



Clearwater County Highlights

FEBRUARY - MARCH
2022

Important Survey Inside: Solid Waste & Recycling Services

A NEWSLETTER
FOR RESIDENTS OF
CLEARWATER COUNTY

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clearwatercounty.ca

A Message from the Reeve

Hello everyone,

Greetings from Clearwater County Council. Spring is officially here – at least according to the calendar. Hoping that it will be a good one leading into what will be a great summer.

There will undoubtedly be a lot of activities coming up both this spring and summer in Clearwater County. I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy what the seasons have to offer.

As spring arrives and frost comes out of the ground, road bans have come into effect and the County's construction season is set to begin soon. Read more about recent Public Works programs including gravel road rehabilitation and grading/base/pave projects on page 8-11, and please be sure to drive with caution and watch for County staff on roadways.

The Annual Roadside Cleanup is back this year, taking place on Saturday May 14, 2022. This campaign is open to community groups and is a great way to raise funds while helping clean up the County. Thank you to the volunteer groups who participate in this program.



Daryl Loughheed
Reeve

With the best interest of the community as a whole, and with the future of Clearwater County in mind Council continues to work towards developing an updated Strategic Plan. The development of the plan will include community feedback and participation, which we look forward to in the coming months.

As we see COVID-19 restrictions lift, Administration is working to plan public consultation for the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) review and find ways to encourage innovation, investment and balance the needs of the community. The MDP is an overall 'blueprint' to guide decisions about future land-uses. In the coming months, residents will be invited to offer their vision of our region for generations to come.

Finally, don't forget that as of April 1, an additional 4% penalty will be applied to all outstanding tax balances (as per the 2021 Municipal Tax Rate Bylaw 1107/21). Payments can be made in person at the County office, by mail, or online - please keep in mind that online payments often take 3-5 days to process.

On behalf of Council, I am wishing you a healthy, safe and enjoyable season ahead.

COMING SOON: 2022 Roadside Cleanup Campaign

The 2022 Roadside Cleanup campaign will be held on **Saturday May 14, 2022**. Participants contribute to a cleaner environment and experience a sense of accomplishment while raising funds for their group or club activities.

Registration for route/section selections will take place **ONLINE beginning Monday April 25, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.** at www.clearwatercounty.ca/roadside.

Applicants are asked to indicate first, second and third choices for road sections. Sections will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once routes/sections are assigned, the County will contact the "group contact" to provide section allotment and coordinate material pickup and contract signing.

Clearwater County will pay each community group \$600 per section cleaned and provide safety vests, garbage bags and signage. More information is available on our website using the above link.



Clearwater County Council Term 2021-25



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Upcoming Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole Meetings

- April 19 & June 20, 2022

Upcoming Regular Council Meetings

- April 12 & 26, 2022
- May 10 & 24, 2022

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



Council Highlights



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

Bylaw 1115/21 Application No. 06/21 to amend the Land Use Bylaw

Following public hearing proceedings, Council defeated third reading of Bylaw 1115/21 for an application to redesignate +/- 24.4 acres on NE 04-36-06 W5 from the Agriculture District “A” to the Industrial District “I”.

Rocky Community Learning Council

Council received a presentation from Jana Thomson, Rocky Community Learning Council’s Executive Director, on the Rocky Learning Centre services and programs offered to the community.

North Saskatchewan River Canadian Heritage Rivers System Nomination

Council received a presentation on:

- Nomination of the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta from Smoky Lake County’s delegate, Kyle Schole, Planning Technician;
- Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application and Update on the North

Saskatchewan Heritage River Initiative under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System from Reeve Lorne Halisky, Smoky Lake County; and,

- Request for Action: That the Reeve, on behalf of Council, send a letter of support to the Village of Vilna as the primary applicant, outlining the County’s support as a partner for the application for the 2022-23 Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant in the amount of \$200,000 to complete a Management Plan for the North Saskatchewan River under the Canadian Heritage River System.

Administration will provide a background report and recommendation for the request for action at the next regular council meeting.

Clearwater County Radio Systems - Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services’ Replacement Strategy

Council accepted the Strategic Planning Committee recommendation to proceed with ‘Option 1A’ radio system replacement to Alberta First Responders Radio Communications Systems (AFRRCS) for Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services and directed Administration to proceed with a Request for Proposal (RFP) or tender.



Council Highlights

Council's Strategic Planning Session

Council confirmed their commitment to replace the current Strategic Plan 2019-2022 with a new plan covering the period 2022-2026 and engage 13 Ways Inc. as a consultant and facilitator for a strategic planning session; and approved an operating budget adjustment for additional cost related to Council contracted services by \$32,000 from contingency.

Council Appointments

Council appointed Councillor Mehlhaff, Deputy Reeve Northcott and Reeve Loughheed to attend the 2022 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 22, 2022

Municipal Restructuring Information

Council received Municipal Restructuring Information, as presented by Alberta Municipal Affairs Municipal Viability Advisors to assist Council in understanding what is involved in the amalgamation process.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Job Description

Council directed Administration to bring back a draft CAO job description with suggested amendments to the next Regular Council Meeting.

Letter of Support for the Village of Vilna's Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application - North Saskatchewan River Canadian Heritage Rivers System Designation

Council directed Administration to send a Letter of Support for Village of Vilna's Alberta Community

Partnership Grant Application, in support of the North Saskatchewan River Canadian Heritage Rivers System Designation.

Fourth Quarter 2021 Financial Report

Council received the Clearwater County Fourth Quarter 2021 Financial Report for information as presented.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Council approved the audited financial statements for Rocky Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Access Road Construction Request

Council approved the construction of approximately 425m of undeveloped road allowance at Township Road 41-0 from Range Road 7-4 west, to a municipal standard for property access, on a cost-share basis with the landowner under the provisions of the County's Access Roads Policy.

Council approved the reallocation of \$100,000.00 from the Public Works Capital Restricted Surplus Fund to Public Works Infrastructure 2022 Capital Budget for the project.

Introduction to the Clearwater County Solid Waste Management Master Plan (Phase 1 and 2) - Tetra Tech Canada Inc.

Council received the 'Clearwater County Solid Waste Management Master Plan (Phase 1 and 2)' presentation, from Tetra Tech Canada Inc., for information. Phase I, of the plan, includes a review of the existing solid waste and recycling management system. Phase II is the preparation of a Solid Waste



Council Highlights

Management Master Plan that would provide future guidance in optimizing the planning of service levels, and the installation of long-term capital. To learn more, read the agenda item or watch the live stream recording at clearwatercounty.civicweb.net/Portal

**Solid Waste & Recycling Services
Survey: See page 16**

Council Attendance

Council authorized Councillor attendance at the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association's 2022 Conference (May 9 to 11, 2022), Alberta Rural Connectivity Forum (May 16 to 18, 2022), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2022 Conference (June 2 to 5, 2022).

