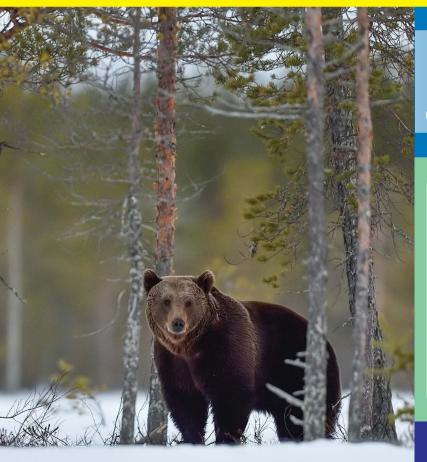


# Clearwater County Highlights

MARCH **2023** 



# 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!

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 pages 8 -11, and please be sure to drive with caution and watch for County staff on roadways.

On February 21, a Special Council Meeting was held for the purpose of holding a public hearing for the draft Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Bylaw 1132/22. We want to thank everyone for their contributions to this project, whether you attended one of the public information sessions in the summer of 2022, submitted written comments or came in person to the public hearing all of the comments received are valuable. Council is looking forward to continuing work on this project.

Administration and Council continues work on the Clearwater and Caroline amalgamation study. This project was initiated in 2020, when the Village of Caroline Council indicated a desire to enter negotiations for amalgamating with Clearwater County. An important part of this study is engaging with our public, information sessions took place on February 27, March 1, 6, 13 and 23. Thank you to everyone that attended! There was also opportunity for all members of the public to complete a survey to provide feedback, learn more about the work being done and next steps on page 28.



Daryl Lougheed Reeve

On another important note, as of April 14, an additional 4% penalty will be applied to all outstanding tax balances (as per the 2022 Municipal Tax Rate Bylaw 1118/22). 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, read about making payments at <a href="https://www.clearwatercounty.ca/taxes">www.clearwatercounty.ca/taxes</a>.

Being an elected official is both challenging and rewarding. Serving the community in which we live is a very humbling experience. All elected officials are expected to make the right decisions, not just the popular ones. I can assure you that this Council is committed to making the right decisions that benefit the region as a whole, ensuring that all our communities can reach their full potential, and further establishing Clearwater County as a land of rural opportunity and fulfillment for future generations.

Finally, I just wanted to give a quick reminder to everyone, that official communication from Clearwater County is always available at the following places:

- Website: www.clearwatercounty.ca
- Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/clearwatercnty</u>
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/ClearwaterCnty
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/clearwatercnty

Please take the time to verify the information you are reading is accurate by checking out any of the above listed resources.

On behalf of Clearwater County Council, best wishes this spring, and whether you celebrate Easter, or another occasion, we hope you enjoy the season with family and friends.

Reeve, Daryl Lougheed



### Clearwater County Council Term 2021-25



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#### **Upcoming Regular Council Meetings**

April 11 & 25, 2023 May 9 & 23, 2023 June 13 & 27, 2023

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

# **Upcoming Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole**

April 17 & 18, 2023 June 19, 2023







From March 20 - 23, Council attended the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) 2023 Spring Convention.

### Council Highlights

#### Regular Council Meeting January 10, 2023

Nordegg Development Plan – Design Guidelines Council amended the Nordegg Development Plan design guidelines in order to vary the street lighting and boardwalk requirements in the hamlet's historic commercial core to reduce installation and maintenance costs

### Snow Request from Caroline Wheels of Time Museum

Council approved snow plowing be provided by Clearwater County, for the Caroline 'Wheels of Time Museum' parking area, without a service fee, but only after the roadways have been opened for the remainder of the 2023 winter snow removal season.

#### Bylaw 1133/22 Water and Sewage

Council granted first, second, and third readings to the Water and Sewage Bylaw 1133/22, on the residential and commercial water and wastewater rates, including rates for bulk, as presented in Schedule "D", for each of hamlets of Condor, Leslieville and Nordegg from 2023 to 2025.

#### Regular Council Meeting January 24, 2023

# Clearwater County Highway Patrol 2022 Annual Report

Council received the Clearwater County Highway Patrol 2022 Annual Report for information as presented, and directed Administration to contact the Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers (AACPO) with regards to gathering more information on equipment and tools to allow County Peace Officers to do their jobs in a manner that is as safe as possible.

#### Updated Noise Bylaw 1137/23

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1137/23 with amendments for additional clarity related to noise, permissible operations and activities based on land use, and penalties.

# First Reading of Bylaw 1136/23 for Application No. 01/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1136/23 for application number 01/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw 714/01 and redesignate approximately 5.0 acres of land from Agriculture District "A" to the Industrial District "I."

