



Clearwater County Highlights

YEAR IN REVIEW
2022

MDP PUBLIC HEARING

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

**MDP PUBLIC HEARING
FEB. 21, 2023
9:00 am
Lou Soppit
Community Centre**



**Municipal
Development
Plan Review**

A NEWSLETTER
FOR RESIDENTS OF
CLEARWATER COUNTY

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clearwatercounty.ca

A Message from the Reeve

On behalf of Council, I would like to wish everyone a happy New Year. I hope you enjoyed a safe and happy holiday season.

As we look back on the previous year, we had many accomplishments and challenges. When the COVID-19 social gathering restrictions were lifted, Council and Administration were able to hold in-person public engagements sessions for the MDP Review over the summer. See page 31 for the current update on this project and details on the scheduled public hearing taking place on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

During the successful and safe construction season there were many infrastructure and capital project completed which included Nordegg paving, Nordegg Phase 2 residential subdivision, Broadband Core Backbone Ferrier to Nordegg is complete (connection is not lit between Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg), construction of the Leslieville Fire Training Centre, reconstructing River Road (4km) from Hwy 11A to Hwy 11 (paving to commence in 2023), Beaver Flats Road grading RR 6-0 (8.6km) from 4.6 km north of Hwy 12 to Twp Rd 42-0, five bridge/ bridge culvert replacements. See pages 32-37 for project highlights and pictures. Some projects are ongoing into 2023, please watch the newsletter for 2023 project status updates or visit our website / social media to stay current with projects and programs.

Challenges were faced with two wildfires and one flooding event last year, all of which showed how Administration is adaptable to various situations to ensure the safety of the community. A recap of the Black Mountain Wildfire is on page 27.



Daryl Lougheed
Reeve

As with each year in review newsletter we highlight projects and facts from each department, please see pages 13-29 for more information.

Near the end of last year on December 20, 2022, Council approved the 2023 operating and capital budgets. This will be another ambitious year of construction projects and we have full confidence in Administration to help guide us through the challenges that lie ahead. Council is supportive of fiscally responsible decisions that balance the needs of the present with the needs of the future especially as the world around us experiences much uncertainty. See page 11 for budget highlights showing how each municipal tax dollar is spent.

In 2023, many big projects will be underway with public engagement opportunities starting soon. Some of these projects include the Area Structure Plans (ASPs) for the hamlets of Leslieville and Condor, Nordegg Development, Village of Caroline – Clearwater County Amalgamation Study.

As always, residents are encouraged to speak to their Division Councillor if they have concerns or issues that they'd like addressed, Council appreciates respectful and courteous dialogue from community members as the backbone of our community is reflected in how we treat one another. Council's contact information can be found on the next page.

On behalf of Council, I wish you and your families all the best for 2023.

Sincerely,

Reeve Lougheed

Clearwater County Council Term 2021-25



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Upcoming Regular Council Meetings

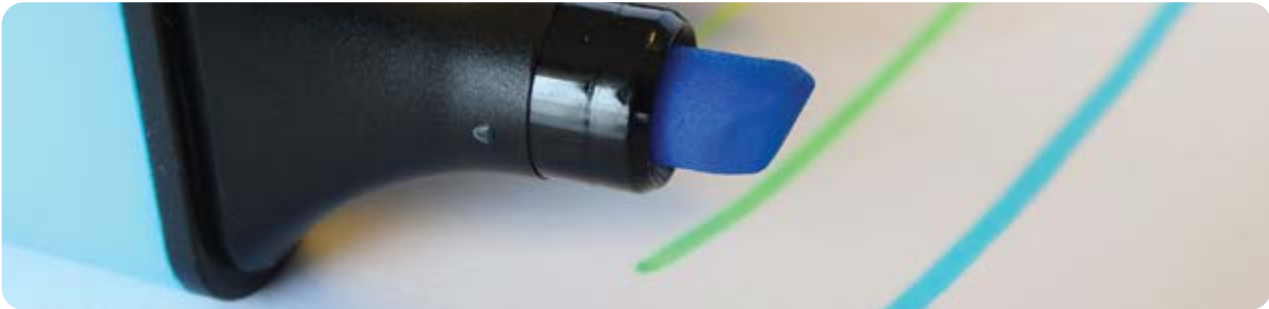
February 14 & 28, 2023
March 14 & 28, 2023
April 11 & 25, 2023
May 9 & 23, 2023

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 December 20, 2022

Four Year Financial Plan Summary

Council received the Clearwater County Four-Year Financial Plan Summary report for information as presented.

Budget Approval – Broadband

Council approved the Four-year Financial Plan for broadband operations and the 2023 Core Backbone Operating Budget of \$1,438,601, which will be funded using \$1,182,601 from tax revenue and \$256,000 funded by sales of goods and services. Council approved the 10-year Capital Plan for the Core Backbone Project. 2023 capital expenditures of \$420,000 are to be funded by a transfer from restricted surplus of \$300,000 and tax revenue of \$120,000.

Strategic Planning Committee Recommendations for 2023 Budget Approval

Council approved Clearwater County's 2023 operating budget for programs that encompass culverts, approaches, summer gravelling, winter gravelling and Nordegg operations for a total of \$2,682,819 being funded through tax revenue of \$2,682,819.

Council approved the balance of the Clearwater County's 2023 operating budget excluding the programs of culvert, approach, summer gravelling, winter gravelling, Nordegg operations and broadband operations for a total of \$43,843,604 being funded through tax revenue of \$32,028,942, other revenue of \$7,659,889 and restricted surplus of \$4,154,774 and a budget of \$22,000,000 for amortization.

Council approved Clearwater County's 2023 gravel road rehabilitation capital budget of \$4,926,000 funded through tax revenue.

Council approved the balance of Clearwater County's 2023 capital budget excluding gravel road rehabilitation and broadband capital totaling \$49,777,675 being funded by \$2,057,800 of tax revenue, \$11,810,550 by other capital revenues and \$35,909,325 being funded through restricted surplus.

Council approved Clearwater County's 2023 budgeted restricted surplus transfers of \$4,899,100 and debt payment of \$416,738 being funded through tax revenue.

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



Council Highlights Continued

First Reading of Bylaw 1134/22 for Application No. 12/22 to Amend the Land Use Bylaw

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1134/22 for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/- 17.30 acres of NE 16 40 07 W5M from Agriculture District "A" to Institutional District "P" for the purpose of constructing and operating a church.

First Reading of Bylaw 1131/22 for Application No. 11/22 to amend the Land Use Bylaw

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 1131/22 for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw 714/01 to redesignate +/- 7.51 acres of SE 27-40-15-W5M within the Hamlet of Nordegg from the Agriculture District "A" to the Nordegg Historic Core Commercial/ Retail District "NHC".

Road Closure Application - Road Plan 4719 Y

Council approved the closure of a part of a road described in a surveyed road plan 4719 Y (all of road lying within SE 24-39-05-W5M, Title No. 222 054 732) that Council determines is no longer a use for the travelling public in accordance with Section 24 of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended.

Adoption of Terms of Reference for the Condor and Leslieville ASP Steering Committee

Council adopted of Terms of Reference for the Condor and Leslieville ASP Steering Committee. First Reading of Bylaw 1132/22 - Clearwater County Municipal Development Plan Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1132/22 and directed administration to proceed with scheduling a public hearing.

Bylaw 1035/22 - Council Committees

Council granted first, second, permission for third reading, and third reading of Bylaw 1035/22 for the purpose of establishing council committees.

Councillor Attendance

Council authorized Councillor attendance to Alberta's non-profit leaders and professionals conference, scheduled for March 9-10, 2023, and the Alberta Municipal Climate Leadership Council meeting scheduled for January 12, 2023. Wild Rose School Division Concerns Regarding

Children and Family Services

Council directed administration to write a letter acknowledging their support to the Wild Rose School Division in response to their November 22, 2022, letter about the Children and Family Services System.

Council meetings are live streamed & recorded, watch them at your convenience:
www.clearwatercounty.ca/Council or
www.youtube.com/ClearwaterCounty



Don't forget! You can drop-in with a Councillor once a week at the County office. The monthly schedule is available at: www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/drop-in.



Capital Projects Status Report

Public Works Infrastructure

Gravel Road Rehabilitation

The construction crew is working on Twp Rd 37-0, a 2400m project west of Rge Rd 4-5. The crew has approximately 2000m of surface finished with surface graveled and 400m remains to be completed in 2023.

The crew is also working on Twp Rd 41-0, a 3200 m project west of Rge Rd 6-3 (Oras Road). The crew has the entire 3200m roughed in with surface gravel. Final cleanup remains to be done in 2023.

Weather permitting, crews will continue working on burning brush piles from projects (pictured below).

Grading/ Base/ Pave

River Road

This project includes reconstructing Rge Rd 7-4A from Hwy 11 to 11A (approximately 4km). It also includes a 300m pedestrian trail connection from Hwy 11A to the south entrance of the North Saskatchewan River Park.

Paradox Access Solutions commenced operations on August 10, 2022. The revised budget for 2022 is now \$1,933,400. Paradox has completed and graveled all 4 km of the project. The contractor has installed the guardrail and the walking trail. Seeding and deficiencies will be addressed in 2023.



Nordegg Development

Nordegg Paving Projects

Projects 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).

The County has since awarded this project to T.B.L. Construction Ltd. Due to other project commitments the contractor will be unable to complete or commence this project in 2022. This project will carry forward and be completed early spring 2023.

Nordegg Phase 2 Residential Subdivision

This development includes 28 Residential Lots and four (4) Commercial Lots. This portion of the project includes site clearing, grading, curb and gutter, sidewalks, sanitary services, and water services.