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

March 8, 2022

First Reading of Bylaw 1116/22 to amend the Land Use Bylaw

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1116/22 for an application to redesignate +/- 9.88 acres from the Light Industrial District "LI" back to the Agriculture District "A" within the proposed parcel approximately 8 miles southeast of the Village of Caroline along Range Road 4-5, and directed Administration to proceed to a public hearing.

2021 Assessment Data Report

Council received a presentation from Administration on Clearwater County's assessment summary that showed the overall year to year change for the County is an increase of 2.91%. The presentation also outlined changes to assessments by category and provided background information regarding the Small Business Assessment Sub-Class for 2021.

CAO Draft Job Description

Council approved a revised CAO job description which focus on educational attributes.

Communications Plan 2021 Update & Development of New Plan

Council received a presentation from Administration covering various analytics that describes how communications supported County programs and services in 2021. Council provided feedback for changes for the development of the 2022-2025 Communications Plan.

Grant Funding for Community Halls Policy Review

Council discussed the Clearwater County's Grant Funding for Community Halls Policy and directed Administration to draft a flat rate policy where each hall receives an equal amount of funding regardless of size, and slowly upgrade occupancy load certificates over time; and maintain a pool of \$50,000 that hall associations can access when emergent costs arise from the inspections that must be carried out during the certificate process; and, that Council discusses the flat rate amount when they review the draft policy at a future meeting.

Wildland Urban Interface Program 2022 ACP Grant Application

Council endorsed Clearwater County's 2022 application for Alberta Community Partnership - Strategic Initiatives grant for the Alberta Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) team and program continuation.



Council Highlights

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

March 22, 2022

Clearwater Regional Housing Foundation

Council received an update from the Clearwater Regional Housing Foundation's Update for information as presented.

Traffic Safety Services - Rocky Mountain House RCMP Detachment

Council received the Rocky Mountain House RCMP Detachment's Report, Working with Communities in Our Area, for information as presented.

Rocky Mountain House RCMP Detachment - 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan

Council received the 2021 - 2022 Rocky Mountain House RCMP Annual Performance Plan for information as presented.

Rimbey RCMP Detachment - 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan

Council rescheduled the Rimbey Annual Performance Plan presentation to the April 12, 2022, Regular Council Meeting.

Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Society - Historic Rural School Recognition Project

Council received Rocky Mountain House Agriculture Society's Historic Rural School Recognition Project Proposal for information as presented.

Court Awards Legal Costs to Tax Roll

Council approved the addition of legal costs in the amount of \$128,500 to tax roll 3508193001.



Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Service (CRFRS) Capital Budget - Unit 604 Aerial Truck

Council directed Administration to update the Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (ICC) with the County's budget confirmation for Unit 604, for a \$1.65M total budget, funded 50% County and 50% Town in the budget years 2022 (10% Deposit) and 2023 (90% balance on delivery).

2022 Operating Budget Amendment - AFRRCS Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services

Council approved adjusting the 2022 operating budget to increase information technology expenses by \$78,000.00 and increase tax revenue by \$78,000.00.



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

Capital Projects Status Report

Each month, Administration prepares an update to Council on major capital projects that could include information on:

- Gravel road rehabilitation
- Bridge rehabilitation and replacements
- Waste and wastewater
- Nordegg Development
- Broadband project

The below report is from Feb 22 - Mar 22, 2022.

Depending on the complexity of the project, preliminary engineering and /or detailed design are typically completed a year before construction of the project. Capital expenditures tend to vary from year to year depending on the current priority as outlined in the 2022 budget, and have multiple funding strategies available which could include, but are not limited to, Tax Revenue, Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI), Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) (formerly known as the Gas Tax Fund), Restricted Surplus or other grant opportunities.

Broadband Project

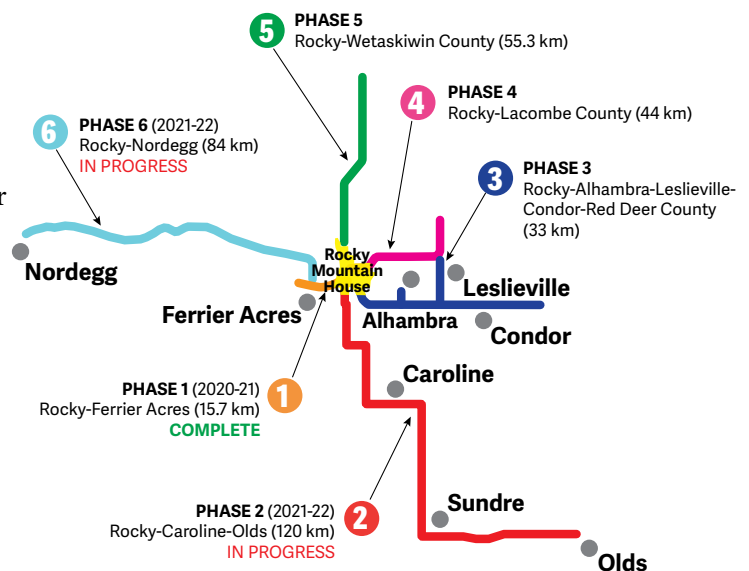
Construction for the main Point of Presence (POP) building is ongoing with remaining work left on the generator installation, power and interior connections, and fibre termination.

Fibre Construction

Construction is ongoing - although at a slower pace due to weather conditions.

Phase 2A - Rocky Mtn. House to Sundre Work Completed/in Progress:

- Total vaults placed: 95 out of 95 planned (100%)
- Total duct placed: 86,779 out of 86,790 meters planned (100%)
- Total crossings completed: 187 out of 187 planned (100%)
- Total fibre jetted: 80,431 out of 85,228 meters planned (94%)
 - FOSCs (Fibre Optic Splicing Closures) installed: 30 of 45 planned (67%)
 - Splicing of fibre cables inside FOSC's completed: 18 out of 38 planned (47%)
- Caroline PoP shelter delivered



If you would like to learn more about Clearwater County's broadband project, see past public engagement reports, and frequently asked questions, please visit clearwatercounty.ca/broadband



Capital Projects Status Update Continued



Caroline POP Shelter Delivery

Work Remaining:

- Fibre completion planned for QTR-1
- Drilling in Caroline (PoP site)
- Caroline PoP site connection
- Clearwater and James River bridge attachments (planned for late February)
- Fibre equipment testing
- Clean-up and remediation (weather permitting)

Phase 2B - Sundre to Olds

No change due to no field activities. Construction is expected to start up again in the middle of March.

