, October 22, 2021** Official Election Results



Candidate information for each division, information for voter, and high-definition maps are available on the County's website at:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/election

Voter Eligibility and Identification Requirements

Voter Eligibility

You are eligible to vote if you meet ALL of the following criteria:

- At least 18 years of age;
- Canadian citizen;
- Resident of Clearwater County; and,
- Provided the required proof of eligibility as required by Section 53 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Voter Identification Requirements

Any of the following documents that has the voter's name and address on it will be accepted as valid proof:

- Identification issued by a Canadian government, whether federal, provincial or local, or an agency of that government, that contains a photograph of the elector and their name and current address;
- Bank or credit card statement or personal cheque;
- Government cheque or cheque stub;
- Income or property tax assessment notice;
- Insurance policy or coverage card;
- Letter from a public curator, public guardian or public trustee;
- Pension plan statement of benefits, contributions or participation;
- Residential lease or mortgage statement;
- Statement of government benefits (for example, employment insurance, old-age security, social assistance, disability support or child tax benefit); and,
- Utility bill (for example, telephone, public utilities commission, television, hydro, gas or water).
- Vehicle ownership, registration or insurance certificate.

A letter or form (attestation) confirming that the person lives at the stated address will also be accepted as valid proof. The letter can be signed prior to the vote by any of the following:

- authorized representative of a commercial property management company;
- authorized representative of a correctional institution;
- authorized representative of a First Nations band or reserve;
- authorized representative of a postsecondary institution;
- authorized representative of a facility that provides services to the homeless; or
- authorized representative of a supportive living facility or treatment centre.

If a voter's identification shows a post office box number as the address instead of a residential or legal address, it can be accepted as verification of current address if it is in reasonable distance to the voting jurisdiction. The address does not have to be in the voting division or ward.

For more information on eligibility or identification, contact

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Municipal Services Division
Phone: 780-427-2225
Email: lgsmail@gov.ab.ca



Municipal Election 2021 - Register to Vote

NEW

Municipal elections are governed by provincial legislation, the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA), which states that Clearwater County Council may direct the preparation of a list of electors (voters list) who are entitled to vote in an election (section 50(1)).

Clearwater County Council directed administration to voters list for the 2021 municipal election. As such, a voters list is new to the Clearwater County 2021 municipal election, it ensures your personal information is up to date, streamlines the process by saving time at polling stations, while following COVID-19 guidelines.

To assist the County with establishing a voters list, all County residents eligible to vote need to register prior to voting in the upcoming election.

Register before you go to vote

- Use the **Online Voter Registration Portal** at www.clearwatercounty.ca/election to complete registration;
- Email returningofficer@clearwatercounty.ca with the following information: first and last name, your residential address (blue sign) and mailing address including postal code, phone number and date of birth;
- Or, call 403-845-4444 to speak to the Returning Officer.

Register when you go to vote

- If you are unable to register before October 18th, you can do so at your polling station on advance voting day Monday, October 4th or on election day Monday, October 18th.





Register to vote today

www.clearwatercounty.ca/election to complete registration;
or, email returningofficer@clearwatercounty.ca with the following information:

- first and last name
- your residential address (blue sign) and mailing address including postal code
- phone number
- date of birth

or, call 403-845-4444

Unsure of your voting division? New this year, find the division of your property on the 2021 Assessment & Tax Notice.

Note: you must vote in the division/municipality where your place of residence is located on Election Day.

Clearwater County
4242 - 47 Avenue, Box 550
Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1A4
403 845 4444 | 403 845 7330 Fax

Are you on the voters list?

Clearwater County is preparing a list of residents in the County who are eligible to vote in the upcoming 2021 Municipal Election on **Monday, October 18, 2021.**

All County residents eligible to vote need to register prior to voting in the upcoming election.

clearwatercounty.ca/election

PLEASE NOTE:
'Register to Vote' postcards are NOT an indication that you are registered to vote. Residents are asked to verify their information is accurate by registering online.

If you do not have access to a computer or need assistance, please contact:

Sabrina Walter, Returning Officer
Email: returningofficer@clearwatercounty.ca
Phone: 403-845-4444

2021 Municipal Election

Why register before the election?

If you register in advance, you will save time by limiting your wait time at a polling station. This will also show election workers that your registration is up to date, confirm the division that you live in and helps limit the amount of people inside each polling station at one time.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses many challenges to the way we conduct business and how we carry out our everyday lives. One of these challenges include holding elections safely. The public is encouraged to following provincial guidelines by wearing masks in all indoor settings and following social distancing rules.

Why were "Register to Vote" postcards mailed?

Postcards with instructions on how to register to vote were mailed to over 7,800 residents to increase awareness of the new requirement for municipal voters list and encourage early registration (please note that waiting to register until you vote may be time consuming). Early registration is encouraged.

Referendum Questions

A vote of the electors will be held on the following referendum questions under the Referendum Act:

1. Should section 36(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982 – Parliament and the government of Canada's commitment to the principle of making equalization payments – be removed from the constitution?
2. Do you want Alberta to adopt year-round Daylight Saving Time, which is summer hours, eliminating the need to change our clocks twice a year?

Senate Nominee

Clearwater County is expecting to conduct a senate election in our jurisdiction as part of the October 18, 2021 general election.

If you have any questions about the 2021 municipal election or would like more information, please visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/election or contact the Returning Office at returningofficer@clearwatercounty.ca

Do you know your voting division?

New this year, find the division of your property on the 2021 Assessment & Tax Notice.

Note: you must vote in the division/municipality where your place of residence is located on Election Day.