#### Appointments to the Condor and Leslieville Area Structure Plan (ASP) Steering Committee

Council appointed public members at large, Councillor Graham and Councillor Northcott as alternate to the Condor and Leslieville Area Structure Plans (ASP) Steering Committee for the duration of the development of both ASP's effective January 24, 2023.

#### **Solar Farm Governance**

Council directed Administration to bring more information to Council regarding the Joint Advocacy for Improved Solar Farm Governance letter from Rocky View County.

#### Regular Council Meeting February 14, 2023

# Clearwater Regional Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

Council received Clearwater Regional Family and Community Support Services' (FCSS) update about programs and services offered to the regional community for information as presented.



### Council Highlights Continued

# Public Hearing - Bylaw 1131/22 Application No. 11/22 to amend the Land Use Bylaw

Following public hearing proceedings, Council granted second and third readings of Bylaw 1131/22 to rezone a total of +/-7.51 acres from Agriculture District "A" to Nordegg Mixed Use Residence/ Resort Commercial District "NMUR" and Nordegg Historic Core Commercial/ Retail District "NHC" for the purpose of creating fully serviced mixed use residential and fully serviced commercial/retail lots.

# Public Hearing - Bylaw 1134/22 Application No. 12/22 to amend the Land Use Bylaw

Following public hearing proceedings, Council tabled second reading of Bylaw 1134/22 to rezone approximately 8.0 acres of the subject lands from Agriculture District "A" to Institutional District "P" for the purpose of constructing and operating a new church.

#### Joint Advocacy for Improved Solar Farm Governance

Council decided not to participate in Rocky View County's joint advocacy campaign to help improve provincial governance of renewable energy projects.

#### Leslieville Recreation Area Project Progress Summary

Council received the Leslieville Recreation Area project progress summary update as information.

#### Pathfinder Clean Energy (PACE)

Council received the PACE Canada LP update on the Solar Farm Proposal within the Village of Caroline for information as presented.

Leslieville and Condor Area Structure Plan Update Council received the Leslieville and Condor Area Structure Plan update for information as presented. Read more about this project on page 29.

# 2023 Local Roads and River Road Base/ Pave Project Tender Award

Council awarded the 2023 local roads, granular base course, Asphalt Concrete Pavement; and the River Road (Range Road 7-3A), Granular Base Course, Asphalt Concrete Pavement and other work projects to Central City Asphalt Ltd. Council also approved a revised budget for the 2023 local roads, granular base course, Asphalt Concrete Pavement and Other Work project with the additional cost to be funded through paving restricted surplus.

#### Second and Third Readings of Noise Bylaw 1137/23

Council granted second and third readings to Noise Bylaw 1137/23 which will assist with public education related to noise concerns and helps facilitate discussions between landowners as the starting point.

#### 2023 Borrowing Bylaw 1138/23

Council granted three readings of Bylaw 1138/23 for the purpose of allowing the borrowing of sums Council considers necessary to meet current operating expenditures and obligations of the municipality in a fiscally prudent manner.

#### 2022 Audit Plan

Council received the 2022 Audit Plan for information outlining timelines and goals for the upcoming external audit.

#### Reallocation of Unused Budget from 2022 to 2023 for Phase 2 - Rocky - Caroline - Olds Broadband Core Backbone Project

Council approved the Broadband Core Backbone Phase 2 - Rocky - Caroline - Olds reallocation of unused budget from 2022 to 2023 to be funded by a transfer from restricted surplus of \$500,000.



### Council Highlights Continued

#### Village of Caroline/Clearwater County Amalgamation Discussion

Council directed Administration to jointly initiate exploring amalgamation with the Village of Caroline, and approved letters to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Town of Rocky Mountain House.

#### **Council Attendance Authorization**

Council approved attendance at the 2023 Alberta Rural Connectivity Forum scheduled for May 24-25, 2023, and the Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) Workforce Strategies Summit scheduled for March 30, 2023.

Council also authorized Councillor attendance to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference is scheduled for May 25-28, 2023, as per the Conferences and Training for Councillors Policy.

#### **Rocky Mountain House Airport**

Council directed Administration to continue working collaboratively with the Town of Rocky Mountain House on developing the airport agreement for future considerations to Council.

#### Regular Council Meeting February 28, 2023

# Public Hearing - Bylaw 1136/23 Application No. 01/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw

Following public hearing proceedings, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1136/23 to redesignate +/-5.0 acres of the SE 12-39-07 W5M from the Agriculture District "A" District to the Industrial "I" District for the purpose of operating a trucking company with a subsidiary frac sand transload facility as a tradesperson business.