Shallow utilities and landscaping will be completed in 2023 under a separate contract. The grading portion of his contract is now complete. Work is ongoing for the shallow utility design.

Nordegg Industrial Subdivision Phase 2

WSP Engineering has commenced 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. Detailed design is scheduled to be completed in January. The budget in 2022 is \$75,000.

Capital Projects Status Report

Nordegg South Access Road

The new access will provide a direct route for quarry traffic to Hwy 11 reducing the amount of heavy truck traffic within the hamlet. This road will also provide a second access for the hamlet.

The design includes preserving the existing ATV bridge and re-aligning the trail. Detailed design of the road and bridge is complete with construction to commence in 2023. West Country Engineering is continuing with permitting application process. The budget in 2022 is \$155,000.

Grading Projects

Beaver Flat Road

Clearwater County has since tendered the construction of 8.65km of the Beaver Flat Road (Range Road 6-0) from north of Township Road 41-0 to Township Road 42-0.

Council awarded the contract and approved a revised budget on August 23, 2022. Completion is scheduled for fall 2023. Howitt Construction Ltd. is the successful bidder with a revised budget of \$7,767,756.

Howitt Construction has stopped working due to weather conditions. Road surface has been graveled and roadway signs re-installed. County has begun snow maintenance on the project. Howitt Construction will resume operations once ground conditions allow work to commence in the spring of 2023.

Facilities

Leslieville Fire Training Area Phase 2 includes the construction of the concrete and gravel pads for fire training, water main with hydrants, concrete U-dyke, and the completion of the internal road.

Urban Dirtworks Inc. commenced construction August 9, 2022, Staff recently completed a final inspection and identified minor deficiencies. Most deficiencies have been addressed; the contractor is awaiting delivery for two hydrant caps to finish this project. The overall project cost is estimated to be \$605,000 (pictured below).



Rocky to Nordegg Trail

Multiple priorities have been established in 2022 for advancing the Rocky to Nordegg Trail. Currently, the trail is constructed from the Forestry Trunk Road to Saunders/ Alexo. Construction priorities in 2022 include:

- Install bridge on Shunda access road for trail tie in from Shunda Viewpoint. The bridge has been re-decked and awaiting permitting for installation.
- Construct staging area adjacent to Harlech Road (Swale Road), currently under construction.
- Construct new trail and bridge installation from Saunders to just west of Baker Road, currently under construction.

Construction schedule is dependent on Alberta Environment & Parks permitting. The budget in 2022 is \$1,400,000 and is reflected in the Agriculture and Community Services budget.



Capital Projects Status Report Continued

Harlech Staging Area and Trail

Crews have begun constructing the staging area and trail link to the Harlech Recreation Area. Gravel surfacing will be applied once supply is available from Fish Creek Quarry.

Saunders to Baker Trail

Clearing operations are complete with salvage timber being removed from right of way to prepare for trail construction and bridge installations. Trail work has been completed around the Misty Valley bypass with bridge installations to take place in the spring of 2023 (pictures below). Work continues to progress as weather permits.



Leslieville Recreation Area

Preliminary planning is underway for the 8-acre area directly south of the Leslieville Public Services Building/ Fire Training Area. Planning includes user group consultation, visioning, and development recommendations.

Staff have reviewed the concept plan and are currently working on the detailed design. The budget in 2022 is \$100,000 and is reflected in the Agriculture and Community Services budget.

Public Works Operations

Condor Sanitary Lines/Curb & Gutter/Drainage Improvements

The contract was awarded to Northside Construction. The contractor will be returning within 2023 to complete curb and gutter and landscaping (pictured below).



Capital Projects Status Report Continued

Regional Leslieville Wastewater Treatment System

Construction will continue in Spring of 2023 due to some components unable to be completed in frozen conditions.

Leslieville Sanitary/Curb & Gutter/Drainage Improvements

Urban Dirtworks was the successful contractor for the Leslieville improvements. Deficiencies and a couple sections of sanitary re-lining to be completed in 2023.

Bridges (Replacement/Rehabilitation)

Bridge File (BF) 02394, located on Raven River, on Range Road 6-1, construction began on July 4th, 2022. The bridge opened on November 24, 2022, and deficiencies will be completed within Summer 2023.

BF 7038, located over Tributary to Red Deer River, on Range Road 4-4, The project has been delayed until January/February 2023.

Bridges - General

A grant of \$1,500,000 was obtained, from 'Alberta Environment & Parks' (AEP), for the replacement of BF 78211, 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. Construction is scheduled for 2023.

Solid Waste and Recycling

Clearwater Regional Landfill - Industrial Cell's Cap Repairs and Maintenance Clearwater County has received two bid submissions for the Repair/Maintenance and upgrades of previously identified areas within the Closed Industrial Cells at the Regional Landfill. Pricing is currently under review, with the award and construction scheduled to be complete by November 15, 2022.

Clearwater County Residents Recognized as Exceptional Community Leaders

At the December 20, 2022 Council meeting, the Honourable Gerald Soroka, Yellowhead Member of Parliament, presented Deputy Reeve Gennifer Mehlhaff and Clearwater County resident, Cammie Laird, with Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Pins.



Pictured left to right: Reeve Daryl Lougheed, Deputy Reeve Gennifer Mehlhaff, former Councillors and Reeves Cammie Laird and Jim Duncan, and Honourable Gerald Soroka, Yellowhead Member of Parliament.



2023 Budget Deliberations

Following three-days of budget deliberations between December 7-9, 2022, Clearwater County Council approved the four-year financial and 10-year capital plans at their regular meeting held December 20, 2022. These plans include operating and capital budgets for 2023.

The 2023 operating and capital budgets include operating revenues of \$56,229,889 and operating expenses of \$69,965,024 (including amortization) using \$4,154,773 of restricted funds for operations, capital revenue of \$11,810,550 and capital expenses of \$55,123,675, using \$36,209,325 of restricted funds for capital.

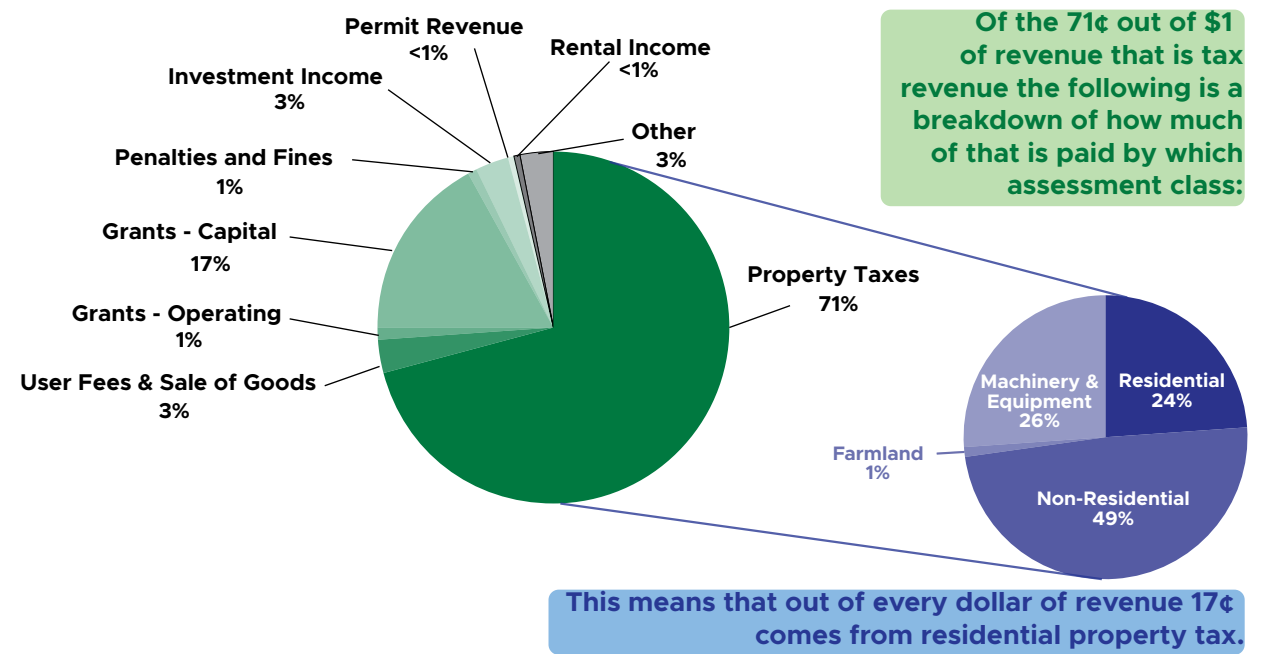
Highlights of capital projects proposed for 2023 include (see list on the right column):

- Gravel road rehabilitation (\$4.93 Million[M]),
- Beaver Flats road grading (\$6.17M),
- Condor replacement of collection mains, curb and gutter / storm water improvements (\$1.18M),
- Replacement of bridge and bridge culvert rehabilitation (\$8.89M),
- Leslieville East road base/pave (\$4.01M),
- River Road grading/base/pave (\$2.9M),
- Condor paving (\$2.13M),
- Leslieville Recreation Area (\$1.65M),
- Broadband Core Backbone (\$420,000),
- Nordegg Industrial Subdivision (\$3.11M),
- Nordegg Phase 2 Residential Subdivision (\$1.2M)
- Nordegg South Townsite Access Road (\$3.28M)