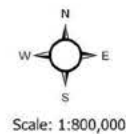
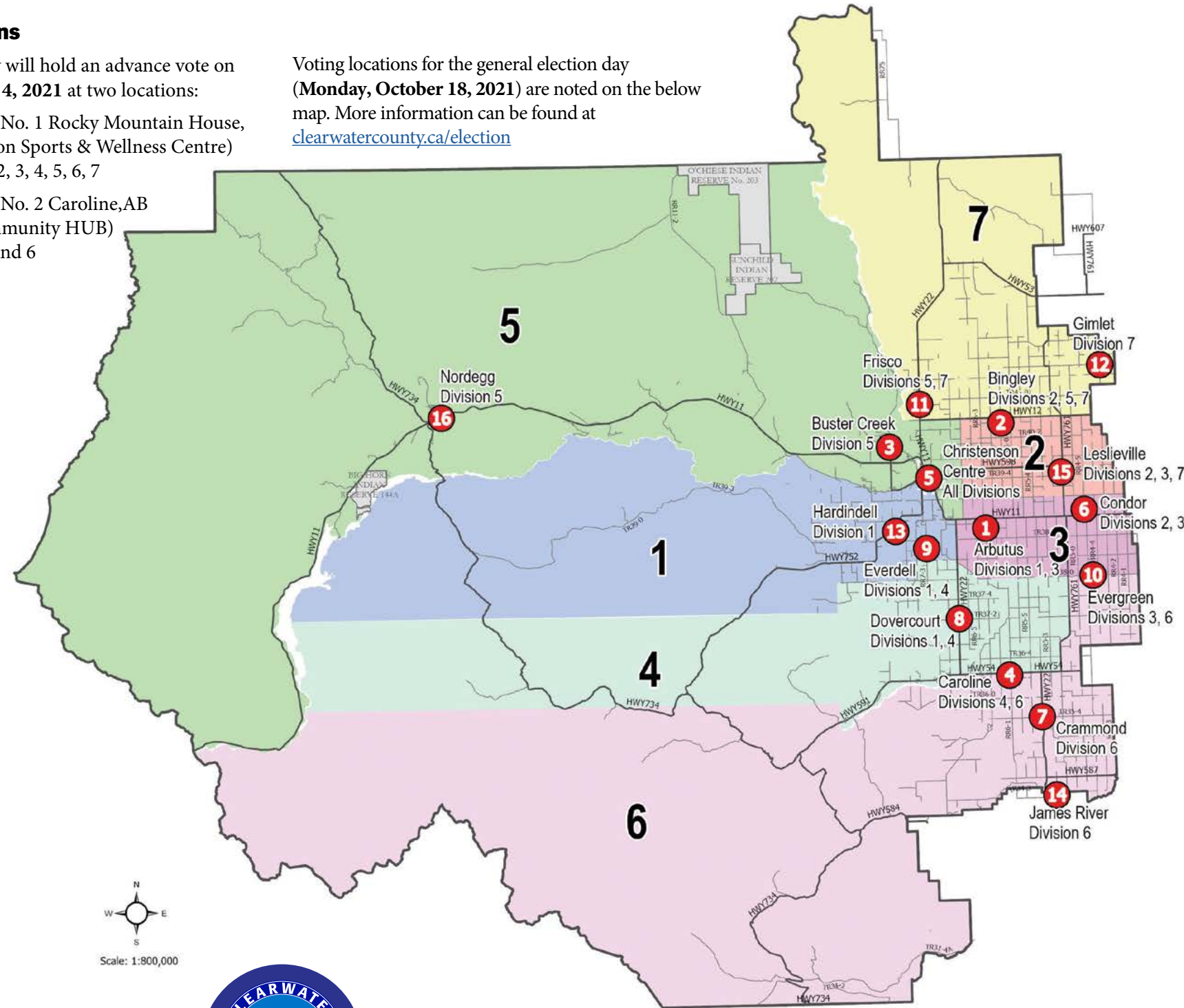
Municipal Election 2021

Voting Locations

Clearwater County will hold an advance vote on **Monday, October 4, 2021** at two locations:

- Voting Station No. 1 Rocky Mountain House, AB (Christenson Sports & Wellness Centre) for division 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Voting Station No. 2 Caroline, AB (Caroline Community HUB) for division 4 and 6

Voting locations for the general election day (**Monday, October 18, 2021**) are noted on the below map. More information can be found at clearwatercounty.ca/election



Municipal Election 2021

Polling Station

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Arbutus Hall | 9 Everdell Hall |
| 2 Bingley Hall | 10 Evergreen Community Hall |
| 3 Buster Creek/Crimson Lake Hall | 11 Frisco Community Hall |
| 4 Caroline HUB | 12 Gimlet Community Hall |
| 5 Christenson Sports and Wellness Centre | 13 Hardindell Hall |
| 6 Condor Hall | 14 James River Community Hall |
| 7 Crammond Community Centre | 15 Leslieville Community Centre |
| 8 Dovercourt Hall | 16 Nordegg Public Services Building |

Council Divisions

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 |
| 4 | |



Municipal Election - FAQs

How do I know what wards/division I live in?

Detailed map of each division can be found on the County's website at www.clearwatercounty.ca/election. Please note that starting in 2021 your tax notices (delivered via mail in May 2021) will also indicate each resident's electoral division.

Where do I vote for my division?

You may vote at any of the listed polling stations within your division. See pages 24-25.

How does COVID-19 pandemic affect municipal campaigns and elections?

Alberta Municipal Affairs has developed a COVID-19 Risk Reduction Guide for the upcoming 2021 municipal elections. This document has been modified where applicable to address specific changes made to the election process to address public health guidelines related to COVID-19.

Where does the list of voters come from?

Clearwater County must complete an enumeration process of the voters in each division. The voters list comes from Elections Alberta and Clearwater County's GIS mapping software.

How often is the municipal election in Alberta?

Municipal elections occur every four years in October. The election process is governed by provincial legislation, the *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)*, which outlines how elections are to be conducted.



Why vote?

Every Canadian citizen has the right to vote. It is how Canadians choose which leaders represent them. Voting is a responsibility that all Canadians should exercise. Your community is shaped by the outcome of an Election. Voting connects citizens with the political process and with each other. When you take part in an election and express your view, you make democracy work.

In the 2021 municipal election, Clearwater County voters will vote to elect Councillors and School Board Trustees. Voting for your division Councillor gives you a say in the direction Clearwater County will take. This includes changes and additions to services that impact the community on a daily basis, such as programs, services, and bylaw regulations. School Trustees are elected to make decisions on budgets and facilities in your school division.



Roles & Responsibilities of Elected Officials

Council

Council is the governing body of the municipal corporation and the custodian of its powers, both legislative and administrative. The *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) provides that Councils can only exercise the powers of the municipal corporation in the proper form, either by bylaw or resolution. The Councillor's job is to work with other Council members to set the overall direction of the municipality through their role as a policy maker. The policies that Council sets are the guidelines for administration to follow as it does the job of running a municipality. A Councillor will spend a lot of time while on Council creating new policies and programs or reviewing the current ones to make sure they are working as they should.

Councillors

Under the MGA, Councillors have the following duties:

- To consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and, to bring to Council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality;
- To participate generally in developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality;
- To participate in Council meetings and Council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed by the Council;
- To obtain information about the operation or administration of the municipality from the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO);
- To keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a Council committee meeting until discussed at a meeting held in public; and,
- To perform any other duty or function imposed on Councillors by this or any other enactment or by the Council.