First Reading – Bylaw 1139/23 Short Term Rentals Council granted first reading to Bylaw 1139/23 for Short Term Rentals which intends to put in place license requirements, application forms, enforcement procedure and penalties to put measures in place to mitigate negative impacts on the surrounding

#### MPC Advertising and Publicizing

community.

Council directed Administration to advertise the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) meeting agendas on Clearwater County's website.

#### Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP)

Council directed Administration to bring forward the costs and benefits to the taxpayers with regard of implementation of a bylaw to put a CEIP program in place in Clearwater County, to a future Council meeting.

### Additional Named Insured Guidelines Policy

Council reviewed and approved the Additional Named Insured Guidelines Policy with notification to all affected parties.

# Blower and Grinder Upgrades to the Town of Rocky Mountain House Lagoon in 2021

Council approved payment of 21% for the cost sharing of the 2021 capital upgrades to the town lagoon, for the blower block and grinder replacement, for a total of \$3,200.00.

#### **Rocky Mountain Bike Park Society**

Council received the Rocky Mountain Bike Park Society's presentation for information and directed Administration to write a letter of support for their grant application.



### Council Highlights Continued

Clearwater County Regional Leslieville Wastewater Treatment Facility Project 2023 Budget Adjustment Council approved a budget adjustment of \$3,511,050 for the project continuation of the Regional Leslieville Wastewater Treatment Facility from the 2023 Operating Budget due to timing difference to reflect the work schedule. Council also approved a budget adjustment for the 2023 Leslieville Wastewater System Operating Budget.

#### Foothills Healing Roundance

Council received Darcy Goodrunning's update about the Foothills Healing Roundance for information.

### EDA Xperience 2023 Leaders' Summit & Conference

Council authorized Councillor attendance to the virtual EDA Xperience 2023 Leaders' Summit & Conference scheduled for April 12 – 14, 2023.

#### Regular Council Meeting March 14, 2023

#### Rocky Mountain House, Sundre & Rimbey RCMP Detachments Annual Performance Plan Updates Council received the 2023-2024 RCMP annual

performance plans (APP) for information as presented. The APP is an overall policing plan unique to each community, it sets out the detachment's priorities and initiatives for the next fiscal year. The APP is compiled using input from residents, stakeholders, community leaders and organizations to capture the needs, concerns and issues of their communities.

#### 2022 Assessment Data Report

Council received the 2022 Clearwater County assessment data report for information as presented.

#### Bylaw 1140/23 - Solid Waste and Recycling

Council granted first, second, and third readings of the 'Solid Waste Bylaw 1140/23', for the purpose of establishing Clearwater Regional Landfill and Clearwater County Transfer Station disposal fees and rates, as presented in Schedule A, in effect for 2023 to 2025

#### **Installation of Cattle Guards Request**

Council considered a request to install cattle guards alongside the Burnstick Lake Road, a motion to approve the request at the landowner's expense was defeated.

### Wetaskiwin - Clearwater Intermunicipal Committee

The Wetaskiwin/Clearwater Intermunicipal Committee determined that there are no items of discussion or issues before the Committee and therefore a meeting in 2023 is not required.

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



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



#### Public Works Infrastructure

#### **FACILITIES CAPITAL**

#### • Condor Public Services Building:

This project includes paving the front parking lot, paving will be completed at the same time as the rest of the hamlet. The procurement schedule will be established when the underground and curb and gutter work is close to completion. 2023 budget: \$409,000.

#### • Leslieville Public Services Building:

This project includes paving the front parking lot paving will be completed at the same time a the Leslieville East Road. This project has been awarded to Central City Asphalt Ltd. and is scheduled for construction this summer. 2023 revised budget: \$282,948.

#### • Nordegg Public Services Building:

This project includes paving the front parking lot, which will be completed at the same time as the additional paving in the Nordegg area. Procurement was completed in 2022 and is scheduled to commence in the spring. 2023 budget: \$230,000.

#### • Leslieville Recreation Area:

This project includes baseball diamond, soccer pitch, washroom facility, playground area and parking lot. Detailed design is now complete for the 8-acre area directly south of the Leslieville Public Services Building/ Fire Training Area. The tender for the grading portion of this project is scheduled to close March 23, 2023. Procurement of the structural elements will be completed in the coming months. 2023 budget: \$1,650,000. Read more about this project on page 29.

#### GRAVEL ROAD REHABILITATION

The construction team is working on township road 37-0, a 2400m project west of range road 4-5. Winter work has been completed with spring start up to begin when weather permits. Staff have started acquiring permits, have sent out notification letters to affected landowners, and started contacting landowners for possible borrow locations for 2023 projects.

#### **GRADING PROJECTS**

#### • Beaver Flat Road (Range Road 6-0):

This project includes the construction of range road 6-0 from north of township road 41-0 to township road 42-0 approximately 8.6km. Howitt Construction commenced work in 2022 and is scheduled to be completed in the fall 2023. The project is currently shutdown and will begin in early spring. 2023 budget: \$6,170,000.