2023 Budget Highlights

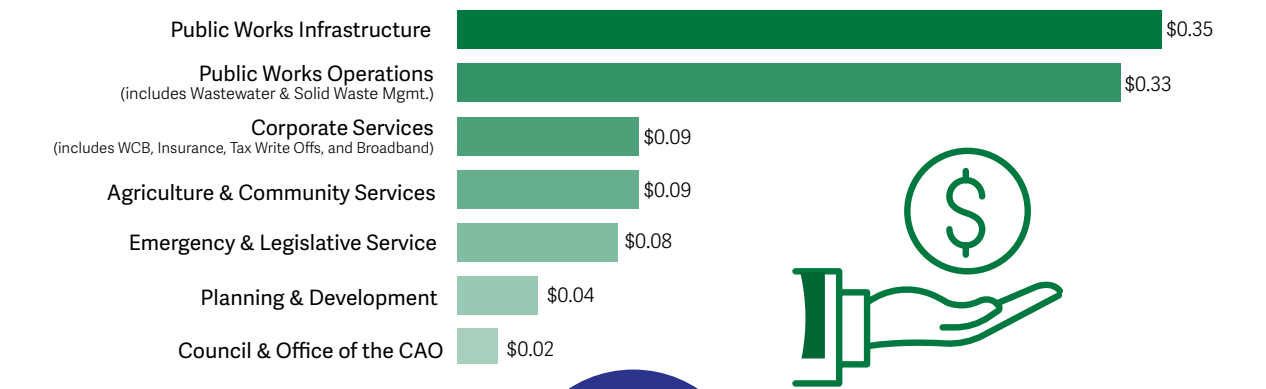
Where do municipal tax dollars come from?

This diagram provides a summary snapshot of where each one dollar (\$1) of Clearwater County’s municipal tax revenue comes from (based on the proposed 2023 operating and capital revenues).



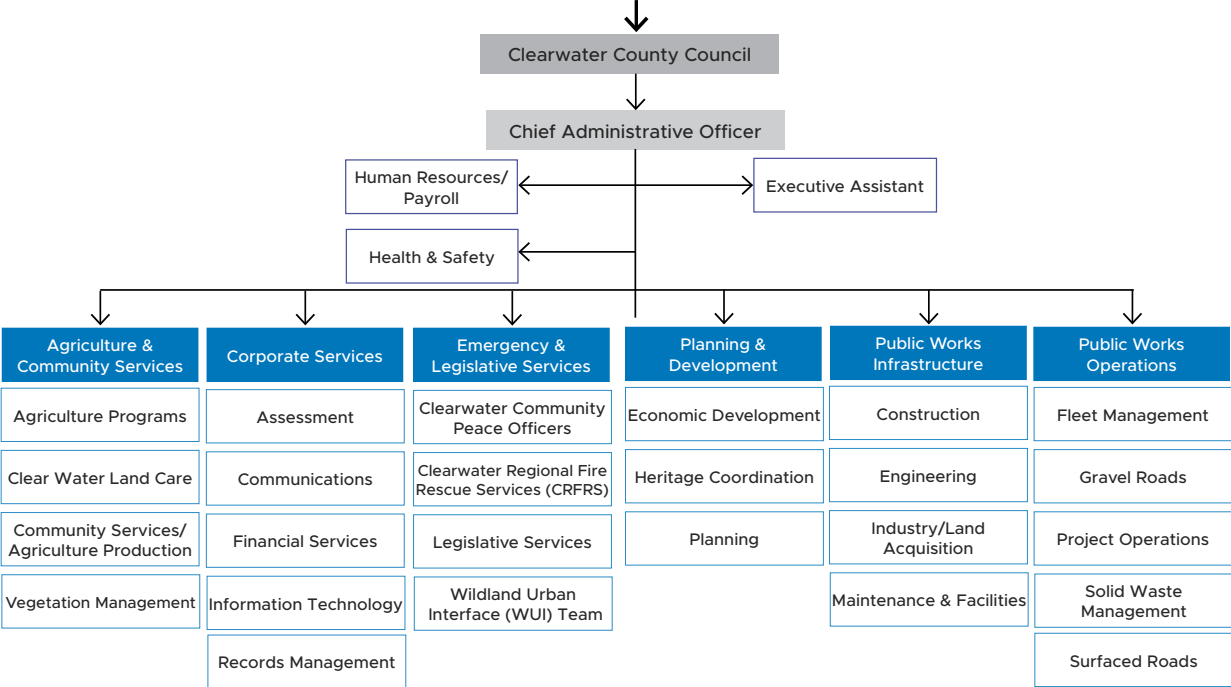
How is each municipal tax dollar spent?

This diagram provides a summary snapshot of how one dollar (\$1) of Clearwater County’s municipal tax revenue is allocated (based on the proposed 2023 budgeted operating and capital expenses, not including transfers to reserves or restricted funding used for tangible capital assets).



2022 Year in Review - Communications

Clearwater County Residents



Clearwater County Overall Organizational Chart, 2022

Clearwater County is separated into six departments, each strategically organized to create the most efficient service delivery to residents. The organizational chart reflects *Municipal Government Act* legislative requirements, public service and program demands. The graphic on this page shows the different departments and what they are responsible for.

The County is structured in a comparable format of other rural municipalities. Over the decades, the County has adapted to the growing demands of provincial off-loading, changes in legislation and Council direction.

The next pages will go into detail of each department and a recap of some project highlights from 2022. To learn more about any of these departments and their responsibilities you can visit www.clearwatercounty.ca and using the "County Services" tab, take a deeper look into what each department is up to. You can also find relevant legislation, forms, and contact information here.

!!! In 2023, Clearwater County will be 38 years old!



How we Communicate

Clearwater County utilizes a variety of communication tools to keep residents, businesses and tourists informed. Below are statistics as of Dec. 31, 2022 and a list of the channels that Clearwater County uses.



4,500 +
Facebook
followers



1,700 +
Twitter
followers



1,250 +
Instagram
followers



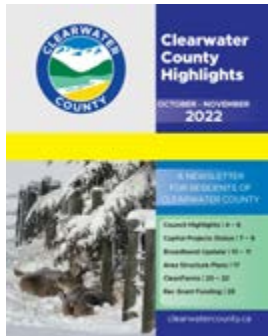
34 Council Meetings Live
Streamed & Recorded
23 Videos Uploaded



225
LinkedIn
followers



81,000 +
website page
visits / year



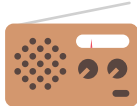
Five (5) 32-page issues
One (1) 48-page Year in Review issue
Mailed to +5,200 households



13 Videos / Podcasts
109 video views
154 audio listens



Local
Newspapers
(Mountaineer,
Western Star,
The Albertan)



Local Radio
Rewind
94.5FM



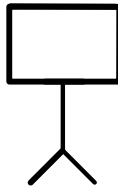
Direct Mail



800+
E-News
subscribers



Alberta
Emergency
Alert



Signage /
Posters



Agriculture & Community Services

Agriculture Programs
Clear Water Land Care
Community Services / Agriculture Production
Vegetation Management

Agriculture & Community Services department supports the farming community through education and product sales/rentals. Over the years this department has taken on new responsibilities of community services, such as community halls/recreations boards, and cemeteries, just to name a few.

- **Agriculture Programs and Production Services** supports the farming community in Clearwater County through education, workshops, equipment rental and grant funding.
- **Vegetation Management** supports and protects our road network by enhancing safety through roadside brushing, grass mowing, spraying and seeding.
- **Landcare** provides information and educational opportunities to landowners and residents to protect vital water resources, riparian wetlands, promote environmental stewardship, and support the efforts against the Mountain Pine Beetle, as well as the Sasquatch & Partners initiative.
- **Community Services** supports community halls as well as regional and County bylaw recreation groups through grant funding, libraries, historic facilities/events, the Rocky to Nordegg Trail, and Highway Cleanup just to name a few.

In 2022 the Agriculture & Community Services hosted the following workshops and events:

- David Thompson Clean Up - July
- Working Well Workshop - March & November
- Green Acreages - April
- Pollinator Workshop - May
- Weed Workshops - April and May
- Ladies Livestock Lessons - January
- Recreational Stewardship Fair - August
- Cattlemen's Day - November
- Realtor Workshop
- Educational Ag Tour
- Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP)



2022 Highlights

FUNDING & PROGRAMS

Mountain Pine Beetle

In 2022, Clearwater County was successful in receiving a Mountain Pine Beetle grant which financially helped us to survey and control MPB trees for landowners in high priority areas. Staff coordinated a mail out to every County landowner in the Spring with information regarding the grant and how to identify MPB on their property. One confirmed property with MPB attacked trees was visited by a hired contractor, TL Tree Services, to control the trees within the County in total seven (7) trees were controlled. The 2022 MPB program was successful and another grant application was submitted in the fall for 2023 to run a similar program.

Caring for my Land (C4mL)

A farm and acreage stewardship program with a goal to protect ground and surface water. Currently, Alberta Environment and Parks Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) is the source of the C4mL program funding. The WRRP criteria emphasizes restoring function and increasing the resiliency of watersheds to flooding or drought. In 2022, a total of 8 projects were completed with \$30,000 compensated to landowners. This resulted in nearly 400 acres of watershed enhancement or restoration by local producers.

Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

In 2022 Landcare staff assisted producers with starting or completing their EFP. Clearwater County currently has one certified EFP technician able to help on a first come first serve basis.



Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)

Is currently transitioning to the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) as the latest funding agreement ends and a new one begins. Initially, the SCAP is expected to offer similar programs to the CAP, such as the water and technology programs. In 2022 Landcare staff assisted a handful of producers with acquiring water licenses for developing water sources, specifically dugouts of a certain size and wells for non-house hold use. The Farm Water Supply Program is still open for applications.