Chief Elected Official (CEO) (known as Reeve in Clearwater County)

The CEO, in addition to performing a Councillor's duties, must preside when attending a Council meeting, unless a bylaw provides otherwise. The CEO must also perform any other duty imposed under the MGA or any other enactment. In practice, the CEO is also generally the main spokesperson for the municipality, unless that duty is delegated to another Councillor.

In a village, summer village, county, or municipal district, Council appoints the CEO from among the Councillors unless it passes a bylaw providing that the official is to be elected by a vote of the municipality's electors. In Clearwater County, the Reeve is appointed by Council each year at the Organizational Meeting (October 25, 2021).

Councillor Responsibility

A Councillor is elected to look after the interests of the entire municipality. A Councillor who is in a municipality that has wards must be careful not to place the interest of the ward or electoral district above the interest of the whole municipality. As tough as it may be at times, a Councillor must base any decision on what is best for the entire municipality. Council's effectiveness depends on Councillors providing input on their areas while thinking and voting for the whole municipality. Councillors also have to make certain that they do not put themselves in a conflict of interest situation. They must ensure that decisions made do not benefit them, their immediate family, or their friends.



The Frustration of Browning Evergreens



One of the most common problems that is observed in private trees and shelterbelts is the browning of evergreens. Alberta winters can be extremely hard on our evergreen trees, and not just because of the extreme cold. The drying winds and the occasional wide fluctuations in temperature can slowly suck the moisture out of the plant, despite their relative adaptation to the climate. Over time, exposed needles can be dried out and you will see parts of the tree fade in colour, and then turn a reddish-brown colour over time.

Trees don't necessarily need to be babied, but it is possible to help trees to be better equipped to deal with winter's harshness. Most of the work involves ensuring that trees are fully hydrated when they head into winter. As the weather starts to cool down, make sure that the trees have access to lots of water. If you are going to be applying water, water the tree deeply out in the drip line of the tree. This is the area out around the fringe of the canopy where the majority of the finer roots are located. Don't water up around the trunk. If you have a mulched bed underneath the trees, replenish the mulch to ensure that you have 2-4 inches of mulch. This will help reduce evaporation by keeping the soil cool.

It is always a good idea to clean up any dead, dying, or damaged branches. This can be done before winter, or in the case of deciduous trees and shrubs, during winter. It is easier to see the plant structure and any diseased branches once the leaves have dropped, which will make pruning more accurate.

Fertilizing can create a dependent tree, weakening it overall. The only exception to this would be if you are trying to help it recover from winter injury or replace lost nutrients (from harvest fruits).

Fall is a good time to clean up debris that might pile up and kill the plants underneath, especially on lawns. It is acceptable to leave perennial plants rough for the winter, as this collects more snow, and provides protection for overwintering insects (the good ones). Piling up leaves can capture moisture and give a bit of protection to more tender plants.

Other fall activities include bringing in the vegetable harvest, gradually moving each product into the appropriate storage conditions at the pace preferred by the vegetable. Bulb vegetables and potatoes will benefit from some time for things to dry down and wounds to heal. Carrots will be sweeter after they've had some cooler weather, and then should be moved into cold storage as soon as possible. Squash don't like cold temperatures but can be cured for a couple of weeks at temperatures in the low teens, and then held in cool and dry temperatures (around 7-10°C). It is important to only try and store quality product, as diseased, damaged, or generally poor-quality product will just ruin the things around it.

Fall is always unpredictable. The important thing is to try and prepare plants as best you can in advance.



Upcoming EPF Workshops & Webinars

Complete your
**Environmental
Farm Plan**
Building on a solid foundation



Why should you have an EFP for your farm?
Come find out by joining one of our webinars.

Need help getting started on your EFP?
Join us for a virtual workshop.

Registration is required.
Email info@albertaEFP.com or
call 587-200-2552.

EFP Workshops

September 22
1 pm - 3 pm

October 19
9 am - 11 am

November 24
9 am - 11 am

December 14
1 pm - 3 pm

EFP Webinars

October 7
10 am - 10:30 am

November 16
9 am - 9:30 am

December 7
1 pm - 1:30 pm



Wildland Urban Interface Team Update

In July and August, Clearwater County's Wildland Urban Interface firefighters and three structure protection specialists were busy with deployment to British Columbia. Deployment commenced on July 14 and crews arrived safely back home on August 28. Clearwater County's four person WUI team (a program that was grant funded through Alberta Fire Chiefs Association since 2019) were sent to assist in BC along with an additional five person team from with central region which rotated firefighters out weekly from several municipalities including Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services, Lacombe County, City of Lacombe and Sylvan Lake.

Thank you to all the firefighters that assisted with this interprovincial support request!



WUI setting up a trunkline to supply sprinkler system along a firebreak to create a wet line to protect Mount Baldy Ski Resort in Osoyoos, BC.



WUI setting up sprinklers coming off the trunkline, approximately 50 feet. They had to improvise the set-up due to low supplies while out in the field. The sprinkler set-ups were made to protect homes, and out buildings on BC residences.



Firefighter Advancement Ceremony

In July, Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) annual advancement ceremony was held for Firefighters for their achievements in completing the required training to advance to Level I firefighters. Congratulations to the dedicated firefighters that advanced, from:

Leslieville Station #10

Theresa Houk, Teresa Simpson, Kristiane Ewert, Gary Houk, and Devin Russell

Condor Station #20

Tristan Merklin, Garry VanderBaaren, and Kelton Wolf

Caroline Station #30

Erin Wilson, Kaitlyn Arbour and Angela Henderson

Nordegg Station #50

Adam Vaughan and Lynx Ledene



APPLY TODAY
RECRUITING PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTERS
Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services

Accepting applications for stations in:
Caroline, Condor, Leslieville, Nordegg, Rocky Mountain House

For information and to apply visit www.crfrs.ca

Deadline: October 31, 2021



Back to School Safety Reminder




Reminder: The excitement of returning to school has started for children in the many communities that make up Clearwater County. Children may forget basic road safety rules as they walk, bicycle and ride the bus to schools.


Safe Driving Tips:

- Use caution when driving through residential areas and adhere to speed limits in school or playground zones.
- Scan further down the road and obey posted speed limits.
- Always be prepared to slow down or stop.
- Avoid loud music and other distractions when driving.
- Use caution when approaching intersections or crosswalks.