#### **BASE/PAVE**

#### • River Road (Range Road 7-4A):

This project includes paving range road 7-4A from highway 11 to 11A, approximately 4km. This project has been awarded to Central City Asphalt Ltd. and is scheduled for construction this summer. 2023 budget: \$3,510,713.

#### • Leslieville East Road (Township Road 39-4A):

This project includes paving township road 37-4A from highway 761 to the Withrow Road approximately 6.3km. This project has been awarded to Central City Asphalt Ltd. and is scheduled for construction this summer. 2023 budget: \$4,316,288.30.



#### NORDEGG DEVELOPMENT PLAN

#### • 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. This project has been awarded to T.B.L. Construction Ltd.

#### • Nordegg Phase 2 Residential Subdivision:

This development includes 28 residential lots and four commercial lots. Site grading, deep utilities and curb and gutter was completed in 2022. The 2023 work plan includes shallow utilities, landscaping and paving of Lilly Ave and Centre Street. Detailed design is now complete. The paving of Lilly Ave and Centre Street has been awarded to T.B.L. Construction Ltd. Administration posted a request for quote for the landscaping along Lily Ave which closed on March 21, 2023. One quote was received, and it is currently being reviewed.

#### • Nordegg Industrial Subdivision Phase 2:

WSP Engineering has commenced the detailed design and storm water management plan for the Nordegg Industrial Subdivision Phase 2 which includes 14 additional lots. Detailed design is at the 95% review stage and will be completed in the coming weeks, procurement to follow. 2023 budget: \$3,113,220.

#### Nordegg South Access Road:

The new access will provide a direct route for quarry traffic to Highway 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 with procurement to follow. Due to the complexity of this project completion will be scheduled for 2024. 2023 budget: \$3,280,000.

#### • Stuart Street (Cemetery to Elizabeth Ave): The work plan in 2023 includes preliminary engineering for the regrading, deep and shallow utilities c/w curb and gutter (pictured below). This project has commenced and will be completed in fall

2023. 2023 budget: \$200,000.



Stuart Street (Cemetery to Elizabeth Ave)



#### • Rocky to Nordegg Trail:

Currently, the trail is constructed from the Forestry Trunk Road to Saunders/Alexo with portions constructed beyond Misty Valley Ranch. 2023 priorities have been established and 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).
- Construct new trail and bridge installation from Saunders to just west of Baker Road.
- Construction schedule is dependent on Alberta Environment & Parks permitting and is reflected in the Agriculture and Community budget.

#### WATER AND WASTEWATER

#### Condor Sanitary Lines/Curb & Gutter/Drainage Improvements

The contract was awarded to Northside Construction. The contractor will be returning within 2023 to complete the sanitary, curb/gutter and landscaping. The paving contract, including the Condor Public Services Building, will be advertised when the surface works are complete. 2023 budget: \$3,310,500.

#### Nordegg Water Meters

The initial order of water meters and hardware was ordered in 2022, and has now been received. All serviced lots, within the Hamlet of Nordegg, are scheduled to have water meters installed within 2023. 2023 budget: \$120,000.

#### Regional Leslieville Wastewater Treatment System

Construction will continue throughout the spring of 2023 (pictures on next page). Final project completion is scheduled for fall 2023. 2023 budget: \$4,532,050.





Regional Leslieville Wastewater Treatment System

# • Leslieville Sanitary/Curb & Gutter/Drainage Improvements

Urban Dirtworks is the contractor for the Leslieville improvements. Work to be completed in 2023 includes re-lining a few sections of the sanitary line, a second lift of asphalt on 3rd Ave, re-drilling the sanitary line under the railway tracks and minor ditching on 4th Street. 2023 budget: \$330,000.

#### BRIDGES (REPLACEMENT/REHABILITATION)

Bridge File (BF) 02394, located on Raven River, on range road 6-1, construction began on July 4, 2022. The bridge opened on Nov 24, 2022, deficiencies will be completed in summer 2023. 2023 budget: \$55,000.

BF 7038, located over Tributary to Red Deer River, on range road 4-4, replacement has been delayed until summer 2023 due to contractor scheduling. 2023 budget: \$1,010,000.

BF 2191, located over Lobstick Creek, on range road 5-2, currently is at the detailed design stage. Procurement shall commence once the detailed design is approved. 2023 budget: \$1,319,680.

BF 70151, located over North Raven River, on range road 5-5, at the preliminary design stage, approvals with be throughout 2023 with construction in 2024. 2023 budget: \$52,525.