Work Completed/in Progress:

- Total vaults placed: 44 out of 64 planned (69%)
- Total duct placed: 38,641 out of 42,276 meters planned (82%)
- Total crossings completed: 100 out of 157 planned (64%)
- Total fibre jetted: 20,129 of 42,000 meters planned (48%)
- Drilling/Trenching through town of Sundre

Work Remaining:

- Fibre and vaults completion planned for QTR-1/2
- Red Deer River bridge attachment planned for mid-February
- Fibre equipment testing
- Clean-up and remediation (weather permitting)

Phase 6 – Ferrier to Nordegg

Work Completed/in Progress:

- Total vaults placed: 69 out of 69 planned (100%)
- Total duct placed: 86,646 out of 87,850 meters planned (99%)
- Total crossings completed: 48 out of 43 planned (100+%)
- Total fibre jetted: 91,833 of 93,300 meters planned (100%)
 - FOSC's installed: 33 of 34 planned (97%)
 - Splicing of fibre cables inside FOSC's completed: 33 of 34 planned (97%)
- Nordegg PoP shelter delivered
- Nordegg PoP site power connection completed
- Shunda Creek bridge attachment completed

Work remaining:

- Fibre equipment testing
- Clean-up and remediation (weather permitting)
- Placement of Clearwater County route signage

Broadband Financial Plan

- A draft financial business plan reviewed & updated; presentation to Council to be scheduled.



Capital Projects Status Update Continued

Public Works Infrastructure

Leslieville Fire Training Centre

Staff have reviewed and approved the detailed design. This project will be tendered for construction in the soon.

Gravel Road Rehabilitation

County Staff continue project planning for the upcoming gravel road rehabilitation program. Staff is working on project estimating and securing borrow pits for the upcoming year. Landowner notifications were sent out the beginning of February and construction crews have started brushing on North Raver River Road (Township 37-0A, RR 5-0A, Twp 37-0), Crammond Road (Twp. Rd. 35-4) west of Caroline South Road (Range Rd 6-1).

Grading/ Base/ Pave

River Road: Staff have completed 100% of the land acquisition from the adjacent landowners to facilitate the new design of River Road. Next steps include back sloping agreements, detailed design, and construction tendering. The intent is to reconstruct the River Road in 2022 and complete the paving in 2023.

Taunton Bridge

Final inspection for the Taunton Bridge was held on February 1, 2022. Minor deficiencies were noted, and a plan is in place to have these deficiencies addressed. Staff and AEP (Alberta Environment and Parks) have been discussing options for additional protection around the abutments of the bridge and additional signage. The bridge contractor, Surespan, has addressed most of the identified deficiencies for the deck and railing system. Remaining deficiencies will be addressed in the spring or prior to the 1-year warranty period.

Nordegg

1. Detailed design has been completed for the Nordegg paving projects, which include Stuart Street Asphalt Overlay, Quarry Road Base/ Pave, Coal Miner's Crescent Base/ Pave, Commercial Core Phase 1 Paving, Nordegg Public Services Front Parking Lot Base/ Pave, and the Manufactured Home Park Base/ Pave (A&B)
2. Staff have reviewed and approved the final draft drawings and specifications for the **Nordegg Residential Phase 2** development. Construction tendering will commence soon. The development includes 28 Residential Lots and 4 Commercial Lots.
3. Staff has engaged WSP Engineering to commence the detailed design and storm water management plan for the **Nordegg Industrial Subdivision Phase 2**. The design and permitting applications will occur over the next few months.

Beaver Flats Road Grading Project

Staff has awarded the RFP (Request for Proposal) for engineering services to WCE (West Country Engineering). Detailed design, land acquisition, utility coordination and permitting is underway and is scheduled to be completed in the coming months. Due to the complexity of this project, construction completion is scheduled for Fall 2023.



Taunton Bridge



Capital Projects Status Update Continued

Public Works Operations

Water/Wastewater

Nordegg Commercial Septage Receiving Station

- The Contractor, Balzer's Canada Inc., has begun construction of the septage receiving station, located at the Nordegg Lagoon Site. The project completion is scheduled for May 31, 2022.

Regional Wastewater System

- Magna Engineering Services Inc. has been working on the detailed design of the proposed Regional Wastewater System which would be constructed at the Leslieville Lagoon Site.

Condor Sanitary Lines and Stormwater

- Design engineering is being completed on the sanitary lines and stormwater. The tender is scheduled to be advertised within April 2022.

Nordegg RV Dumping Station

Design engineering has been completed. The tender is scheduled to be posted within March 2022.

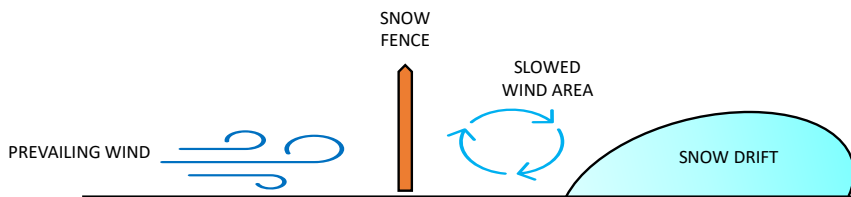
Nordegg Commercial Dumping Station

Construction is underway with a scheduled completion date of June 2022.

Bridges

- Bridge located over Lobstick Creek, on Lobstick Drive, is scheduled to begin construction spring to fall of 2022.
- A grant was obtained, from AEP, for the replacement of bridge located over Logan Creek, on Twp Rd 31-2. This structure was identified by AEP as a barrier to fish passage. The replacement is to aid in fish passage at this crossing.

Question & Answer: How does a snow fence work?



Snow fence installed at the intersection of Everdell Road and Township Road 38-3A

Snow fences are designed to slow the speed of wind as it passes through and around it. The intent of snow fence is to divert and control where snow drifts, not to stop it from drifting. As the wind slows down, the snow particles that are carried in the wind will drop, creating a bank of snow on the leeward side of the fence.

When placed properly, they can help prevent snow from drifting onto roadways which can aid in the winter maintenance of roads. The higher the fence, the farther away the snow drift will be from the fence. Clearwater County installs between 3,000 ft. – 4,000 ft. of snow fence each year for both paved and gravel roads.



Dog Control in Clearwater County

Clearwater County provides Dog Control services within its borders through a contract with Red Deer based Alberta Animal Services to enforce Clearwater County's Dog Control Bylaw. Alberta Animal Services conducts patrols in the County to investigate complaints which are reported from residents.

Common complaints include:

- Dogs running at large;
- Defecation on neighboring properties/public lands;
- Continuous barking; and,
- More than three dogs on subdivided parcels zoned residential.



Steps Taken for a Complaint:

Step 1: Neighbour to Neighbour

Resolving a dog related issue can often be achieved by talking directly with your neighbour. In many instances, your neighbour may not even be aware that their dog is causing a problem. This face-to-face communication between you and your neighbour can often resolve the issue and will do so in a way that is much more meaningful than resolution through the County's formal system.

Step 2: Warning

If talking with your neighbour has not proven to be successful, you may need to make a formal complaint to the County. This can be done by contacting Alberta Animal Services directly at 1-403-347-2388 or by contacting Community Services 403-845-4444 to pass the complaint on to Alberta Animal Services on your behalf. When making a complaint you should be prepared to give your name, location, contact information and nature of the complaint. A representative from Alberta Animal Services will contact you to discuss the complaint.