Conifer Tree Seedling Programs

In partnership with West Fraser, Clearwater County has been making tree seedlings available for purchase for the past seven years. This not for-profit venture has offered hot-lifted seedlings in bundles of fifteen, at \$4.50 per bundle with a delivery near the end of June/beginning of July. Whether to establish or rejuvenate a shelterbelt or enhance a natural wooded area, this has been a great opportunity to plant trees for the future. Clearwater County staff sold a total of 10,000 seedlings, which consisted of lodgepole pine and white spruce, to landowners in the 2022 year.



2022 Highlights Continued

2022 Recreation Projects that Received Funding

Raven Recreation Board

- Aspen Ranch Outdoor Education Centre received funding to restock their children's fishpond.
- Rocky South 4H Beef Club received funding to purchase matching t-shirts for the club.

North Saskatchewan Recreation Board

- The Confluence Heritage Society received funding to help accessorize their Fur Trade Play Fort Play Space with a new telescope.
- The Rocky Canoe Club has received funding for an Equipment Storage Facility for their club gear.
- The Cow Lake Campground received funds to purchase safety buoys for their swimming areas, a new volleyball net, sand for the horseshoe pit, volleyball court, and playground.
- The Prentice Creek Equestrian Centre received funds for mechanical work on their RTV.
- The Everdell Community Hall was approved for funding to assist them in building a public playground.

BearSmart: As a joint collaboration with Clearwater County and Mountainview County, there were two BearSmart workshops held in the Spring of 2022. One workshop was specifically for Campground Operators and the other was open to the public.

Burnstick Lake Day Use: funding was used to remove the old dock and install new dock.



Burnstick Lake Campground
Playground Upgrades

2022 Projects at the County North Quarter

Eco-Buffer

During Spring 2022, Landcare Staff was busy planting an eco-buffer west of the three row shelterbelt planted in 2021. Site preparation included, the area being sprayed with herbicide, rototilled, flagged, and planted by hired tree planters. Seedlings are planted in a strategic manner to mimic natural forest habitat. Small shrubs (buffalo berry, shrubby cinquefoil, etc.) along with the odd larger shrub and deciduous tree are placed along the outside. Tall shrubs (saskatoons, spruce trees, etc.) are planted along the inside rows. After planting staff staked hemp mats around each seedling to suppress weeds. Once established, we hope to showcase the eco-buffer and shelterbelt projects to County landowners for future tours, workshops and events.



Bat Houses

With the assistance of summer field staff, the individual bat houses at the north quarter were replaced with multi chamber bat houses. Multiple-chambered or nursery boxes offer more roosting space and allow the bats within to move throughout the chambers as the temperature changes.

Sasquatch & Partners

Some call Sasquatch the hide and seek champion. Our mostly elusive Sasquatch, together with his municipal partners, continued to promote environmental stewardship and encourage locals and visitors to enjoy their recreational experience responsibly.

The slogan "Welcome to Our Backyard" reminds everyone the lands west of Rocky Mountain House and Caroline are like the neighbors backyard.

The tag line "**Please enjoy it with respect**" explains how to behave in the neighborhood. The hope is that people respect their neighbors while enjoying their recreation of choice.



The image of a Sasquatch, illustrated by local artist Ben Crane, has two telling poses. The open arm version conjures a "we welcome you" to enjoy Clearwater County. The body language of the folded arms states "let's talk about the best ways to enjoy yourself". This year we introduced an image of a fishing sasquatch from our colouring book.

Sasquatch & Partners

Locally, industry and individuals joined together under the title "Sasquatch and Partners" to guide education and awareness of the "Backyard" initiative. The eastern slopes municipalities of Yellowhead, Brazeau, Greenview and Mountain View joined together to do the same.

Landcare provides logistic support for Clearwater County's participation in the initiative. Items like road and information signage, educational literature, promotional merchandise and social media fall to Landcare staff.



Jackfish Lake

Northfork

Where else can Sasquatch be found?

With the increase in backcountry use seen through the past few summers, Sasquatch gained a larger presence in the backcountry in hopes of encouraging responsible recreational use on public lands, so users "tread carefully" and enjoy our backyard with respect. As a result, "rule" signage was put together and installed in various locations. This year we added a fifth sign at the Nordegg staging area just south of Hwy 11.

There are nineteen sign locations for raising awareness of behaving responsibly while enjoying the wilderness. A blue "Welcome to our Backyard" was installed in the Spring 2022 at Jackfish Lake and another will soon be installed along Hwy 22 South where the Mountainview County border meets Clearwater County.



2022 Recreation Projects



Burnstick Lake Day Use: Installation of a new dock.



Cowboy Trail Campground Playground Install: the preparation of the playground area was a joint coordination between Public Works & Ag/Community Services. The playground was installed in one day with a supervisor from BDI Playgrounds assisting our crews.



2022 Agriculture & Community Services

Cattlemen's Day

The 19th annual Cattlemen's Day event was held live at Leslieville Hall, with over 100 participants that included a number of guest speakers, along with a mini trade show, spectacular roast beef lunch with all the trimmings and plenty of exceptional door prizes.



Realtor Workshop

What would have been the 9th annual Realtor Awareness workshop was cancelled for a second year due to pandemic restrictions. For the last two years it had been pared down to an event primarily for local Realtors. With the focus on weed awareness during the listing and sale of rural real estate, Ag services continued to provide weed status on any properties in the county while also supplying free aerial photos of subject properties upon request.

Educational Ag Tour (EAT)

Formerly the Ag. Theme Park, EAT (Educational Ag Tour) is an ag. themed farm tour rather than a single location event sponsored by the Rocky Agricultural Society with the assistance of Clearwater County Agriculture and Community Services. It provides a more varied experience for students while being less labour intensive than the theme park. Cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, it would usually include about 300 grade 4 students from half a dozen local schools.

West Country Ag. Tour

The 36th annual West Country Ag Tour sponsored by Agriculture and Community Services was cancelled for the 3rd time in its long history. From pick-up trucks on dusty backroads to air conditioned comfort in large streamlined buses, the tour has showcased the uniqueness of rural life in Clearwater County. Stops have included everything from micro breweries to macro ranching.

Rural Beautification Awards

The annual rural beautification awards competition went ahead even though the number of nominations were down considerably from previous years. The tour was comprised of four judges from Ag and Community Services on the tour instead of the traditional five that represented the media, the horticultural and landscape industry and agriculture. The three winners were:

- **Retired Farm:** Doug and Diane Lutz
- **Acreage over 15 years:** Scott and Cammie Laird
- **Most Creative Design:** Trent Vanderaa and Sandra Kanten
- **Rural Commercial:** Lazy M Lodge



Corporate Services

Assessment
Communications
Financial Services
Information Technology
Records Management

The Corporate Services department entails responsibilities of:

- The Assessment team provides professional services related to the determination of fair market values for all properties. These assessed values form the basis for the calculation of property taxes.
- The Communications team provides strategic communications planning to support Clearwater County's programs and services, by providing accurate and timely information to residents and staff through research, branding standards and visual identity, media relations, crisis communications, development and maintenance of electronic communications channels, and public engagement programs.
- The financial services team provides monetary planning, reporting and transactional processing to ensure the county's fiscal obligations are met on a timely basis while safeguarding its assets.
- The IT team provides planning, maintenance, support and control for the county's information and communication systems.
- Records Management portfolio ensures consistency and control over internal record keeping, ensuring records are safeguarded yet accessible for appropriate and authorized purposes.

13,492
Tax Roll Accounts*
(excluding tax exempt and inactive rolls)

*** 5,734 of these are residential assessments**

72 Leslieville Sewer Accounts

48 Condor Sewer Accounts

40 Nordegg Water & Sewer Accounts



Broadband Network Operations

News Release - January 12, 2023

Clearwater County has awarded the broadband network operations to Rigstar Industrial Telecom a division of Rigstar Communications Inc, an Alberta based entity (Rigstar), who will operate and manage the fibre network, built and owned by Clearwater County, to optimize the delivery of accelerated high-speed Internet for the municipality of Clearwater County, its residents and businesses. Rigstar will also facilitate the on-boarding and management of any Internet Service Providers that qualify to participate in the 'Open Access' network.

This contract highlights a major achievement in Clearwater County's backbone core infrastructure project that will enable telecommunication providers to bridge the digital divide within the community. Rigstar, headquartered in Calgary, AB, with Field Offices located throughout Western Canada, maintains an Alberta based 24/7 Network Operations Centre (NOC) which in conjunction with the Company's solutions and network specialists provides the capacity and expertise to efficiently operate, manage, monitor and service the Clearwater County "Open Access" network.

Rigstar has been designing, building, operating, and supporting telecommunication infrastructure and services for 25-years to government organizations, businesses and residents that operate and/or live in urban and extreme remote environments.

"Clearwater County is excited to be able to partner with an experienced operator that understands the rural environment," said Reeve Daryl Loughheed. "With over 75% of the County's municipal property tax base coming from industry and the oil & gas sector, enhanced core backbone Infrastructure will support and sustain our biggest tax base to thrive in our community."



"The Rigstar Team is incredibly enthusiastic and honoured to have been awarded the Network Operator contract from Clearwater County, explains Rigstar CEO/President Daniel Grisdale. This award demonstrates the Company's strength and abilities to provide world-class operational and management services in the Telecommunications sector to visionary entities in Alberta and Western Canada. Twenty-five years of innovation and experience provides a stable and strong foundation that allows Rigstar to execute and excel as a network operator and manager that supports industrial telecom excellence for our clients. The Clearwater County Team has been wonderful to work with, adding greatly to the underlying strength and success of this initiative to level the digital playing field throughout the Municipality and Alberta. Much Gratitude and Thankfulness."