BF 71510, located over Horseguard Creek, on range road 5-5, at the preliminary design stage. A site survey has been completed. Procurement shall commence once the detailed design is approved with construction scheduled in 2023. 2023 budget: \$1,235,000.

BF 7786, located over Horseguard Creek, on township road 39-2, at the preliminary design stage. A site survey has been completed. Procurement shall commence once the detailed design is approved with construction scheduled in 2023. 2023 budget: \$893,000.

BF 78211, located over Logan Creek, Red Deer River access road (township road 31-2), at the detailed design stage. This project obtained a grant of \$1,500,000 from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) for the replacement. 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. 2023 budget: \$2,090,000.

AEP Partnership Fish Passage (NSR-1) is a crossing that was identified by AEP as a barrier to fish passage. This culvert replacement has been awarded to Avid Energy Services and is scheduled to have construction completed by August 31, 2023. This project obtained a grant from AEP for the cost of the replacement. 2023 budget: \$137,500.

#### **Bridges General**

Procurement for an engineering firm on four bridge files is scheduled in the Spring of 2023. Once awarded, the engineering firm will complete preliminary engineering on the selected bridge file.

#### Nordegg Natural Gas

County staff will be scheduling a meeting with Rocky Gas Co-op to discuss progress on the natural gas connection to Nordegg. Progress updates will be included in the report as information becomes available.

#### • Historic Site to Twin Lakes Trail

WCE Engineering has been retained to commence the design work on a trail connecting highway 11A to 11. Stakeholder engagement has commenced, and the design is expected to be completed by Fall 2023.

To view the complete March 28, 2023 Capital Project Status Update Report, visit:

<u>www.clearwatercounty.ca/council</u>. The document can be found in the March 28, 2023 Council agenda.

In 2017, Clearwater County Council deferred the construction of a new Administration Building to 2028 at an estimated cost of \$30M. This is reflected in the 10-year capital plan and the funding strategy sets aside dollar amounts each year to ensure there are sufficient funds when the projects starts.



### Protecting Roadside Workers

The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2022 (Bill 5) makes changes to the Traffic Safety Act to better protect all first responders and roadside workers.

The act requires motorists to slow down, when passing all roadside workers, when vehicle lights are flashing and they are stopped on the highway.

This change gives snowplow operators and roadside maintenance teams the same legislated protection as first responders, tow truck operators and construction crews. Having consistent traffic rules for all roadside workers also reduces confusion for motorists and increases highway safety.

Right now, only traffic in the adjacent lane has to slow to 60 km/h when passing stopped emergency vehicles with their lights flashing, called the "Slow Down Move Over" legislation.

That was set to expand under changes to Bill 5 on Mar. 1, 2023, to have more roadside workers protected and force drivers in more lanes to slow down.

However, Alberta Transportation announced that more time is needed to make drivers aware of the upcoming changes.

The province said it will launch a robust education campaign to prevent unnecessary tickets and the amendments will now take effect Sept. 1, 2023.

# Traffic Safety Act changes

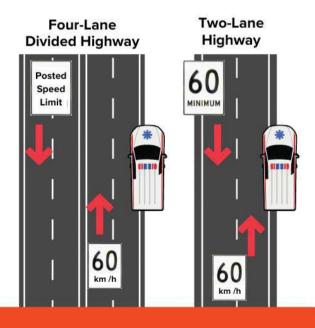


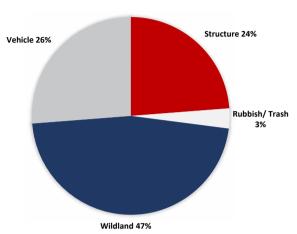
Image Source: Alberta Motor Transport Association



### CRFRS 2022 Annual Report Highlight

Each year, Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) published an annual report of activities from the previous year. The below summary of fire incidents from 2022 can be found on page four of the 2022 annual report. The full document is available on the CRFRS website: www.crfrs.ca.





#### Structure Fires (29)

A fire involving structural components of various types of residential, commercial, industrial buildings, this includes motor homes.

#### Rubbish/Trash (4)

A fire that involves organic and nonorganic materials resulting in no dollar loss.

#### Wildland (57)

A fire that is unplanned, unwanted, uncontrolled and in an area of combustible vegetation. This can also include response to a controlled burn

#### Vehicle (32)

A fire that involves an automobile or an off highway vehicle.

#### Motor Vehicle (124)

This rescue is performed when a vehicle collides with another vehicle, pedestrian, animal, road debris, any other type of obstruction, also includes single vehicle incidents

#### Off Highway Vehicle (13)

This rescue is performed when a vehicle which that capable of driving on and off paved or gravel surface is involved in a front country rescue with another vehicle, pedestrian, animal, road debris, any other type of obstruction or a single OHV roll over in the front country within 300 meters of a roadway.