Step 3: Issuance of a Fine

If a warning has not proved sufficient, issuance of a fine may be appropriate. In order to issue a fine, the County requires a signed statement from a witness. Without such a statement, any fine issued would not stand in a court of law.

Although the approach outlined above is generally followed, the County may choose to move directly to a fine for more serious offences.



Rural Address Signs



Rural addressing is a system where all developed properties in the County are assigned an address. The primary purpose of rural addressing is to assist emergency responders – police, fire and ambulance to easily and quickly find your home or business. It is also an easy method for other parties such as service/delivery companies, residents and non-residents to locate your property.

Your rural address is not your mailing address, nor does it replace your legal description.

What are the benefits of using rural addressing over a legal land location?

A rural address is a much more accurate way to locate your property than a legal land location. While a legal land location can identify a specific quarter section, a rural address will pinpoint the access to your home or business off of a range road, township road or highway, which is critical in emergency response situations.

All residents have a rural addressing sign. If it's faded or significantly damaged, then it's time for a new one! Contact the County office to have a new sign installed.

How are rural addresses created?

Rural addresses are based on the location of the access (driveway) along Township Roads, Range Roads and Highways. (For the purpose of Rural Addressing, virtual township roads exist between all sections whether an actual road exists or not.)

The address of the residence/ business is determined by the location of the driveway as it intersects the grid road (Twp/Rge Rd).

Address numbers increase from South to North and from East to West. Odd numbers are on the South and East side of the road and even numbers are on the North and West side of the road. The grid is derived from Township and Range Roads; and, is based on 40-meter intervals starting in the far Southeaster Section corner. Example: New Condor Public Services Building 390017 RGE RD 4-5.

Who assigns rural addresses?

Rural addressing is assign and maintained by Clearwater County's GIS department, and are in charge of maintaining all current addresses and assign news ones when development required it. Call Clearwater County at 403-845-4444 if you have any questions or concerns.

Bylaw 880/07

"Mandatory Display of Civic Address – All developed parcels shall display their assigned civic address."



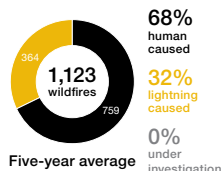
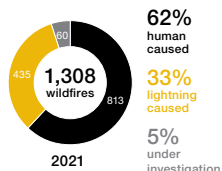
2021

Alberta Wildfire's seasonal statistics

Wildfire season March 1 to October 31, 2021



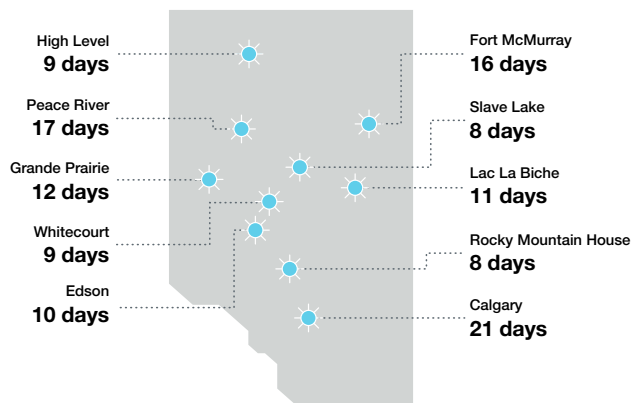
1,308 wildfires



Top human causes 2021



Days above 30°C by forest area



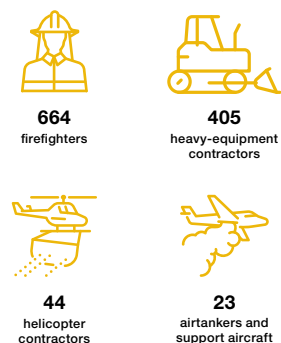
32 arson charges laid



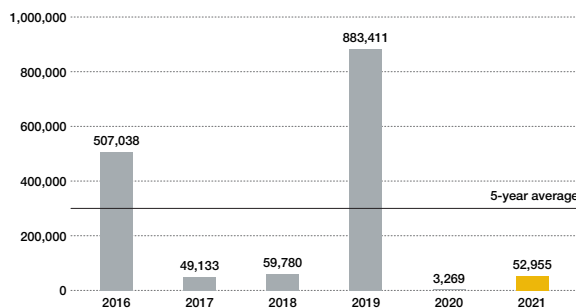
492 firefighters and support staff exported



Seasonal resources



Hectares burned



Data as of November 9, 2021



Alberta

Winter Burning

At this time of year, during the winter months with snow cover, industry and landowners often take advantage of the cooler weather to burn debris and brush on their land.

However, if these brush pile fires aren't properly put out, they can spread and burn underground, under the snow and ice, all winter and into the spring. Under the right conditions, these fires can re-emerge in the spring as grass and wildfires. Take the time to properly prepare your burn site. Know what is needed to be successful during your burn and how to properly extinguish your site. Although snow helps reduce the risk of the fire burning into the ground, it is recommended that landowners regularly revisit winter burn sites to ensure the fire is out.

Walk the burn area and roll over any debris to check for hot spots. The best way to find hot spots is to look for visible signs of burning such as melting snow around the edges. Touch the burn area with your hands and smell for smoke and turn over some ground/dirt in the middle of the burn pile.

Things to consider when burning:

- Ensure you have proper tools at the burn site such as an axe, shovels and at least 200 liters of water;
- Be aware of forecasted wind conditions. Wind can pick up sparks or embers and start a fire if the conditions are right;
- As with any burning, do not attempt to burn more than you can control; and,
- Actively manage burn projects to reduce disposal time and smoke impacts. Continually re-pile if needed.



**24/HOUR BURN
NOTIFICATION LINE:
403-845-7711**



**Submit a Burn
Notification**
clearwatercounty.ca/burnnotifications

After you burn:

- Spread remaining material within the pile and soak with water as required;
- Check the area and ensure both heat and smoke are no longer being produced by the pile – it should be cool to the touch; and,
- Check your burn site multiple times in the following weeks/months to ensure it has not reignited.

The best time to check your brush piles is on a cold day with no wind:

- When you probe the pile with a metal rod the temperature of the rod increases;
- You can see or smell smoke coming from the brush pile;
- White ash is evident on the surface of the winter burn pile; and,
- Hot embers exist inside, or on top of, the burn site.

To learn more:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/burnnotifications



Public Survey: Solid Waste & Recycling Services



Clearwater County is engaging with the public in preparation for a solid waste and recycling management plan which will outline a plan to optimize Clearwater County's existing solid waste and recycling network.

Public Engagement Opportunity

Clearwater County in conjunction with Tetra Tech Canada Inc. is conducting a

Solid Waste & Recycling Services Community Survey until Friday May 20, 2022.