Clearwater County Podcasts & Video Series

In an effort to promote economic development, Clearwater County Podcasts are on going conversations about the issues that matter to residents and businesses of Clearwater County.

 Audio versions are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music and other streaming devices.

 Video versions are available on our [YouTube channel](#) or at www.clearwatercounty.ca/podcasts.



Regenerative Agriculture, Food Marketing

The five soil principles as defined by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA) are: soil armour, minimal soil disturbance, plant diversity, continual live plant/root, and livestock integration.

Regenerative agriculture is the incorporation of these principles wherever possible and a term which followed on the heels of the organic ag movement and the concept of sustainability.

Sustainable agriculture came about in response to the gradual depletion of soils after decades of synthetic fertilizer and pesticide use in the wake of the 1970s green revolution.

With a new awareness of the role of soil microbiology the idea of simply sustaining the soil for future generations has given way to the idea of regenerating it.

Healthy soils contain a remarkable abundance of microorganisms and a robust microbial community is much more resilient and can perform essential functions under any number of changing climatic conditions.

As often happens when it comes to the food value chain, manufacturers have recently picked up on the new buzzwords and “greenwashing” or not, have begun using the terms sustainable and regenerative agriculture on their products. General Mills promotes the idea that it has committed to using regenerative practices on a million acres of farmland.

Definitions do vary considerably, but one of the agreed upon benefits of regenerative farming is the removal of carbon from the atmosphere by returning it to the soil. In a world consumed with perceived greenhouse gas (GHG) caused climate change, regenerative agriculture has become a global mantra.

Any multigenerational farmer will tell you that farming the land is the heart blood from which all life springs and the ever-present focus has been to continuously improve the soil.

Of 23 million acres in Alberta for instance, only 16% is capable of growing crops. West of the fifth meridian however, local Clearwater County producers have been using regenerative practices for several generations, particularly when it comes to the incorporating livestock. Food consumers may be forgiven for the obvious disconnect between soil principle #5 (incorporating livestock) and the erroneous belief that cattle are major GHG emitters.

With less than a 95–105 frost free days our local climate does not allow for the seeding of cover crops postharvest of short season cereals or canola (soil principal #4).

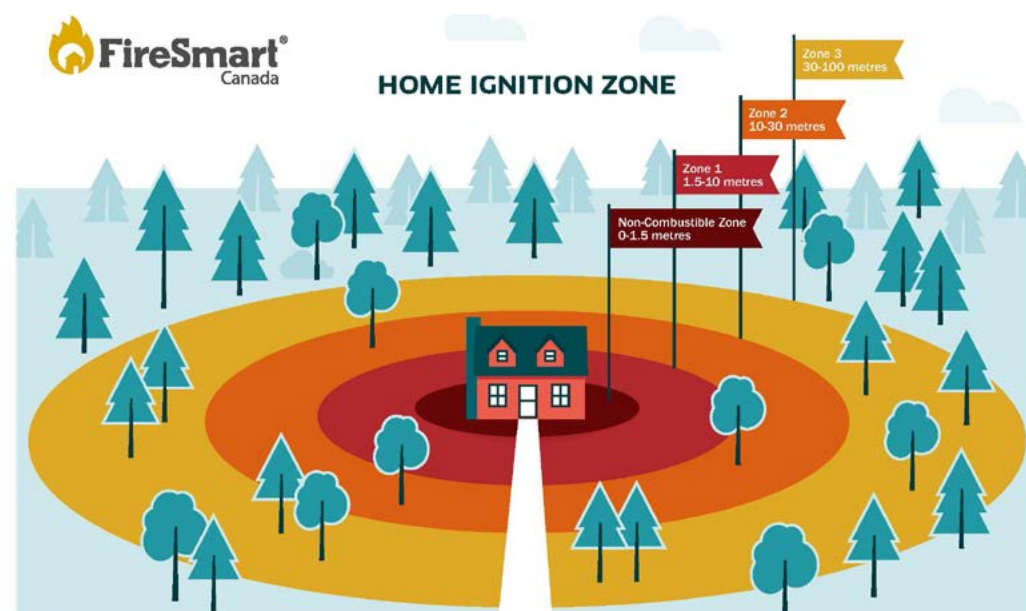
Most local producers have been using no-till and minimum tillage methods for many years (soil principle #2). A handful still believe in the benefits of summer following when they would be better off seeding a plow down crop or alternative (soil principle #1).

Bare cultivated soil, with no residues or cover crop, is most at risk for wind and water erosion, compaction, loss of moisture, nutrients and weed growth. Armour on the other hand, provides protective benefits for a wide variety of land uses including cropland, rangeland, and hay land to mention a few examples.

Plant diversity (soil principle #3) has been incorporated into hay stands for generations locally and as new plant genetics have allowed for even greater diversity, local farmers and ranchers have been slowly experimenting with, and incorporating them into their rotations.



FireSmart Infographic



Work with your neighbours in any overlapping priority zones!

Non-combustible Zone (0-1.5 metres)	Reduce the chance of wind-blown embers igniting materials near your home. A non-combustible surface should extend around the entire home and any attachments, such as decks. Creating a non-combustible surface can be as easy clearing vegetation and combustible material down to mineral soil. To add to your landscape design, use non-combustible materials such as gravel, brick, or concrete in this critical area adjacent to your home. Woody shrubs, trees or tree branches should be avoided in this zone, any that are present should be properly mitigated.
Zone 1 (1.5-10 metres)	Create a landscape that will not easily transmit fire to the home. A FireSmart yard includes making smart choices for your plants, shrubs, grass and mulch. Selecting fire-resistant plants and materials can increase the likelihood of your home surviving a wildfire. Plant a low density of fire-resistant plants and shrubs. Avoid having any woody debris, including mulch, as it provides potential places for fires to start. Storing items such as firewood piles, construction materials, patio furniture, tools and decorative pieces against or near a house is a major fire hazard. Move firewood piles, trailers/ recreational vehicles, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of this zone and into Zone 2. If unable to move, store firewood inside your mitigated garage, shed or other ember resistant structures, create a non-combustible zone underneath and for 1.5 metres around trailers/ vehicles and mitigate sheds and other structures to the same standards as those of your home.
Zone 2 (10-30 metres)	If your property extends out to this zone, thin and prune evergreen trees to reduce hazard in this area. Within 30 metres of your home, selectively remove evergreen trees to create at least 3 metres of horizontal space between the single or grouped tree crowns and remove all branches to a height of 2 metres from the ground on the remaining evergreen trees. If possible, pruning trees up to 100 metres from your home (Zone 3) is recommended. Regularly clean up accumulations of fallen branches, dry grass and needles from on the ground to eliminate potential surface fuels. Consider seeking the guidance of a forest professional with wildland fire knowledge on appropriate management options for this zone.
Zone 3 (30-100 metres)	Taking FireSmart actions in Zone 3 on your property will influence how a wildfire approaches your home. You can change the dynamics of wildfire behaviour by managing vegetation within this zone. Look for opportunities to create a fire break by creating space between trees and other potentially flammable vegetation. Thinning and pruning is effective here as well. These actions will help reduce the intensity of a wildfire. Consider seeking the guidance of a forest professional with wildland fire knowledge on appropriate management options for this zone.