#### Ice/Water (7)

This rescue is performed when a person is trapped on the ice, immersed in water, or fallen through the ice. This can include incidents of boat mechanical failure.

#### Elevator (0)

This rescue is performed when someone becomes trapped within an elevator, due to a mechanical failure.

#### Farm (1)

This rescue is performed for an incident specific to farm operations, involving grain bins, large machinery, etc.

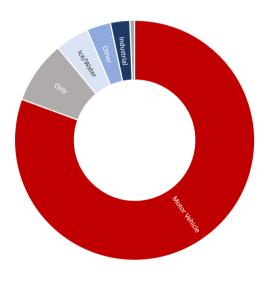
#### Aircraft Emergency (1)

This rescue is performed for an incident specific to an aircraft fire/incident/crash.

#### Other (5)

This category includes when the fire department is requested to assist Search and Rescue, RCMP, or mutual aid partners, any verbal reports to stations, and any incidents that do not fit into any other categories are captured as "miscellaneous".

#### **RESCUE INCIDENTS**



CRFRS 2022 Annual Report Page 4

### Wildfire Season & Forest Protection Area

Wildfire season begins March 1 and ends October 31. For this period of time the Provincial government is the authority in the Forest Protection Area (FPA) for fire bans and permits, even though the boundaries are within municipalities.

Approximately 85% of Clearwater County is in the Rocky Mountain House Forest Area, this is important to know if you live within the FPA boundary. During wildfire season fire permits are required for all burning activities (excluding campfires).



Fire permits in the FPA are free and can be obtained online or by contacting your local Alberta Agriculture and Forestry office. To obtain an online permit visit firepermits.alberta.ca or you can contact the provincial Rocky Mountain House Forest Area office at 403-845-8250.

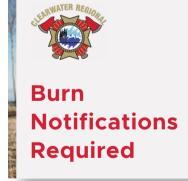
Being a Clearwater County resident, it is important to keep in mind that burn notifications are also utilized (as per Clearwater County Fire Rescue Services and Fire Control Bylaw 1069/20) year round. These notifications are used to inform Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) of a controlled burn, to prevent the unnecessary dispatching of resources. Burn notifications are free of charge and strongly encouraged.

#### How to complete a burn notification:

- Complete the form online at www.crfrs.ca
- Call the burn notification line at 403-845-7711
- If you would like more information about the burn notification system, please email CRFRS at fireadmin@clearwatercounty.ca
- Or call CRFRS at 403-845-4444

I live in the Forest Protection Area (FPA) within

Clearwater County; do I need to complete a burn

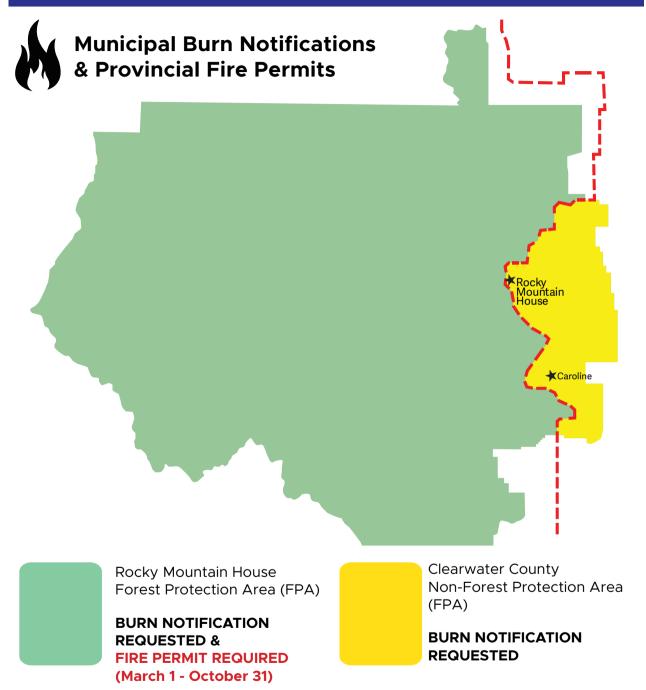




notification? Yes, it is strongly recommended you submit a burn notification and obtain a provincial permit. Visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/burnnotifications for more frequently asked questions about the burn notification system.



### Forest Protection Area in Clearwater County



Visit www.crfrs.ca for a more detailed map.

### Be Prepared for Wildfire Season

FireSmart Canada developed a **FireSmart Begins at Home Manual** for homeowners to learn more about protecting their homes from risk of wildfires. This is an excellent resource that provides small steps homeowners can take to defend their homes.