Please take a moment to complete the short survey based on your needs and experience since the inception of Clearwater County's Solid Waste Disposal Access Cards (spring 2021). You can complete the survey online or learn more at:

clearwatercounty.ca/solidwaste

Survey link:

<https://arcg.is/DyXGy>

Scan QR Code:



Background

As per the direction of Council, through the approved 2022 Capital Budget, Clearwater County has retained the services of Tetra Tech Canada Inc., an environmental engineering firm, to research, assess, evaluate and develop a solid waste and recycling management plan. The goal of the solid waste management master plan is to enhance the overall service level and meet the long-term goals of the residents, businesses and agricultural community. The plan will consist of two component:

1

Phase 1

This phase of the plan includes a review of the existing solid waste and recycling management system. **A survey will be conducted to evaluate residents satisfaction with the level of service and to determine effectiveness of existing systems and locations.**

2

Phase 2

This phase is the preparation of a Solid Waste Management Master Plan that would provide future guidance in optimizing the planning of service levels, and the installation of long-term capital.



Purchasing Property in Clearwater County



Did you know that when you purchase a property in Clearwater County, you can contact the Planning and Development Department (downstairs in the County office) and find out the development history of your new property?

You can also get information regarding:

- The land use district (zoning) of the property;
- The types of development allowed; and
- What types of developments require a permit.

This is particularly important if you are purchasing a property where you would like to operate a business.

If you are purchasing a property with the intention of operating a business there, you may need to leave extra time on your offer to purchase in order to receive development permit approval from the County.

Even if a property has had a business operating on it before, you may still require development approval to operate your business there. Come by the Planning and Development Department and let us answer your questions regarding land use and development.

Alberta Land Titles is currently experiencing delays in the processing of title transfers. This may result in property owners not receiving assessment notices for properties they purchased in late 2021, or receiving an assessment notice for a property they have recently sold.

If you did not receive your assessment notice as a result of these delays, please contact the County office at 403-845-4444.

Thinking of starting a business?

Businesses operating in the County require development approval. Most business applications go to the Municipal Planning Commission for a decision.

Please note that Clearwater County does not currently issue business licences.

Please contact the Planning and Development Department at 403-845-4444 for more information.



2022 Conifer Tree Seedling Program

In cooperation with West Fraser, Clearwater County Agriculture and Community Services is pleased to offer affordable white spruce and lodgepole pine seedlings suitable for starting or renovating a shelterbelt and for enhancing or rejuvenating a natural area.

Trees must be planted on the property applied for and not sold or given away. Please provide verification of land ownership in Clearwater County (example: property tax notice). Applications are subject to Clearwater County approval. Planting sites may be subject to verification. Seedlings are purchased in bundles of fifteen spruce or fifteen pine at \$4.50 per bundle. The minimum order is five bundles. Full payment is required upon order submission.



Applications can be found on Clearwater County's website or by contacting at landcare@clearwatercounty.ca

**The application deadline is
June 17, 2022.**



Hemp Fiber Mats for Purchase

Available 12-inch and 18-inch square hemp fiber mats to help maximize your tree seedling investment. Great for helping seedlings access light, nutrients, and moisture that other vegetation otherwise robs. Only \$0.57/12-inch and \$1.42/18-inch plus GST.

Hemp fiber products also come in rolls for custom applications like slope protection, row planting where plants are closer together, lining swales or low areas, culvert inlets or outlets, and even pond banks. This is an alternative to straw or coconut matting.



Call 403-845-4444 for more info.



Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB): Growing Concern



Private landowners are responsible for their own trees, therefore monitoring existing standing pine is critically important. Clearwater County staff can provide information on the identification of the mountain pine beetle, so that control measures can be put in place. Early detection and control by residents play an important role in the management of Alberta's MPB's infestation and preventing further spread.

For questions about MPB on private land, contact Clearwater County Agriculture and Community Services.

For questions about MPB on public(crown) land, contact Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

For more information, visit Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development website at www.alberta.ca/agriculture-forestry-and-rural-economic-development.aspx

Verbenone Repellent Pouch for Purchase



Verbenone Repellent Pouch are available through the Agriculture and Community Services office. To protect high valued pine trees over a small area, the pouches give off a pheromone letting the beetle know

“this tree is full” to ward off attack. While Verbenone has been shown to be effective at low to moderate beetle population pressure, it is not very effective when the pressure is high. Even under low and moderate beetle pressure, complete protection may not be achieved.

Pouches are sold in packages of 10 and need to be stored in a sealed freezer until application.

Limited services are available to assist landowners and grazing lease holders with controlling MPB attacked pine trees, free of charge. If you need help with identification or have attacked pine trees and want to be placed on a waiting list, call 403-845-4444.

Please note that due to limited funding, there is no guarantee that all affected landowners/grazing lease holders will receive control services.



Upcoming Ag Events

- **Green Acres Workshop (Virtual) April 13, 2022:** To better manage and improve your property, map your property assets, and more.
- **Caring for my Land (C4ML) Program** offers 25% - 75% funding – for up to \$5,000 - through Alberta Environment and Parks “Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program” (WRRP) and EPCORE. WRRP focuses on improving up-land and lowland areas making watersheds more resilient to seasonal runoff and high water events and periods of drought or water deficiency.
- **Join the Landcare Email List.** Are you interested in grant programs and new funding opportunities, or workshops?

Please contact landcare@clearwatercounty.ca or call 403-845-4444 to register for an upcoming event.

SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2022 Weed Workshops

“Includes free supper!”

- Dovercourt Hall - May 25 (5:00 –7:30 p.m.)
- Leslieville Hall - June 1 (5:00-7:30 p.m.)

Note: Attending one of these workshops makes you eligible for a 10% discount on all range and pasture herbicides purchased through Clearwater County Agriculture and Community Services.



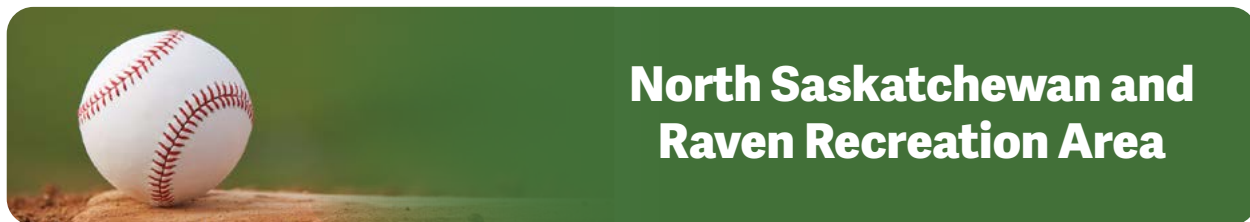
Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

The majority of the 100+ farms with an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) in Clearwater County completed their plan prior to 2005. EFP's now have an expiry date of ten years meaning any EFP beyond ten years old requires renewal. You need a current EFP to be eligible for cost-share funding under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) program's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change section. Plus, EFP's have moved to a web-based delivery—a WebBook—making it easier to complete and keep current.

Contact Landcare staff to help convert your outdated EFP binder into a computer based EFP. For more information or to register for an EFP online, please visit www.albertaefp.com/



Recreation Grant Funding Available



North Saskatchewan and Raven Recreation Area

Recreational organizations and groups that fall within the boundaries of the North Saskatchewan and Raven Recreation Areas are eligible for assistance with small projects and programming related to recreation.