Begins at Home

Broadband Internet Project

Clearwater County's Broadband Internet Project is a multi-year initiative that aims to deliver high-speed Internet connectivity to a majority of residents and businesses in the County. High-speed Internet access has been consistently identified as an essential component of economic and social well-being by County residents. A vast majority of County residents and businesses are underserved by available Internet services, most of which fall below the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) standards for broadband speeds.

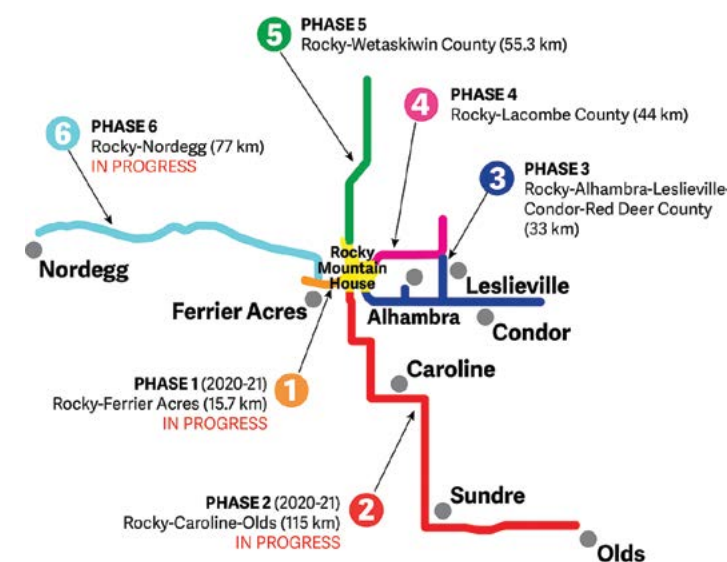
To address the County's digital divide, Clearwater County Council has committed to building a high-speed broadband Internet network and is currently in progress with construction and implementation.



Clearwater County
Broadband
Tomorrow's Internet Today

The proposed *Core Backbone Broadband Internet Plan 2020-2025* would:

- Cost approximately \$22 million and take between three and six years to complete.
- Provide the potential nearby access to high-speed Internet connectivity to 85% of residents and businesses.
- Install approximately 330 kilometres of fibre-optic cable and several wireless towers.



Implementation Phase	Estimated Cost	Distance
1 Rocky-Ferrier Acres (2020-2021) IN PROGRESS	\$998,000	15.7 km
2 Rocky-Caroline-Olds (2020-2021) IN PROGRESS	\$6,900,000	115 km
3 Rocky-Alhambra-Leslieville-Condor-Red Deer County	\$2,707,000	55.8 km
4 Rocky-Lacombe County	\$1,782,000	44 km
5 Rocky-Wetaskiwin County	\$2,376,000	55.3 km
6 Rocky-Nordegg (2021) IN PROGRESS	\$4,308,000	77 km
Wireless Fixed Broadband Access Costs	\$1,100,000	
TOTAL Broadband, Equipment, Infrastructure	\$20,600,000	362.8 km (estimated)

For more information, please visit
www.clearwatercounty.ca/broadband



Bear Education & Awareness Workshop

Due to the recent sightings of a sow grizzly and her cub in the Hardindell/ Cow Lake/ Everdell area, Clearwater County hosted a workshop at Hardindell Hall on Thursday September 9. The purpose of the workshop was to equip the local community with knowledge of bear behaviour and to know what to do if an encounter were to occur.

The workshop was attended by 17 local residents of all ages. Paul Fraser, wildlife biologist with Mountainview Bearsmart (MVBS) started the workshop with an outside information session on bearspray and how to use it. Workshop registrants were able to handle an inert version of the spray as well as practice quickly getting the canister out of a holster, releasing the safety and spraying a demo bear which was sent hurtling towards them on a metal track to simulate a charge. Fraser talked about the importance of keeping your bearspray on your person where it can be easily accessed, not in your car or at the bottom of a backpack.

Jane Bicknell, also a wildlife biologist with MVBS, presented on bear biology, behaviour, identification and how to react to both a defensive and a non-defensive bear. She explained how a person should modify their actions based on the bear's behaviour. She covered several different scenarios, ranging from what to do if you see a bear who has not yet realized you are in its territory to what to do in a full blown attack.

Chiara Feder, wildlife biologist with Alberta Environment and Parks, and Paul Sywanek, District Fish and Wildlife Officer, were also on hand to answer questions. They explained that bears are currently searching for nutritious food to ensure they have fattened up enough to survive the winter in their dens. They re-iterated the important message of removing or securing attractants so as not to make residences a welcoming place for bears.



Bear Education & Awareness Workshop

The best way to deter a bear from coming onto your property is:

1. store your garbage securely in bear-proof containers if left outside or store inside the garage, basement or other sturdy building that bears cannot break into;
2. put away your bird seed feeders;
3. don't leave pet food outside;
4. clean the BBQ;
5. pick and store fruit/berries inside - do not leave them on the trees, bushes or on the ground;
6. harvest the garden - do not leave vegetable matter on the ground to rot - compost it properly and consider erecting electric fence around it to keep bears out; and,
7. store grain/feed for your animals in bear-proof containers and granaries if left outside or consider erecting electric fence around it or store inside the garage or other sturdy building.

Please report a bear or cougar sighting in your area to sightings@mountainviewbearsmart.com. There is no need to report a bear sighting to Fish and Wildlife unless there is a safety concern or if there has been damage to the property.



The presenters noted that there are different kinds of bear attacks.

A defensive attack will mean the bear gives warnings like scratching the ground, growling and yawning to show its teeth (for instance if a bear is defending its cubs or a carcass). In that case, you should talk calmly, move away slowly, avoid eye contact, make yourself look larger with arms in the air. Don't run, this could invite an attack.