Media Inquiries:
Clearwater County Communications
communications@clearwatercounty.ca

Rigstar Industrial Telecom
Kyle Scutt, Marketing Director
kyle.scutt@rigstar.ca or 403-243-0600



Emergency & Legislative Services

- Clearwater Community Peace Officers
- Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS)
- Legislative Services
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Team

The Emergency & Legislative Services department supports the management and operations of Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS), Community Peace Officer (CPO), Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Team, and other legislative requirements of Clearwater County.

- Emergency & Legislative Services (ELS) department's mission as a collective is public safety and intermunicipal collaboration in alignment with provincial legislation and Council(s) strategic plan and set service levels. This department adheres to specific legislation under the Municipal Government Act, Emergency Management Act, the Peace Officer Act, the Traffic Safety Codes Act and Local Authorities Election Act.
- CRFRS as a regional service that provides Fire Suppression, Vehicle Rescue, Medical Response, Water/Ice Rescue and Public Education. Both fire and emergency management functions of the department are a regional partnership in which the County is managing partner and agreements are in place with respective municipalities related to service levels and budgets.
- CPOs provide proactive education and enforcement programs, to ensure traffic safety and infrastructure protection.
- CPOs powers are assigned by Alberta's Solicitor General and they enforce provincial legislation, including the Traffic Safety Act.

Community Peace Officers

Clearwater Community Peace Officers seen a busy year in 2022, some of the highlights include:

Violation Tickets Issued in 2022	
Speed	1136
Excessive Speed	55
Stop sign/Seatbelt	74
Uninsured/Suspended/ No Drivers License/Unregistered	241
Off Highway Vehicles	16
Careless/Distracted/Liquor	15
Overload/Ban/Bridge	19
Commercial Vehicle	152
Total:	1708

The above statistics are broken down on the next page.



Tim Horton's Camp Day 2022

2022 CPO Highlights

- Highest speed on County Road – 171 kph in a 90 kph zone Rainy Creek!**
- Failure to stop at a stop sign – 18**
- Seatbelt – 56**
- Unregister MV – 183**
- No Insurance – 6**
- No Driver's License – 38**
- Suspended Driver – 14**
- Operate OHV- no helmets – 6**
- Pass School Bus with lights on – 1**
- Fail to stop for Police – 1**
- Overloads on Restricted Bridge – 4**



2022 Files	
Check Stops	4
Vehicle Inspections	80
Off Highway Vehicles	5
Court/Warrants	75
Bylaw/Other Legislation	4
Education Public & Industry	11
Assist: Clearwater County, Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services, Public & RCMP	30
Infrastructure, Public Safety & Traffic	133
Total:	342

Infrastructure Protection

This is what the officers are doing by checking the following permits or weighing larger vehicles to ensure they are within the legal weight on our roads and bridges. On top of this the officers check any complaints of vehicles causing road damage or leaving debris that may cause road damage in the future.

Single Trip (1000's) - Single trip permits are issued for all non-standard truck/trailer configuration and does not include regular truck traffic. Single Trip Permits are required on a heavy truck haul with a single load.

RUA - Road Use Permits are required on all truck hauls that are 10 or more loads in a day.

LOADS (10000's) – Are RUA on vehicles that are considered to be overweight.

Year	Single Trip (1000's)	RUA	LOADS (10000's)
2021	5317	400	55487
2022	6644	443	51244

More details on the above statistics:

- 443 Road Use Agreements (RUA) with 51,244 truck units** (does not include the 6644 Single Trip Loads or non-permitted legal loads)
- 6,644 Single Trip Permits were issued in Clearwater County in 2022**
- 7% decrease in Loads/RUA in 2022**
- 10% increase in # of RUA issued in 2022**
- 21% increase in Single Trips permits issued in 2022**
- 47% of RUA's checked by officers**



Regional Fire 2022 Highlights

In 2022, Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) responded to a total of 671 calls. Below is the breakdown of calls and the call volume percentage change from 2021 to 2022.

Rescue		Public Services		Fire		Medical	
Motor Vehicle Collision	124	Hazmat	12	Structure	28	Co-Response	78
Off Hwy Vehicles	13	Public Service	1	Rubbish/Trash	4	First Response	117
Aircraft Emergency	1	Carbon Monoxide	11	WUI	57		
Ice / Water	7	Citizen Assist	11	Motor Vehicle	32		
Farm Incident	0	Electrical Hazard	11	Oil & Gas	1		
Industrial	4	Other	5	False Alarms	126		
Other	5			Fire Investigation	8		
				Mutual Aid	8		
				Other	7		
Total Calls						671	

Call Type	2021	2022	+/- % change
MVC	110	124	+12.7%
OHV	16	13	-18.7%
Water Rescue	7	7	0%
CO Alarm	11	11	0%
False Alarm	112	126	+12.5%
Structure Fire	25	28	+12%
Vehicle Fire	34	32	-5.8%
WUI Fire	63	57	-9.5%
Oil & Gas	1	1	0%
Med Co-Response	98	78	-20%
Med First Response	113	117	+3.5%
Medical Overall - Total	211	195	-7.5%
Total Incidents	644	671	+4%

2022 Recruitment

In 2022, Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) hired **22 new recruits!** These recruits filled positions in all five stations (Caroline, Condor, Leslieville, Nordegg and Rocky Mountain House).

Have you ever considered joining your local fire department? CRFRS employs paid-on call (POC) firefighters, the position is considered casual employment with Clearwater County.

How it works: POC firefighters are alerted to emergencies via radio communications and those who are available, respond to their respective fire station to get dressed in the appropriate protective gear to respond in the provided emergency vehicles.

The role of a POC firefighter is not a fit for everyone. The members provide a 24/7 service that encounters risks and sacrifices that must be made that separate this job for many others. Just a desire to be a firefighter does not suggest an ideal fit for the role, there needs to be a strong mind set with transferable and a coachable mentality. CRFRS developed a self-evaluation questionnaire that provides a better understanding of what the job entails and helps identify if the fire service is the right fit for you and your possible next challenge. **You can find the complete Recruitment Application Manual at www.crfrs.ca.**



Learn more about current opportunities online at www.crfrs.ca or fireadmin@clearwatercounty.ca.



PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTER 2023 RECRUITMENT





2022 Awards Ceremony



Station #10	Member	YOS Award
	LT Joe Friesen	5 years
	LT Gord Laird	7 years
	FF Brian Goldstrom	7 years
	SR CAPT Park Tyson	15 years
	FF Dan Jahraus	30 year – Federal Silver Bar
Station #20	Member	YOS Award
	LT Travis Graham	5 years
	FF Janelle Beckett	7 years
Station #30	Member	YOS Award
	Recruit Tyler Mount	1 year
	FF Jason Benz	5 years
	FF Tim Plante	7 years
	LT Wayne McMullan	7 years
	CAPT William Groves	30 year – Federal Silver Bar
Station #50	Member	YOS Award
	Recruit Pendra Barrett	1 year
	LT Mike Benum	5 years
Station #60	Member	YOS Award
	FF Anthony Stewart	1 year
	Recruit Henry Cudal	1 year
	Recruit Stacey Stradecki	1 year
	FF Tyler Berry	1 year
	FF Brayden Boyko	5 years
	FF Cole Neville	5 years
	LT Ryan Moncrieff	5 years
	FF Taylor Graham	7 years
	FF Kayle Valentine	7 years
	FF Shauny Durant	7 years
	FF Corinna Dorosh	7 years
	LT Sam Parkin	7 years
	LT Brad Kraychy	10 years
	LT Ken Wedman	10 years
	CAPT Andrew Park	10 years
	LT Mike VanderBaaren	10 years
	FF Courtlin Quinn	12 years Provincial Medal
	FF Aaron Townsend	12 years Provincial Medal
	CAPT Kristofer Heemeryck	20 years in Service - Federal Medal
	FF Peter O'Toole	25 years w/ CRFRS
	FF Peter O'Toole	30 years in Service - Federal Silver Bar
	FF Mike Vig	30 years
Station #90	Member	YOS Award
	Deputy Chief Evan Stewart	5 years

Chief Officers' Recognition Awards:

Award	Recipient	Station
Esprit De Corps	Firefighter Theresa Houk	60
Outstanding Rookie Firefighter	Recruit Tyler Mount	30
Firefighter of the Year	Firefighter Ian Pops	60
Most Improved Firefighter	Firefighter Melanie Whitaker	30
Officer of Distinction	Lieutenant Brad Kraychy	60
Exemplary Service Award	Senior Captain Park Tyson	10



2022 Emergency Response

In 2022, Clearwater County activated its Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) three times, twice for wildfires and once for a flooding event. This year was a reminder as to why training and documentation needs to be updated on a regular basis, but also a reminder that we all need to be prepared.

The most important message to come from these events is: **Unexpected situations happen every day. Having supplies is one thing you can do to help your household better manage disruptions whether they are big or small.** Do you have an emergency kit? Take the time to put one together for your home, camper, car, off highway vehicle, etc.

Learn more about building your own kit at alberta.ca/BePrepared.



On June 3, 2022, Clearwater County became aware of a wildfire North of Crimson Lake off the Buster Creek Road, west of the north Saskatchewan river.

Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) along with provincial wildfire crews with air support attended the scene. Significant high winds was one of the contributing factors that initiated the ECC activation.