Wildfires are a natural part of wildland ecosystems. Without wildfire, the landscape loses its diversity. Wildfires recycle nutrients, help plants reproduce and create a mosaic of vegetation that provides habitat for a variety of wildlife.

By extending our lifestyles and communities further into forested areas, we become more exposed to the danger of wildfire. Living where wildfires can occur puts your home at risk, but it is possible to live safely with this natural event. Visit <a href="www.firesmartcanada.ca">www.firesmartcanada.ca</a> to download the home manual, and many other useful resources.



#### FireSmart Home Ignition Zone

New for 2023, the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) has a new look! Research and post-wildfire studies have prompted FireSmart Canada to update its HIZ to better help residents reduce risk to their homes and properties. This version emphasizes the importance of reducing or removing the potential of structure



ignition from an approaching wildland fire in the Immediate Zone, the most vulnerable area.

What is the Home Ignition Zone? The Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) is the area within 30 metres of your home and structures. It is made up of three priority areas: The Immediate Zone, Intermediate Zone, and Extended Zone.

The HIZ shows how you can minimize your home and property's vulnerability to wildland fire by addressing threats in each of the three priority zones, starting with the most vulnerable area, the Immediate Zone, and working your way outward. Learn more about the HIZ and how you can reduce your risk, in the FireSmart Begins at Home Guide.



### Be Prepared for Spring Flood Season

Floods are a frequent hazard in Canada and have devastated many areas of Alberta. Flooding can occur at any time of year and can result from:

- heavy rainfall
- ice jams
- rapid melting of glaciers or snow packs
- natural or man-made dam failures

#### BEFORE A FLOOD

The potential for flood damage is high in low-lying areas along rivers or in ravines, called flood plains. If possible, avoid building or buying properties located there. Flooding is not limited to these areas and can happen anywhere. Individuals and families should be prepared to take care of themselves for at least 72 hours. Visit alberta.ca/BePrepared to learn more!

#### **DURING A FLOOD**

Never attempt to cross a flooded area. Water is powerful – 6 inches of moving water can knock over an adult and 12 inches can carry away a car. Two feet of moving water can easily move mid-sized vehicles.

#### AFTER A FLOOD

After flood waters are gone, there could be substantial damage to a community and hazards to be aware of when you return.

### Alberta Emergency Alerts



Twice per year, in November and May, the Alberta Emergency Alert (AEA) system issues a province wide test message. These are not just a test of the Alberta Emergency Alert system. It is an opportunity for all of us to test our own readiness to respond.

When you receive the alert, take a moment to reflect on how prepared you would have been if that alert were real. Download the app today:

www.alberta.ca/alberta-emergency-alert.aspx

#### **AEA legend for alerts:**

Test Alert

System testing in progress

Advisory

Prepare to take action

Critical Alert

Take immediate action





### **Upcoming Ag Events**





### **Upcoming Ag Events Continued**

12
APRIL

#### **Green Acreages Workshop**

Free virtual workshop on April 12 partnered with the Land Stewardship Centre. Participants will get the opportunity to learn more about environmental stewardship on their

acreage, hobby farm or recreational property. Online registration with full details is available online at <a href="https://www.clearwatercounty.ca/agnews">www.clearwatercounty.ca/agnews</a>.

#### Garden Workshop & Seed Swap

Hosted at the Condor Community Center on April 22 @ 1pm, a free gardening workshop featuring a presentation by horticulturist Rob Spencer. Online registration with full



details is available online at <a href="https://www.clearwatercounty.ca/agnews">www.clearwatercounty.ca/agnews</a>.

30

Pollinators Workshop: Save the date! A pollinator and bumble bee workshop hosted by Charity Briere at West County Greenhouse on April 30. In this workshop, participants will put together a pollinator-friendly hanging

basket in the morning and have the option to build a bumble bee box in the afternoon after lunch. Once registration information is available, it will be posted online at <a href="https://www.clearwatercounty.ca/agnews">www.clearwatercounty.ca/agnews</a>.

#### **Conifer Tree Seedling Program 2023**

White spruce and lodgepole pine seedlings are available for purchase/planting in Clearwater County.
Seedlings arrive mid-July ready to plant. The application forms is



available at <a href="https://www.clearwatercounty.ca/lancare">www.clearwatercounty.ca/lancare</a>, applications are being accepted until June 16, 2023.

#### 2023 Weed Workshops

Save the dates for the annual weed workshops hosted on May 31 and June 7, 2023. As more information becomes



07

available it will be shared on the County's website and social media pages.

#### **Caring for My Land funding Program**

The Caring for my Land program offers 25%-75% funding – up to \$5000 - through Alberta Environment and Parks Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program and EPCOR. Visit <a href="https://www.clearwatercounty.ca/lancare">www.clearwatercounty.ca/lancare</a> to learn more.