If the bear charges and makes contact (sometimes they bluff charge), then lie face down, cover the back of your neck with your hands and do not move. This is the ultimate sign of submission and the bear could then move on.

If the attack is aggressive and predatory with no warnings, fight for your life and do not lie down. Make noise, throw things and fend off the bear with whatever you have.

Most fatal bear attacks have been black bears in a predatory situation. If hiking, make plenty of noise, travel in large groups and have multiple individuals carrying bear spray. For more information or to view bear activity reports, visit mountainviewbearsmart.com



Off Label Pesticide Use a Serious Matter



It can be tempting. That jug of herbicide has been sitting on a back shelf gathering dust for years. No doubt it will work just as well as anything else on problem weeds. It will cost nothing and there cannot be that much difference between most products anyway can there?

In fact, there is a world of difference in the chemistry used in herbicide formulations and their concentrations with serious ramifications because of misuse. Moreover, failure to follow label instructions is against the law. The label on the container and the accompanying booklet are Federal legal documents.

Off-label herbicide use refers to a situation where a chemical is applied in a manner that is not specified on the chemical's product label, such as when it is used for a different pest, at a different rate, or in a manner that is not listed.

Saving money through off-label use could cost even bigger dollars in the long term. It is not just about the legislated requirements, or the money involved. Misuse of herbicides can have extensive environmental consequences that may lead to the death of fish, bird and honeybee populations as well as contaminated wells and groundwater.

A well-intentioned farm friend may offer herbicide designed for crop use as an alternative to locally available products designed for yard and garden applications. Applying agricultural or industrial herbicides in an urban setting can have drastic consequences as run-off flows through storm systems directly into local rivers.

For agricultural producers, inappropriate off-label use can mean the loss of an expensive crop or reduced yields in the season of application and possibly future years. In some cases, the harvested crop may even be embargoed.

Off-label use is a lose-lose situation for everyone involved with potential risks to public health and the environment that can exceed monetary value. Pesticide label directions are based on considerable scientific testing and rigorous evaluation by the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA).

PMRA testing is done to ensure that products can be used without harm to workers, consumers and the environment. If used improperly they can jeopardize the agricultural producer's ability to guarantee safe food for domestic and foreign purchasers.

An added risk is that misuse on the part of farmers may increase public concern about chemical use, creating a distrust that undermines the credibility of all pesticide and food safety regulatory programs in Canada.

Before using any chemical, users should always read and familiarize themselves with the entire label and obtain a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Both provide useful information about the chemical product, its contents, health hazards, safe use and handling instructions, personal protective equipment and first aid. MSDS information is provided free of charge from chemical retailers or manufacturers web sites.

2021 Homeschooling Scholarships

Apply today for a \$1,000 home-school scholarship if you are a recent graduate!

Deadline: October 31, 2021

Clearwater County provides scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to one student graduating from each of the four High Schools in Clearwater County including West Central High School, St. Dominic High School, David Thompson High School and Caroline High School.

There is now also a \$1000 scholarship available to a home-schooled student. The scholarships are intended to recognize the importance of youth achievement in the area of community service and to encourage academic advancement.

Eligibility for home-schooled students:

Any student from Clearwater County graduating through the home-school program and enrolled in a post-secondary institution in a full time capacity:

- must have been a resident of Clearwater County at the time of graduation;
- Citizenship is the primary consideration for eligibility and includes involvement in the community or school in a voluntary and/or leadership capacity. The scholarship recipient will be recognized as an individual who continually demonstrates significant contributions to their community while maintaining proficiency in academics; and,
- A student, upon receiving this \$1,000 scholarship once, is ineligible to receive another award under this program.



2021 Rural Beautification Awards

The annual rural beautification awards are co-sponsored by Clearwater County and the Ag Society. Traditionally, the awards are presented the following year in the Spring at the Rocky Ag Society Banquet. This year's winners are:

- Josh and Tennille Barker,
Acreage Under 15 Years



Clearwater County would like to thank West Fraser for supporting Landcare's 2021 Tree Seedling program. It was a successful year in providing affordable white spruce and lodgepole pine seedlings to landowners starting or renovating shelterbelt type projects.

- Darren and Valorie Murray, Working Farm



- Duane and Carol Hord, Retired Farm



Maintaining Hay Quality Pre- and Post-Harvest

Unusually hot dry weather in early June came as a surprise and aided many local producers in the harvest of some early season top-quality hay. Always a balancing act between nutrient content and volume, haying in August has proven to be less reliable in recent years.

Shorter season crop varieties have added to a continuing trend toward fewer forage acres across the country thus reducing total yields. Locally, production was about average, with older fields doing poorly while newer stands performed well.

Severe drought conditions throughout the Palliser triangle, BC and Northern Ontario, have put pressure on prices which will likely remain on the high side this year.

Producers should keep in mind that during hot, dry conditions, surface moisture is quickly removed from forages but moisture inside the stem takes longer to cure. Hay is not "cured" until the stems have dried out and become brittle.

A moisture probe measures surface moisture so it may not be accurate at providing the total moisture content in a bale. Old timers call it the twist test. With a small swatch of hay grasped between two hands, twist the hay in a circular motion. If it breaks after 3 or 4 twists, then it is cured.

Baling uncured hay could result in mould or dust due to heating after the bales are made.

It is recommended that bales remain in the field until the sweat process is complete and temperatures moderate. Stacking hay in hot conditions reduces air flow between the bales which traps heat.

Unprotected hay results in a loss of feed quality, mold growth and bleaching that often costs the producer 15 percent of the hay crop in a year.

Given the high cost of inputs, that is an unnecessary loss considering the many inexpensive storage options available. In Alberta, the hay industry produces over 9 million tonnes annually, so a 10 percent loss translates into 900,000 tonnes of spoiled hay.

When it comes to storing hay, nothing beats indoor coverage. If waste due to spoilage is taken into consideration, along with the premium paid for higher quality forage, the cost of erecting a hay shed becomes far more practical.

Placing bales on the ground outdoors is certainly the most economical storage method. It also has the greatest potential for dry matter loss, especially at the bottom of the bale where moisture levels remain the highest and air movement is the lowest.

Making bales as dense and as large as possible helps as the bale tends to sag less. This results in minimal surface area contacting the ground. Large diameter bales have less volume per unit of surface area exposed. Ample room should be left between stacks to allow for easy access, good ventilation and sun exposure. Use a ridge bale at the top of the stack for ventilation and snow and rain run-off.