Around June 17, 2022, localized flooding was taking place which prompted Clearwater County to activate its Incident Command Post to staff appropriately to deal with public safety, road closures and signage, public communications.

The County assisted any residents with provincial Disaster Relief Program (DRP) funding for the June flooding events in the James River, Clearwater River and North Saskatchewan River areas.



On July 20, 2022, Clearwater County issued an evacuation order for several recreation areas and an evacuation alert for the hamlet of Nordegg due to an out of control wildfire approximately 19km west of Nordegg (known as the Black Mountain Fire). By July 29, the fire grew to approximately 480 hectares which was fueled by dry conditions and high winds.

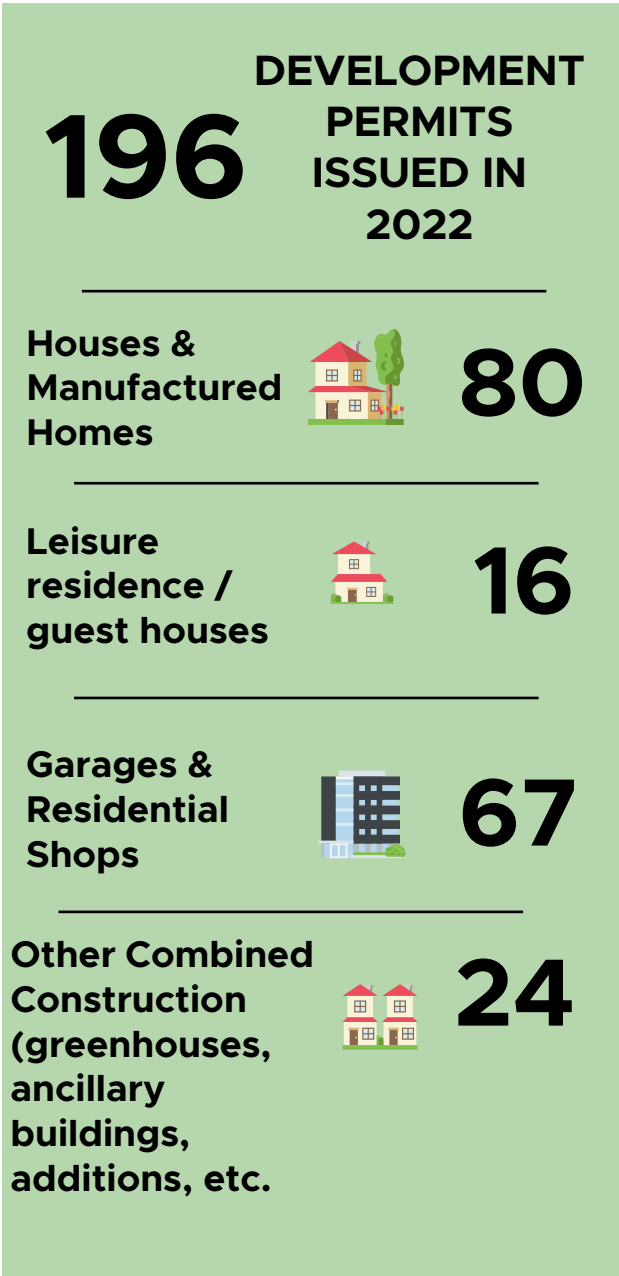


Planning & Development

Economic Development
Heritage Coordination
Planning

The Planning & Development department provides municipal land use planning services as identified in Part 17 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and in the Subdivision and Development Regulations. In addition, over the years this department has taken on additional responsibilities of Heritage / West Country Development, and Economic Development.

- The Planning team carries out the duties outlined in statutory plans, land use bylaw, and other plans as per the Municipal Government Act.
- Heritage & West Country oversees management of the historic resources entrusted to Clearwater County as well as County assets in the West Country.
- Economic Development provides services required to carry out the economic development initiatives mandated by Council and to help and diversify Clearwater Count’s economy.



2022 Podcasts

Episode 6 - Projects along the David Thompson Corridor – Interview with Don Livingston, Director Recreation, Ecosystem and Land Management with Alberta Environment and Parks, to discuss projects along the David Thompson Highway between the hamlet of Nordegg and the Banff National Park. Alberta Environment and Parks is building new parking lots, trail heads and pedestrian crossing in response the growth in visitors to Clearwater County and David Thompson Country over the past several years. These improvements will help protect the visitors and the land that they are recreating on.



Episode 7 - Nature’s Getaway Nordegg – Interview with Tanya Koshowski who runs Nature’s Getaway Nordegg, about why they chose Nordegg, the joys of operating multiple cabin rentals, and how they have made Nature’s Getaway a unique place for couples and families to enjoy as they explore the David Thompson Country Tourism Region.



Episode 8 - West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd – Interview with Bob Jackle, General Manager of the West Fraser LVL plant, and Tom Daniels, Forestry Superintendent for West Fraser. They discuss careers, forestry management, fighting mountain pine beetle, and West Fraser’s work with local recreation groups.



Episode 9 - Black Mountain Fire parts 1 & 2 - Interviews the Clearwater County Director of Emergency & Legislative Services, Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief of Operations with Clearwater Regional Fire and Rescue Services. They discuss the conditions at the time of the Black Mountain Fire, the response, working with Alberta Environment and Parks and Alberta Wildfire in a Unified Incident Command Centre, and review the value of the Fire Smart program on acreages and farms.



Episode 10 - CAO Interview parts 1 & 2 – Interview with Clearwater County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Rick Emmons, who discusses the role of Council, the Municipal Government Act, Bylaws, and how services and expectations have changed for municipal `government over his 30 some years of experience.



Episode 11 - Amazing Horse Country – interview with Scott Phillips, owner of Amazing Horse Country. They discuss what Scott does with his clients and horses, why he chose this area for his business, and how being in nature is good for the soul.



Leslieville - Condor Area Structure Plans

Area Structure Plans (ASPs) are documents that are approved by Clearwater County Council as bylaws. ASPs outline detailed policies for growth and future land use designations of specific areas of the County.

Condor, Leslieville, and Nordegg are considered by Clearwater County as Growth Hamlets capable of accommodating development within their existing boundaries, as well as residential development and other compatible development on their peripheries.

Investec Consulting Ltd. has been selected by Clearwater County to develop ASPs for the Hamlets of Leslieville and Condor.

Public consultation (engagement) with residents of the hamlets and surrounding lands, as well as other stakeholder involvement, is key to the success of this project. A public engagement process has been developed and a copy of that plan is available here and the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee can be found here. Some of the things to be included in the process are community consultation sessions, public open houses, survey, notices, web materials, social media and mail outs.

The plan for the process is as follows:

- BACKGROUND RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS**
- Initial Community Engagement – Hamlet Kick off Events
 - Leslieville – November 29, 2022
 - Condor – November 30, 2022
 - Site Visit
 - Background Research Report
 - Land Use Concept Options
 - Vision Surveys (until January 18, 2023)

PREPARATION OF AREA STRUCTURE PLANS (ASPS)

- Draft 2 ASP's (target distribution - early March 2023 via County website, in-person hard copies, and mailouts)
- Preliminary Engineering Analysis

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESPONSES

- 2 Public Open Houses to review Draft documents (middle March 2023)
- 2 What We Heard Reports

ASP FINALIZATION AND APPROVAL

- Make necessary changes to finalize ASP documents
- First reading to Council
- Public Hearing
- Adoption of ASPs



NOTICE OF A Public Hearing

Municipal Development Plan (MDP) BYLAW 1132/22

UPDATE EXISTING 2010 MDP BYLAW 923/10
Update to reflect current community trends and needs



Notice is hereby given that the Council of Clearwater County will be conducting a public hearing during a Special Council meeting prior to considering the granting of second and third readings to Bylaw No. 1132/22. This bylaw is to update the existing 2010 Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Bylaw 923/10 to reflect current community trends and needs.

Clearwater County Council granted first reading of the updated draft MDP Bylaw 1132/22 at their December 20, 2022 Regular Council Meeting. This updated draft MDP was drafted over the course of two years of public engagement, and it builds on multiple other studies, strategies and plans completed by Administration over the past several years.

The updated draft MDP is available on the County website address below or at the County office.

Special Council Meeting



Tuesday
FEB 21



9:00AM



Lou Soppit
Community Centre
LIVE STREAMED & RECORDED

PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS



VIA LIVE STREAM
ON OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL



VIA EMAIL/FAX/DROP-OFF
mdpreview@clearwatercounty.ca
FAX 403-845-4048
DROP OFF IN PERSON
BEFORE 12:00 PM FRIDAY FEB 17



IN PERSON
LOU SOPPIT
COMMUNITY CENTRE



Public Works: Infrastructure

The Public Works – Infrastructure department leads construction, engineering, industry/land acquisition, and facility operations and maintenance for all County owned facilities throughout the municipality.

- Road Construction - Planning and executing any capital projects for any county owned infrastructure / asset.
- Resources Roads - leverage partnerships or grants to further enhance the County's transportation network.
- Gravel Road Rehabilitation - improve safety and reduce maintenance costs if the gravel road transportation network utilizing county staff and local contractors.
- Grading Projects - improve safety, reduce maintenance costs and enhance the level of service on major gravel roads.
- Asphalt Overlay - maintain and enhance the weight carrying capabilities of the surfaced road network.
- Base Course / Pavement - increase the service level and quality of life on strategic roadways recognizing the increased long-term maintenance costs.
- West Country Road - enhance the gravel road transportation network in remote areas of the County.
- Nordegg Capital - Continue to develop the Hamlet of Nordegg as per the Nordegg Development Plan to promote economic growth.