For the purposes of this fund, recreation shall refer to those projects that give opportunity to people of all ages to take part in healthy and beneficial activities. Examples of qualifying projects would be shale for ball diamonds, boards for ice rinks, updates to playground equipment, etc. Funds may also be put towards a larger recreational project that has had most funds raised through other sources. Operational or maintenance costs are not covered by these grants.

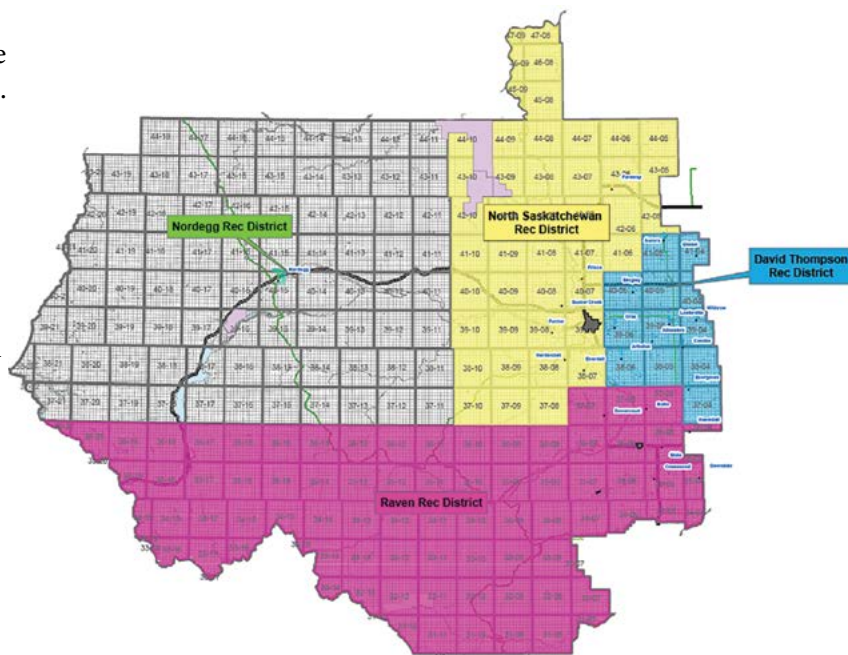
In evaluating the project, considerations will be given to:

- Project readiness, including availability of resources
- Prior grant funding allocation.
- Organization's need for financial assistance
- Availability of grant funding. Applicants may receive full, reduced or no funding for their projects
- Preference may be given to youth and senior programming.
- Only fully completed applications will be brought to the Board for consideration.

Application Procedure:

A complete application form must be submitted to the correct recreation board as per location (see below map). All qualifying application packages will be reviewed, deliberated and grant funds allocated by the Recreation Board. Additional conditions can be applied as per the board's discretion. To view the criteria guidelines, application form, or for a map of Clearwater County's recreation districts. Please visit clearwatercounty.ca/grants

The application deadline is June 1, 2022.



Trails Act and Sustainable Recreation

Trails are an important part of Alberta's history and identity, allowing Albertans and visitors to experience the routes of the past, while contributing to conservation, tourism and wellbeing. Today, trails are more popular than ever with Albertans – so popular that we need updated tools to help manage them.

The *Trails Act* provides guidance and structure for trail use in our province's growing recreation and tourism sector. The Trails Act allows for better trail experiences for Albertans by ensuring high quality, well managed and safe designated trails. Over time, Trail users will see improved management and planning for trails that better supports the activities Albertans want, such as hiking, biking and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use.

Beginning in May 2022, the development of a Trail Management Plan is required for all new designated trails.

A trail management plan identifies trail routes and allowable activities for that trail to meet a desired recreation experience. It will incorporate the needs of the area's other land uses, such as resource development activities or protection of ecologically sensitive areas, and the interests of Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders and nearby communities.

The act also strengthens trail partnerships with volunteer organizations so that we can all continue to enjoy Alberta's trails for years to come.

*Message from Government of Alberta



Next steps

Future trail management plans will consider other land use values, have stakeholder and Indigenous input, and be compliant with all higher level land use plans, such as Caribou sub-regional plans.

Indigenous people have an important historical and cultural connection to the land and its rich natural heritage. Alberta respects and supports the continued availability of Crown lands for the purpose of exercising First Nations' Treaty rights, Métis harvesting, and First Nations and Métis traditional uses. The *Trails Act* will manage trails in a sustainable way that is sensitive and responsive to nearby communities.

Learn more about [recreation on public land](#) including [Alberta's Guide to Outdoor Recreation](#) on provincial Crown land, which is your source for recreation information including Public Land Use Zones at www.alberta.ca/sustainable-trail-management



Sasquatch & Partners Message

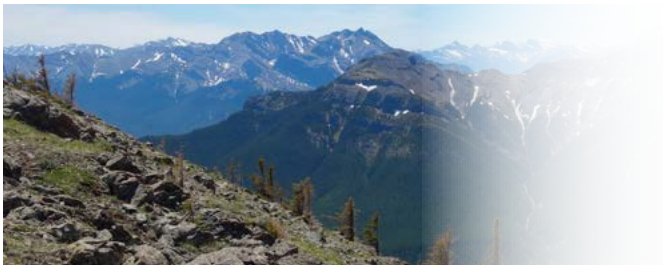
Welcome to our backyard.

Please enjoy it with respect.

Visitors to the west country will see Sasquatch signs around the area. The “Welcome to Our Backyard” campaign encourages users to enjoy the great outdoors, but to use respect and to take care of the natural spaces – so that they are preserved for now and for future generations.

The awareness campaign encourages visitors to camp and travel in areas that are safe for the traveller and for the environment by:

- promoting responsible use of the natural areas of the west country including preserving aquatic habitat and the integrity of sensitive areas
- mitigating the risks related to random camping near well sites and use of pipeline rights-of-way
- keeping recreational activities compatible with industry and environmental stewardship
- finding positive solutions to some of the challenges that arise when industry and recreation intersect in the west country.



Greenhouses in Alberta



Spring is the best time to test a green thumb enthusiast's skill. The greenhouse hobby in Alberta allows gardeners to extend the growing season and create a horticultural zone that is the best environment for new plants to thrive.

Plants need light, warm temperatures, air, water, and nutrients to thrive and survive. Greenhouses provide the light, warm temperature, and air, but the rest is up to the grower.

A greenhouse works by converting light energy into heat energy. The plant and other objects within the greenhouse absorb light from the sun and convert it into heat.

Position your greenhouse in a way that the sun works in your favor to maximize the sun beams available in the winter but provide enough shade from the hot sun in summer. It is recommended that the position of the greenhouse run east to west to maximize the amount of sunlight it receives, particularly if starting seeds early in the winter with shorter days.