When tarping, stack ends should be left open to allow air circulation throughout the stack, while tarps should be overlapped 1.5 meters and cover at least 1 meter at the side of the stack. If bales are stored in single rows, then they should be placed end to end with a small space between them.



Tourism Sector Sees Significant Activity

The summer tourism season is drawing to an end in the David Thompson Country Tourism Region. This summer saw the following:

- Above average number of visitors with most campgrounds and B&B inns full every weekend.
- Built-up demand for wedding venues kept lodges and caterers busy.
- Guided tours, like hiking, mountain climbing, rafting, and horseback trail riding, were somewhat busy with shorter trips and last-minute bookings for the domestic tourism market.
- Hotels and eat-in restaurants saw improved business compared to last year with changes in Covid-19 restrictions and the presence of hundreds of workers for TC Energy's pipeline project between Nordegg and Rocky Mountain House.
- Many tourism/hospitality businesses ran into staffing issues with a combination of a lack of available employees or a lack of accommodations for employees.
- The Government of Alberta built multiple parking areas and installed washroom facilities at several heavily used crown land camping areas and trail heads along Abraham Lake.
- Many campgrounds and guiding operators have higher than average bookings into October.

In addition to all this activity Jerry Pratt, Economic Development Officer, gave a tour of Clearwater County to David Goldstein, CEO of Travel Alberta, and discussed the many opportunities for growing the tourism industry here.



COVID-19 Vaccination Record



**Get your
COVID-19
vaccination
record**

Sign up at MyHealth Records to get proof of vaccination. Download the app and display the record on your phone, or visit your account online to print a wallet-sized card.



alberta.ca/MHR

Alberta



Real Estate Grows in Sales in the First Half of 2021



Realtors are saying this has been the busiest year in quite some time. Acreages are the most popular property, with larger acreages being the most sought after. Purchasers are coming from Edmonton, Calgary, B.C. and even Ontario. Age ranges of the buyers vary from young families to retirees.

The 2 most common questions asked by the home buyers are:

1. Does the property have internet/cell phone access?
2. Can we put a second home on this property for my parents or children to move in to?

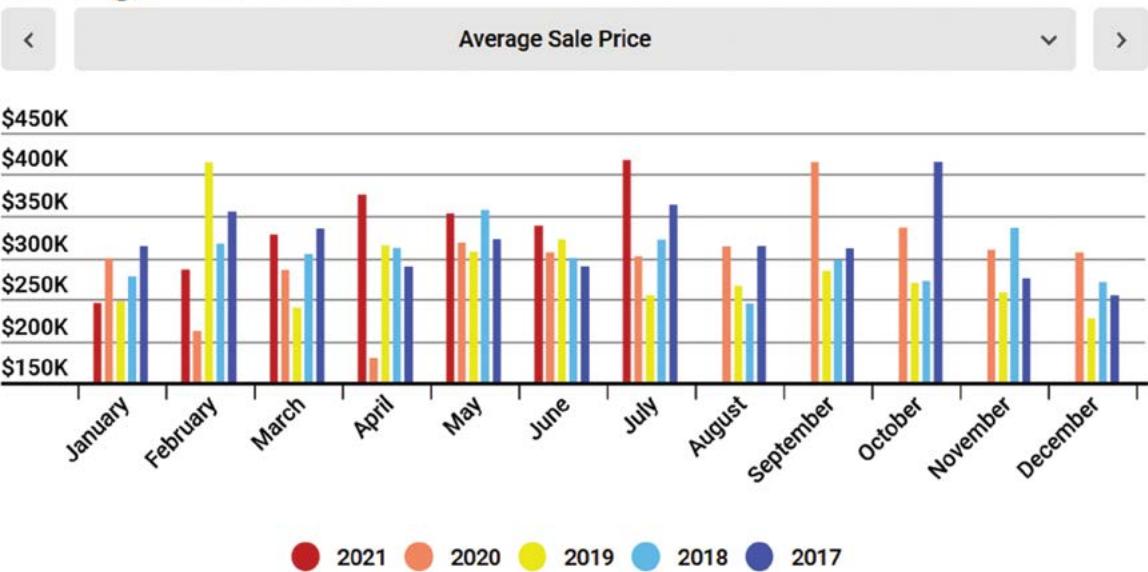
Nordegg has also seen significant sales over the past year. Vacant Cottage lots in the North Subdivision have sold out, the Nordegg Industrial Park has sold out, the new Manufactured Home Subdivision that was opened in November of 2020 has sold almost half of its lots, and 5 lots on Elizabeth Avenue have sold. The commercial/retail lots in the Historic Downtown should be subdivided and listed for sale in the first half of 2022.

The graphs on the next page come from the Central Alberta Real Estate Association comparing year of year average sale price and number of sales. More information is available at

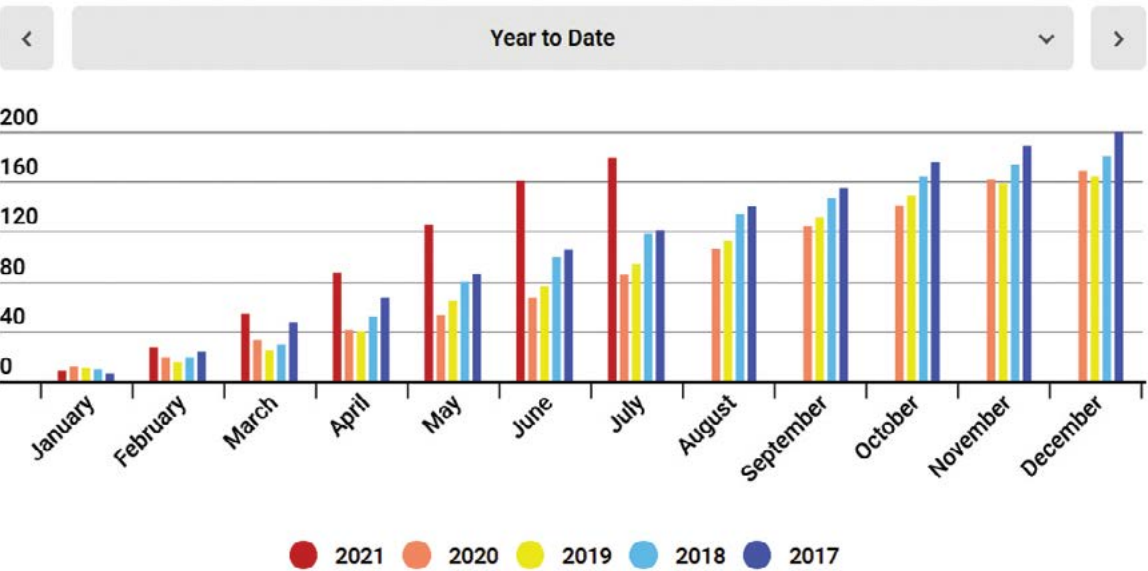
www.carassociation.ca/home-page/market-update-map-test/market-update-clearwater-county/