Construction
Engineering
Industry/Land Acquisition
Maintenance & Facilities

- Rail Trail – Since 2009, continue development of multi-use trail system along abandoned rail lines, covering 109 km between Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg. In 2021, an additional trail development was completed from Harlech to Alexo (15 km).
- Taunton Bridge - Decking and handrail for Taunton Bridge completed in 2022. (220m bridge structure – see pictures on next page)
- Clearwater County Broadband Tower – site preparation in Caroline and Nordegg (see picture on next page)
- Facilities/Properties – maintenance to a standard that or exceeds legislated requirements and improve existing facilities to optimize efficiency and improve quality of life for staff and the public. This list is explained on the next page.



Construction on bridge over Blueberry Creek

2022 Highlights

- Facilities/Properties continued:
 - Rocky Mountain House - Main Administration, Agricultural and Community, Services, Emergency and Legislative Services, Broadband Central Office, Public Works, Salt Storage Facility, NE 3- 40-7 W5M Acreage, Martin Shop, Martin Broadband Connection Point
 - Nordegg - Public Services, Building, Nordegg Operations Facility, Heritage, Centre, Staff Housing, Old Shop, Misc. Nordegg Facilities.
 - Condor - Public Services Building, Old Fire Hall lift station.
 - Caroline - 2 Residential Acreages, caroline operations Facility, salt storage Facility.
 - Leslieville - old Fire Hall, Public services Building, Heated storage Facility.



River Road Construction



Rge Rd 4-4



First practice at the Leslieville Fire Training Centre



Leslieville Fire Training Area during construction



2022 Highlights



Taunton Bridge



Bridges (Replacement/Rehabilitation) Lobstick Creek



Nordegg South Access Road



Caroline PoP (Telecom Point of Presence building) - small green structure



Caroline POP Shelter Delivery



Regional Leslieville Wastewater Treatment System

2022 Highlights



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



Township Road 41-0 Access Road Cost Share



Gravel Road Rehab



Grand Opening in Oct 2022 of the Leslieville Public Services Buidling



Public Works: Operations

Fleet Management
Gravel Roads
Project Operations
Solid Waste Management
Surfaced Roads

The Public Works – Operations department oversees the maintenance and operations of all County road programs, fleet, material/supplies, and maintenance and repairs all County vehicles and equipment.

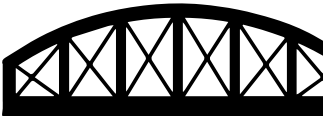
Responsibilities, Programs and Services Offers:

- Airport (Clearwater County has 50% ownership, Town of Rocky Mountain House is the managing partner)
- Operation of 15 gravel and stockpile sites throughout the County (9 on Crown/Public land; 6 on private land).
- Winter and summer gravel programs / patch gravelling
- Streetlights, dust suppression, road maintenance administration, road signs, culverts, and fencing
- Beaver/flood controls
- Approaches / bridge repairs
- Plowing & sanding
- Erosion, chip seal, and line painting

2022 Project Highlights:

Line painting:

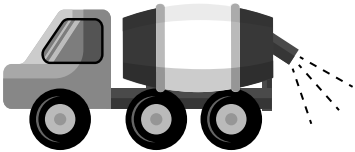
357 km of Roadway line painting
43 – Stop Ahead
9 – Stop Bars
7 – Railway Crossings



Number of Bridge/
Bridge Culvert
Replacements – 5

KM of Crack Seal – 98 km

Pot Hole Patching on
SB 90 Applications –
1719



Dust Suppression Applications
- SB 90 – 21 new applications
- Calcium Chloride – 117 new applications
- High Maintenance – 9,625 meters

Winter Gravel
KM of Roads Graveled:
– 93.5 miles / 150.5 km

Summer Gravel
KM of Roads Graveled:
– 116 miles / 187 km



2022 Highlights

Streetlights:

- Alhambra – 23 streetlights
- Condo – 18 streetlights
- Leslieville – 27 streetlights
- Withrow – 15 streetlights
- Nordegg – 31 streetlights (Clearwater County maintains the streetlights in Noregg)

Cattle Guards:

- 35 cattle guards

Sidewalks:

- Approximately 300 metres (in Leslieville, Con-
dor, Nordegg)

Signs:

- Clearwater County does installation, inspection
*yearly) and washing of Regulatory and Infor-
mation Signs
- 4,650 signs (completed in-house)

Culverts:

- 7,700 Culverts

Bridges:

- 173 bridge structures

Snow Removal:

- Snow removal on surfaced roads (350 km) and
hamlets/subdivisions

Snow Plows:

- Currently Clearwater County utilizes six plow
truck

114
Streetlights



35
Cattle guards

4,650
Signs



7,700
Culverts

173
Bridges



6
Snow Plows



Restricted Surplus (Municipal Reserves)

Alberta's municipalities are relied upon to provide a wide range of services to their residents and businesses. To provide such services, municipalities are responsible for purchasing, constructing, operating and maintaining infrastructure. This can range from relatively small pieces of equipment to multimillion-dollar roads, bridges, water/wastewater systems, and recreation facilities.

Municipalities are not permitted to run deficit budgets, so financial reserves allow municipalities to save money for major infrastructure projects while adhering to financial management requirements. While municipalities can finance capital projects through debt, the amount of debt municipalities may incur is limited. Debt also results in higher costs for municipalities and less efficient use of tax dollars.

- In general, municipalities have three options to pay for such infrastructure and service delivery responsibilities:
1. Taking on debt
 2. Spending as revenue is gathered
 3. Setting aside a portion of revenue to save for large projects

As a result of these financial limitations, a common approach for municipalities to finance large-scale projects is to gradually set aside a small portion of their revenues over multiple years to pay for major infrastructure projects. This approach allows municipalities to stay within debt limits and saves municipal taxpayers money by reducing interest costs.

In a municipal context, funds set aside for such projects are known as restricted surplus (financial reserves). Essentially, this is a means to pay for the construction or purchase of assets in the future.



In addition to allowing municipalities to accumulate the funds needed to support large-scale infrastructure projects, the use of restricted surplus is an effective tool to support municipal planning.

However, this funding also presents challenges. It requires discipline to slowly accumulate funds that will not be used for several years. It also means that municipalities must develop long-term plans for infrastructure and assess the lifespan of assets.

Aging infrastructure demands that municipalities save for future needs ahead of time to avoid major budgetary shortfalls. Municipal restricted surplus are better understood as an essential planning tool for large-scale assets rather than a measure of a municipality's wealth.

The assumption that a high level of reserves equals a high level of municipal wealth is an oversimplification and typically not accurate. They are an indication of a Council's commitment to a future project.

In other words, restricted surplus is not a source of no-strings-attached wealth for a municipality. Rather, every dollar placed into restricted surplus is a dollar not being spent on infrastructure or service delivery in the year it was collected in order to allow for the payment of a big-ticket item in a future year.

Nordegg Discovery Centre Project Update

During the summer of 2021, the Nordegg Discovery Centre got a face lift with a new exterior. Prior to installation a test section of the stucco was removed and it was discovered that there was water damage and the walls still contained the original wood shaving insulation. This changed the project to include replacement of water damaged wood and new insulation throughout. The finished product is a beautiful exterior with better insulated and a stable structure.

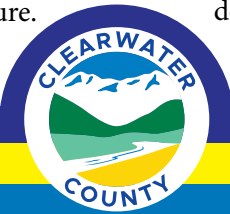
Inside the building you will no longer find the Miners Café and Colliseum Gift Shop as they have relocated. With the vacant spaces on the lower level of the Discovery Centre, Clearwater County has engaged consultant services of the Hatlie Group to develop a new exhibit.

In 2022, public engagement was initiated through surveys, focus groups / workshops with local stakeholders to gauge what the community would like to see in this newly redesigned building.

The new exhibit will be expanded from the original room to encompass the old gift shop room as well.

It is anticipated that the new exhibit will open in 2024. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!

Mine site tours are also anticipated to return in 2023. Follow Clearwater County's website and social media pages to stay up to date with this project and much more!



Sustainable Grazing Stewardship Award

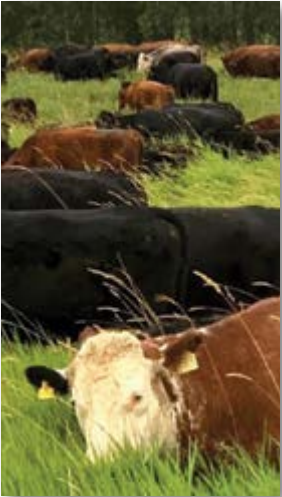
Clearwater County is now accepting nominations for the new Sustainable Grazing Stewardship Award.

The purpose of the Sustainable Grazing Stewardship Award is to formally recognize agricultural producers who have demonstrated grazing practices that are a sustainable use of land and water resources within their operation.

Clear Water Landcare applauds their progressive efforts to mitigate the environmental impacts of grazing while recognizing the ongoing changes necessary to maintain a healthy ecological balance. Grazing management practices that strive for ecological balance guarantee long term sustainability and set a standard for current and future generations.

Nomination eligibility for the Sustainable Grazing Stewardship Award awards include the following:

- Nominees must practice ecological stewardship and have resided within Clearwater County for a minimum of 5 years;
- Can only be a recipient of the award once; and,
- Maximum of one award recipient for each award per year provided a qualified nominee is identified.



Environmental Stewardship Award



The **2022 recipient of the Environmental Stewardship Award** was posthumously awarded to Ken Pattison and his family. Ken was born and raised on his family’s farm and took over management in the 70s. He was passionate about the environment and his community, sitting on the Agricultural Service Board (ASB), Clear Water Landcare Board, contributing to the Soil Science Sidebar, The Ripple newsletter and a host stop of Clearwater County’s West Country AG Tour.