The use of dark surfaces helps absorb more heat compared to light surfaces. Once light is absorbed and converted to heat, the wavelength has changed so that heat cannot escape the structure easily.

Trapped heat warms the air inside, raising the temperature of the greenhouse in its entirety. During the night, natural light is lacking so an artificial light source can be added to lengthen the day when the sun is unavailable.

Raised beds help warm up the soil, keeping it off the cold ground. Catching every sunbeam possible will benefit the early seedlings now and for the duration of their growing life.

A greenhouse should be easily accessible to the grower. This should include at least a 1-meter perimeter around the structure to allow for repairs and to replace side panels if necessary. Water should be available in a handy location near the greenhouse.

Challenges arising from running a greenhouse can include the cost of heating, maintenance issues such as ventilation, and weeds among the plants. Fresh air should be periodically provided through ventilation systems.

Being covered and blocked off from the outside world, issues such as natural pollination could be a consideration as well.

Depending on the size of the operation, a couple of choices could include manual pollination or introducing bumblebees.

Weeds are constantly being fought in outside gardens and it can be an issue in greenhouses as well. Unwanted seeds will blow in when the door opens or during ventilation. The easiest and most effective way to control this issue is by hand picking.

Having a controlled environment allows the plants to have ideal growing conditions. On the flip side, these conditions are also ideal for pests such as insects which can be difficult to control as the predators that thrive on insects are blocked out.

Greenhouses provide a great start to growing plants in the cold winter months. By trapping light and converting it into heat, plants will be fed and stay warm. Unique elements can be added on to upgrade and make your own greenhouse one of a kind.



Charity Hockey Game - Firefighters vs. RCMP

Members of the RCMP faced off against local Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services firefighters in a charity hockey game on February 26, 2022. The event raised nearly \$5,000 for the Lord's Food Bank, with \$3,421.91 coming from ticket sales, the silent auction and the 50/50. The RCMP won 7-6 in a shoot out.



Healing Round Dance

The Foothills Society held a round dance at the Lou Soppit Community Centre on February 26, 2022, to bring healing to the community. The event began with a feast at 5 p.m. and the round dance followed, starting after 6 p.m. During the round dance, drummers gathered in the middle of the room. When they started a song, people rose from their seats and came to the floor. They joined hands and danced in a circle around the drummers. Many songs were played throughout the evening as the round dance continued until 3 a.m.



Darcy Goodrunning of the Foothills Society organized the event in hopes to bring healing to the community. He said in his culture, the drums combined with the song and dance brings healing to all participants.



The 4th Industrial Revolution

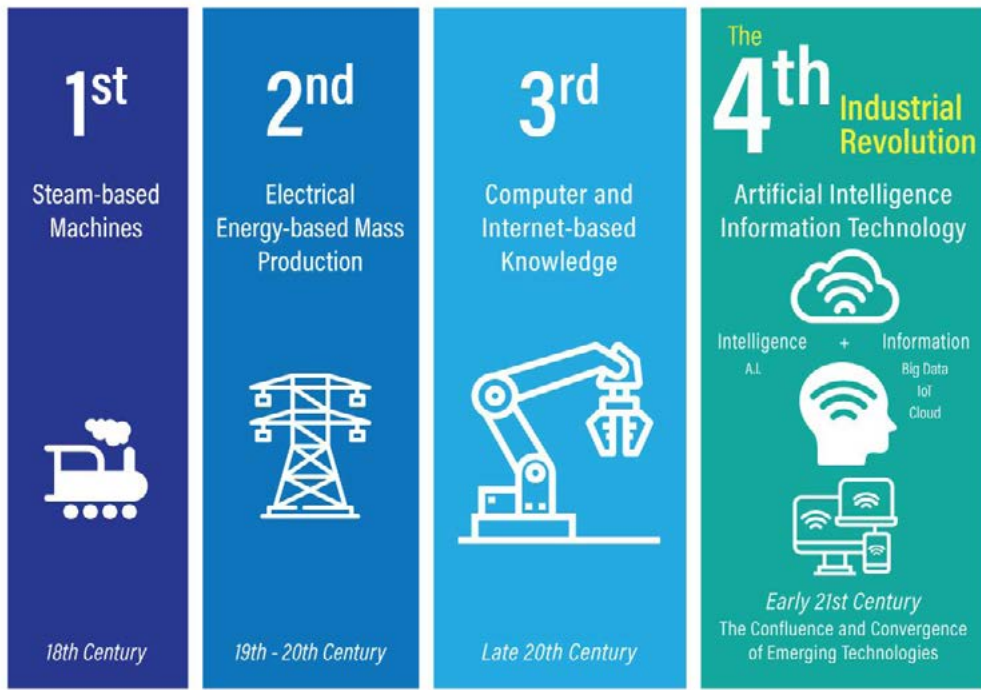


image source: www.parametrix.com

The world is at the start of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Each Industrial Revolution has impacted the productivity and wealth of the nations involved. They have completely disrupted industries, often creating new ones while making others obsolete. Here is a short summary of each Industrial Revolution.

1st industrial Revolution – A combination of inventions and innovations came together to create the 1st Industrial Revolution. In 1765 the spinning jenny allowed people to spin yarn faster than before, increasing the possibility of mass clothing production. 10 years later the steam engine was applied to the spinning jenny and started cloth factories. The steam engine also helped improve the quality and lower the price of iron production, which then helped to lay tracks for steam locomotives.

This meant goods could be mass produced in one location more cheaply and shipped quickly to customers further away. This period also reduced the need for individual craftsman and the number of workers on farms dropped substantially. People moved from the country into the cities for work, causing cities to boom.

2nd Industrial Revolution – This Revolution was shorter, occurring from about 1870 until World War one in 1914. The discovery and use of electricity, oil and gasoline, changed everything again. The internal combustion engine changed production and transportation. Steel was better developed and used in buildings and bridges. Communications were changed dramatically with the invention and rollout of first the telegraph and then the telephone.



Industrial Revolution Continued

Cars and trucks completely replaced the horse and buggy, and airplanes changed the speed and distance a person could travel in a day. Refrigeration changed how food could be produced, stored and transported. Scientific research and mass production were centralized and large factories grew to improve manufacturing efficiencies. Technology and fertilizer improved farm production while reducing the number of people needed to grow and harvest crops. Schools and universities grew to better pass on knowledge to more and more people.

3rd Industrial Revolution – Also known as the Digital Revolution, it started with the development of the transistor which governments and companies used in computers in the 1950s and 1960s. Then with development of the microprocessor by Intel in 1969 the digital age really started. The microprocessor enabled the creation of the personal computer and video game consoles. The internet connected computers to talk with each other, which enabled automated teller machines, better industrial robots, security monitoring, communication through e-mail, texting, and video. Then came the creation of cell phones, smart phones and tablets, digital cameras, high definition TV, and cloud computing. What started as universities and large companies sharing information online grew into everyone able to share thoughts, opinions and experiences with anyone, in any language, anywhere in the world. Kodak, the pioneer of the photography industry went out of business. Blockbuster, North America's largest movie rental company went out of business as online movies took over. Retail stores like Sears and J.C. Penney struggled to adapt to the world of online retailing that Amazon rules. Banks with hundreds of years of history are trying to adapt to new companies that have no physical presence or employees in local communities.