Real Estate Growth - Continued

Average Sale Price

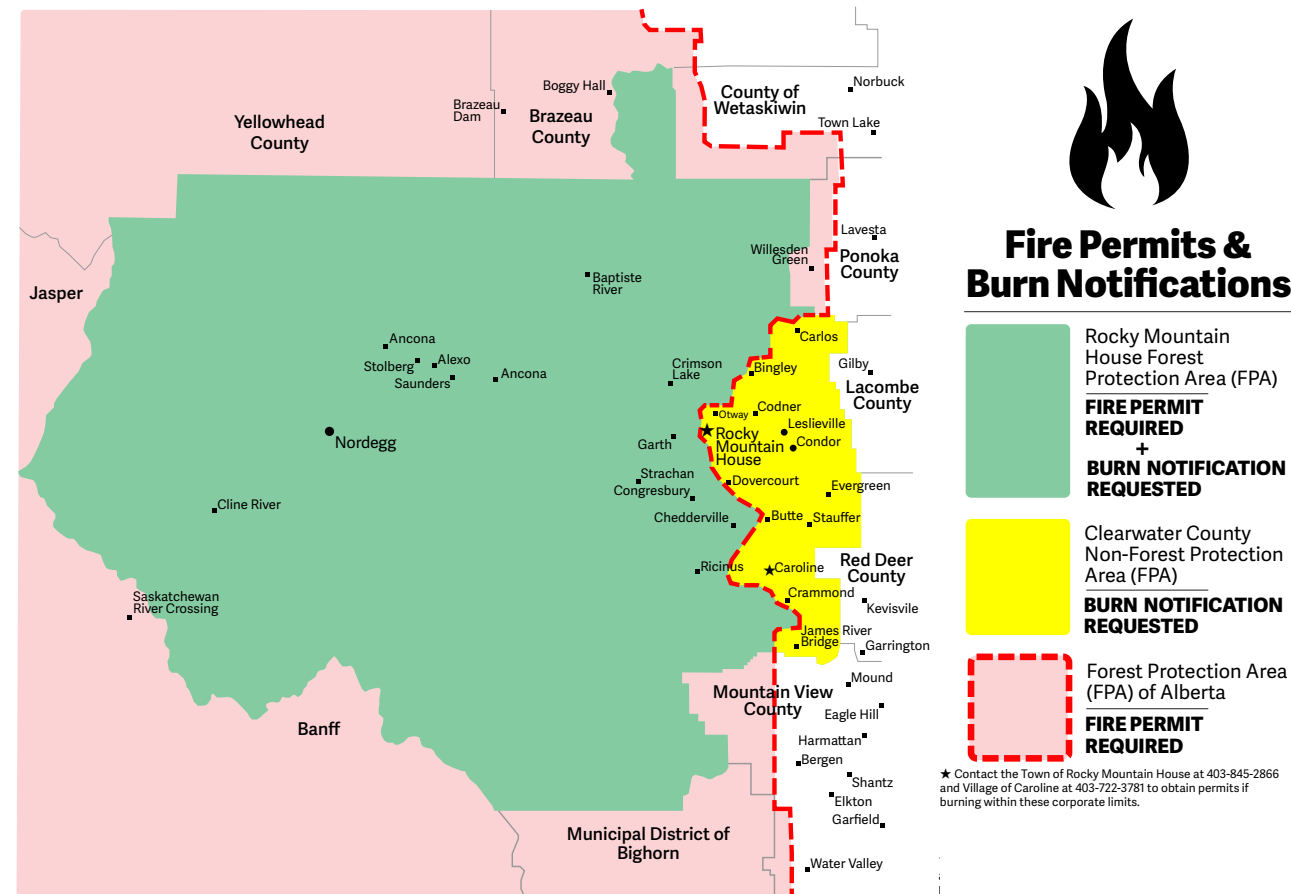


Number of Units Sold



Fire Season (March 1 - October 31)

From March 1 to October 31, all burning activities in Alberta's Forest Protection Area (FPA) - excluding campfires - require a fire permit. Fire permits are free and can be obtained by contacting your local Alberta Agriculture and Forestry office. Phone toll-free 310-0000 to locate your nearest Alberta Agriculture and Forestry office. For more information, please visit www.albertaforebans.ca or wildfire.alberta.ca/prevention/fire-permits.aspx.



Rocky Mountain House Public Library

Please note that **Rocky Mountain House Public Library cards are free for residents of Clearwater County**. (Those with an address within the Village of Caroline are subject to card fees of the Caroline Municipal Library). Don't have a library card? Register online at <https://rmhlibrary.prl.ab.ca/about-us/membership>. For more information, please visit www.rmhlibrary.prl.ab.ca.




Frequently Requested Numbers


Clearwater County Office	403 845 4444
Clearwater County Office Fax	403 845 7330
Clearwater Mutual Aid Co-op (CMAC) – Oil & Gas Emergency	1.866 950 CMAC (2622)
24-Hour Burn Notification Line	403 845 7711
Alberta One Call	1 800 242 3447
Alberta Environment	403 845 8240
Alberta Land Titles	780 427 2742
Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce	403 845 5450
Family and Community Support Services	403 845 3720
Fish and Wildlife	403 845 8230
Health Unit	403 845 3030
Highway Services – Volker Stevin	1 888 877 6237
Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jason Nixon	403 871 0701
Town of Rocky Mountain House	403 845 2866
Village of Caroline	403 722 3781
Summer Village of Burnstick Lake	www.burnsticklakesummervillage.ca
Fire Ban Information	www.albertaforebans.ca



Have you heard about Clearwater County Podcasts & Video Series?

Clearwater County Podcasts are on going conversations about the issues that matter to residents and businesses.

 Audio versions are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music and other streaming devices.

 Video versions are available on our YouTube channel or on the County's website at clearwatercounty.ca/podcasts



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