Ken receiving the award from ASB Board Member, Jody Bignell.



Farm Family Award

NOMINATIONS CLOSE FEB 28, 2023

Farm Family Award

Recognizes families within the County that are examples of high ideals in agriculture, sustainable management practices and make a difference in their community through rural citizenship



Century Farms Award

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR

Century Farm Award

Recognizes and celebrates founding families that own at least 160 acres in the County, which have been owned/farmed by descendants for at least 100 years



County-Village Amalgamation Study Update

In January 2020, Village of Caroline Council indicated a desire to enter negotiations for Amalgamating with Clearwater County.

Subsequently, Clearwater County, in partnership with the Village of Caroline, applied for an Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) – Municipal Restructuring Study Stream Grant.

As of June 28, 2022, both Village and County Councils authorized the Clearwater – Village Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee to undertake and oversee the amalgamation study project.

At their September 27, 2022 Council meetings, Clearwater County and Village of Caroline Councils selected the consulting firm Strategic Steps Inc. to conduct an amalgamation study. Grant dollars from Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) – Municipal Restructuring Study Stream program are being used to pay for this study.

This study will take approximately six to eight months to complete. During this time, the consultant will research, collect, and analyze information and data from both municipalities and prepare a final report that will include evidence-based recommendations that address the possibility of amalgamation for the County and Village. The final decision on whether to proceed with an amalgamation will not be made until this process is complete and the data is reviewed. For more project update visit: www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/amalgamation-study

Has the decision to amalgamate already been made ???

No final decision has been made about amalgamation by either Village Council or Clearwater County Council yet.

The decision must be made by both the County and the Village, and then a request will be sent to the Province of Alberta. It will be the Province who makes that final decision.

In terms of when the two councils will decide whether to proceed or not, the plan is for that to happen early in 2023

See full list of the FAQ document at: www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/amalgamation-study

SAVE THE DATE! Open House / Presentations

Feb 27, 2023
Leslieville Hall (6:30-8:30pm)

March 1, 2023
Butte Hall (6:30-8:30pm)

March 6, 2023
Crammond Hall (6:30-8:30pm)

March 13, 2023
Caroline HUB (6:30-8:30pm)

March 23, 2023
Virtual Zoom (6:30-7:30pm)

** Please note these dates are tentative and may change.*



2023 Photo Contest

Photo Contest

Enter Today!

Your Photo of David Thompson Country Could Be A Winner!

Cash Prizes in Each Category!
1st Place - \$400
2nd Place - \$300
3rd Place - \$200
Runner-up - \$100



The Mountaineer and Clearwater County are teaming up for our annual photo contest. We invite you to enter your favourite photos of Clearwater County in the categories listed below. Contest runs Feb. 1 to March 10, 2023.

- 1. Adrenaline and Adventure Summer:** With so much to do in our area, there are activities to appeal to every sensibility. Send us your action shots that stir the blood and satisfy that craving for adventure.
- 2. Adrenaline and Adventure Winter:** Send us your winter activity action shots!
- 3. Groups / Special Events:** With a wide variety of special events throughout the year, there is always something happening in Clearwater County. Capture that special feeling at anything from a Canada Day celebration, a local recreation club get together, to a service group giving back to their community.
- 4. Off the Beaten Path:** Everyone has their own favourite hidden gem. Maybe it's a little known lake in the woods or a high mountain stream. Whatever it may be, share a photo of your own special off-the-track spot. We're looking for photos that show the best our County has to offer.
- 5. Farming:** The agricultural lifestyle is an important part of life in Clearwater County. Send us your images that represent or evoke the unique spirit and character of farm life.
- 6. Wildlife and Forces of Nature:** Capture the beauty of our area's abundant wildlife, or the power of the elements at work. Clearwater County offers unlimited opportunities for the wildlife photographer. The weather in Clearwater County can range from a colour-drenched sunset on a tranquil summer evening to the fury and raw power of a wind storm blowing across the land.
- 7. People at Work:** Clearwater County is a place to work and play. Business in action is the lifeblood of our community – show us yours!
- 8. Camping Activities:** Sitting around the campfire with friends, chopping wood, setting up the tent or trailer, watching the sunrise over a quiet cup of coffee. How do you take time to relax in our great outdoors?



Enter online at <https://clearwatercountyphotocontest.ca>

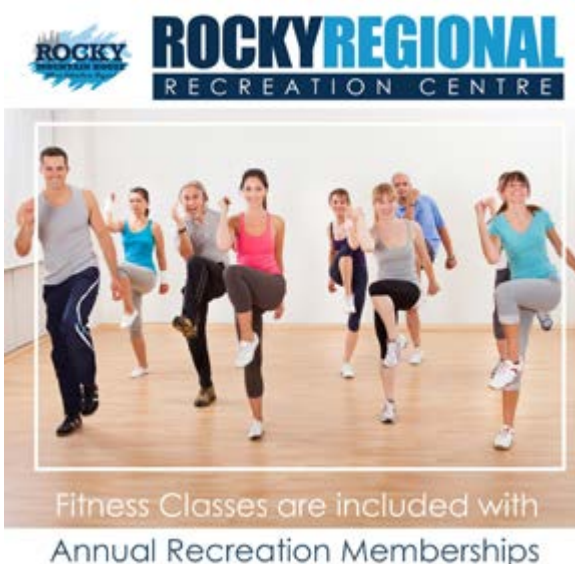
The **Mountaineer**

4814 - 49 St. Rocky Mountain House • 403-845-3334

Visit <https://clearwatercountyphotocontest.ca> for a complete list of contest rules and instructions on how to enter.



Rocky Regional Recreation Centre



Community Digital Board

Advertise your next community event, free of charge. Open to all non-profit organizations. All content must be submitted digitally. Contact us for more information.

guestservices@trmh.ca

403.845.3720

Recreation & Community Services
Town of Rocky Mountain House



Clearwater Regional FCSS

Clearwater Regional Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) is a partnership between the Province, municipalities (Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County) and Métis Settlements that develops locally driven preventive social initiatives to enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Follow their Facebook page to stay up-to-date! Upcoming programming for March and April includes the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program where those of modest income can get their taxes completed free of charge enabling them to stay up to date and eligible for government benefits. Grant funding, information referrals, and internal programming is also available.



With the start of a new year, now is an opportune time to do a review of your personal documents. If you're 18 or older, it's a good idea to have a personal directive that names someone to make personal decisions for you in case you become incapable due to illness or injury.

A personal directive is optional and voluntary, and allows you to choose who makes decisions for you if you can't make them yourself.

Your personal directive can also include instructions about any or all personal matters that are not financial. These instructions provide direction about what you would want if you lose capacity.

Learn more about why you need one and how to prepare it at: <https://www.alberta.ca/personal-directive.aspx>



If you're a senior 65+ with a household income below \$180,000, you are eligible for monthly affordability payments, even if you receive federal or provincial benefits like CPP, OAS or the Alberta Seniors Benefit.

If you receive Alberta Seniors Benefit, you will automatically get payments starting January 31.

If you don't, you will need to apply online or in person at an Alberta Registry or Alberta Supports Centre. Learn more at

www.alberta.ca/affordability-payments.aspx

Apply from January 18 to June 30, 2023.



Upcoming Events in Clearwater County

FEBRUARY

Realtor Information Workshop: February 15 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm in Ag Services meeting room. Includes a free lunch following presentations on common zoning and building code infractions, the many variations of crown grazing leases and the latest on weeds of concern in Clearwater County. Call 403-845-4444 for more details.

Freezin' for a Reason Polar Dip: February 18, 2023. This event raises money for local charities and non-profit organizations through sponsorships of jumpers.

On-Farm Action Climate Fund Grazing Plan Roundtable Workshop: February 6, 2023

- Location:** Caroline Community Hub
- These sessions are a full day hands-on classroom technical overview, in 3 sessions, (same agenda both days) covering the following:
- Grazing Plan development and Cell design
 - Power Fencing Basics and Tips
 - Water Distribution Strategies

Stay involved with whats happening in the community by following Clearwater County on social media @ClearwaterCnty



and regularly visiting:
www.clearwatercounty.ca/agnews


Farm Family Award Deadline: February 28, 2023



1:00 PM Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023 at
Pioneer Ranch in Crimson Lake
Provincial Park

Do it by yourself, or get a team together, fundraise at least \$100 each, and then jump into Crimson Lake on February 18th. Money raised will go to support local community organizations of your choice.

You can register yourself or your team by emailing the registration forms found at facebook.com/rockysfreezinforareason to rockysfreezin@outlook.com and e-transferring the \$25 per person registration fee.



MARCH

Living with Beaver Workshop: March 18, 2023
(Tentative date)

MAY

Farm Rental Rates Survey closes on May 31. Clearwater County is collecting data on local farm rental rates. Once completed this data will be available to the public to allow for a better understanding of area rates for producers and landowners in Clearwater County.

Free Recreation Pass



To encourage active seniors, we offer a complimentary Recreation Pass Membership to age 75 years and older.

Includes: Credit Union Co-op Aquatic Centre, aquafit classes, Fitness Centre, fitness classes and public skating





BRING A FRIEND FRIDAYS

Join us Fridays for two-for-one admission to the Fitness Centre.



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



Join our team!

We're hiring various positions for:

- Public Works
- Agriculture & Community Services
- Corporate Services
- Planning & Development

www.clearwatercounty.ca/careers



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.