The Digital Revolution has seen disruption of almost all industries ranging from manufacturing to retail to government.

4th Industrial Revolution- The 3rd and 4th Industrial Revolutions are intertwined, but the 4th I.R. is really about when software and hardware communicate to make decisions without direct human involvement. It is a time where mass production moves to mass customization, allowing people to order exactly what they want because the manufacturing equipment and software can respond and make a car, clothes, or other machinery to needed specifications without much additional cost. Technology will be able to take over many everyday tasks, such as purchasing groceries or driving a car, to more skilled ones like testing blood or even performing surgeries. Education is becoming less centralized as the ability to deliver information to the individual over the internet improves. Manufacturing can be decentralized because connectivity enables research to be spread out geographically.

Each industrial Revolution built on the innovations of the previous one. Each Revolution provided new opportunities in the midst of disorder. Each revolution shows that change is constant and quickening. The companies and communities that prosper through revolutions are the ones that adapt quickly to change rather than holding onto what once was. They adapt to technology and the needs of customers, reinventing themselves in each time period to meet the challenges ahead. No company wants to be a buggy maker when everyone is buying a car, or a typewriter manufacturer as personal computers sales grow.



An Ancient Remedy Resurrected: Biochar



Biochar is another term for charcoal, particularly when used as a soil conditioner or amendment. It is made by heating biomass (wood, crop residue, or manure) to 500-700°C with a limited oxygen supply.

The simplest way to create biochar is with a campfire. Wood can be burned in a metal ring or pit and then smothered with dirt once it is glowing coals. The dirt stops oxygen from reaching the burning wood so that it ends up as biochar instead of ash.

In industrial systems the process (pyrolysis) slowly heats the biomass and holds it at a high temperature for minutes to days, depending on the type of biomass. As the organic matter is slowly charred vapours are released.

Pyrolysis systems turn organic matter into approximately 50% biochar and 50% vapour. In some systems the vapours are released into the atmosphere whereas in others they can be recovered and condensed into biofuels.

The roots of biochar lie in the amazon rainforest going back over two-thousand years ago. At the time, Indigenous populations of the amazon basin lived in settled communities and grew crops in patches of exceptionally fertile land called terra preta.

Soils in deforested areas of the amazon basin are normally only fertile for a short time. Mostly clay, nutrient cycling occurs very quickly as nutrients are used immediately and do not accumulate in the soil. This is one of the many reasons why deforestation of the amazon rainforest continues.

Biochar is very porous and acts like little sponges in the soil. It soaks up water and nutrients creating an excellent environment for beneficial bacterial and soil microflora to grow. Absorbed water and nutrients are slowly released and used as needed by the plants.

Additional benefits of adding biochar to soil include improved soil structure and reduced nutrient loss to ground or surface water. Fertilizer requirements can be reduced and what is applied will have a greater likelihood of usage by the plants.

Before adding biochar, it should be charged by soaking it in compost or dilute fertilizer. On its own biochar is inert, much like an empty carbon sponge with little nutrient content (unless made from biomass like manure or bones). If added dry biochar will soak up water and nutrients causing a temporary nutrient depletion in the soil.

The benefits of biochar can also be seen on a much larger scale. Biochar is an excellent way to store carbon for a long time, potentially thousands of years.

The carbon cycle is a natural and balanced system where carbon is moved from the atmosphere to plants to soils and back to the atmosphere. When biomass is converted into biochar it becomes a very slow-moving part of the carbon cycle.

Carbon that was once in the atmosphere is now buried in the soil in a stable format that can take thousands of years to break down and return to the atmosphere. Biochar has the potential to be a useful tool when mitigating the effects of climate change.

Despite being an old method of improving soils, biochar is still a relatively new product commercially. Currently there is limited availability and quality can be affected by the original biomass and how it was converted. Be sure to purchase biochar from a reputable source or have it tested.



Emergency Preparedness Week (May 1-7, 2022)



Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week) is a national event supported by Public Safety Canada, working closely with provincial and territorial emergency management organizations, Indigenous organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private sector who support activities at the local level. This annual event has been taking place for over 25 years, it traditionally takes place during the first full week of May, this year its May 1-7, 2022.

EP Week acts as a great reminder to ensure you are prepared for the unexpected. Emergencies can happen in an instant, and every person and family must do their part to ensure they are prepared for when an emergency occurs. Know the risks, make a plan for your household and make sure you have an emergency kit, with supplies to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours.



IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

Low Cost Ways to Prepare for an Emergency

Being prepared doesn't have to be costly. Learn how you can prepare for an emergency or disaster without spending a lot of money.

1. Learn about the risks in your community and start writing down your plan.
2. Talk to loved ones about what you might do and where you would go.
3. Build networks of support by getting to know your neighbours. They may be the first to lend a hand.
4. Build an emergency kit with items from your home, including important documents. Over time, add items. Check thrift shops and dollar stores for deals.
5. Write down items you can't live without, like photo albums, for a quick grab and go.
6. Update your contact list so you can reach loved ones, and download the free Alberta Emergency Alert App.

* Information from Government of Alberta

Toolkits for Seniors

Use the [Emergency preparedness toolkit for seniors](#) if you rely on others for assistance, or provide care and services for a senior.

This toolkit provides information on how to become better prepared to navigate emergencies, disasters and unexpected situations when they occur to reduce the impact and recovery time to you and those you care for.



Rocky Regional Recreation Centre

Free Recreation Pass

Recreation & Community Services
Town of Rocky Mountain House

To encourage active seniors, we offer a complimentary Recreation Pass to all those 75 years of age and older. This includes access to the fitness centre, public skating, public and length swim.



Credit Union Co-op
Aquatic Centre
ROCKYREGIONAL
RECREATION CENTRE



Credit Union Co-op
Aquatic Centre

To celebrate Seniors (60+) in our community, we'll be offering complimentary fitness centre access and swims all week.

June 6 - 12, 2022

Seniors' Week



Rocky Chamber of Commerce

Download Our Free App Today



Rocky Chamber | 403-845-5450 | www.rockychamber.org | info@rockychamber.org

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	403 844 8500
Clearwater County After Hours Emergency Number	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.albertafirebans.ca





Publication Mail Agreement No. 40031689

Return undeliverable items to:
Clearwater County, 4340 - 47 Avenue,
Box 550, Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1A4
admin@clearwatercounty.ca

Call us at 403-845-4444
Office Hours: Weekdays, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Scan this QR code to
visit our website at
www.clearwatercounty.ca



Like us on Facebook or follow us on
Twitter @clearwatercnty to keep up-
to-date with Clearwater County news.