Pictured above: Off-site watering systems

#### **Farm Rental Rates Survey**

Ag and Community Services is collecting data on local farm rental rates. **This data is being collected with the intentions to report what is being charged, not what should be charged.** 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. Use this link, or scan the QR code to find the survey:



www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/agricultural-services



## Mountain Pine Beetle Identification



The Provincial government reports that mountain pine beetle (MPB) is the most serious insect pest of mature pines in western Canada. Millions of hectares of pine forests have been affected by this pest in British Columbia and Alberta, over the past two decades. Relying on mass attack and introducing a symbiotic fungi, the beetles overwhelm pine tree defences. Successfully attacked trees die within one year. MPB may kill vast tracks of mature pines.

#### What is Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB):

MPB's are small, black beetles about the size of a grain of rice. They are found in pine forests, in large groups they work together to kill millions of pine trees annually.

In mid-summer, beetles bore into trees and lay eggs which then hatch into larvae, trees try to defend themselves by pitching the beetle out but are sometimes unsuccessful.

Female beetles leave a blue stain fungus behind, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients to the tree. Between the fungus and chewing larvae, the tree starts to die

The needles of a successfully attacked tree from last summer will turn yellow and orange first, starting around May, and then turn red the following year.



#### Signs that you have MPB:

- Entrance Holes: In the early stages of infestation, small holes on the outer bark of a tree with sawdust around them are visible, evidence that beetles have burrowed into the tree.
- Pitch Tubes: As the tree tries to defend itself, you may see "pitch tubes" larger openings with thick sap or resin pouring out. Pitch tubes can also be a sign that the tree is fighting a different kind of parasite or disease. A mountain pine beetle attack is just one reason a tree might look like that.
- **Red Needles:** Within a year, it's very easy to recognize a tree that's been killed by mountain pine beetles. The needles of the tree turn yellow and then red. In some parts of Alberta, there are very prominent sections of forest that have been lost to mountain pine beetle infestations.
- Blue Stained Wood: Beetle-killed timber is dyed blue, a stain left by the fungus that the mountain pine beetle introduces into the tree

Information above is gathered from the Alberta Forest Products Association website: <a href="https://www.albertaforestproducts.ca/the-mountain-pine-beetle/">www.albertaforestproducts.ca/the-mountain-pine-beetle/</a>



### Mountain Pine Beetle Prevention

#### How to slow the spread of MPB:

**Early Intervention:** If beetle attacks in a new area are caught very early and the infestation is light, single-tree interventions can be used. This can include techniques like removing individual affected trees or applying **pheromone patches (verebenone)** in the area that repel the beetles.

**Strategic Harvesting:** In areas where the mountain pine beetle has heavily infiltrated the forest and the risk of further spread is high, we can save more trees in the long run by harvesting the affected area. This helps prevent the beetles from advancing into neighbouring sections of forest, in cases where targeting single trees won't be enough to solve the problem.

#### What is verbenone and how to use it:

Verbenone can be used to help prevent attacks on pine trees. It is a naturally occurring chemical that mimics the scent beetles emit when a tree is heavily infested – this tricks beetles into believing the tree is occupied. Verbenone is specific to MPB and is <u>not a pesticide</u>.

Verbenone repellent pouches are used to protect high-valued pine trees over a small area. It is recommended to place one pouch per tree between June 15 to July 1 at a 10-15 metre radius to the next pouch.

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 at a cost of \$60.00 (+GST). Packages are to be stored in a sealed freezer bag in a freezer (without anything edible). For more information contact the Agriculture and Community Services department.





Verebenone pouches on trees in Clearwater County

To find more information about MPB on public (crown) land contact Alberta Forest Health and Adaptation by email to <a href="mailto:info@gov.ab.ca">info@gov.ab.ca</a> or visit <a href="mailto:www.alberta.ca/forest-pests-and-damage-agents.aspx">www.alberta.ca/forest-pests-and-damage-agents.aspx</a>.

For questions about MPB on private land in Clearwater County, contact the Agriculture and Community Services department:

- landcare@clearwatercounty.ca
- 403-846-4040

Or visit: www.clearwatercounty.ca/landcare.



### Sasquatch & Partners





Sasquatch and Partners is a multi-county initiative encouraging responsible recreation on public land. We thank you for treading carefully while enjoying Sasquatch's backyard.



Sasquatch's message of respect and ecological stewardship in the west country focuses on building a sense of community pride and ownership by residents, workers and vistors that will be effective and sustainable in the long term.

Learn more on our website: www.clearwatercounty.ca/backyard

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.

Did you know? There are 19 Welcome to Our Backyard/ Sasquatch signs in Clearwater County!



### Canadian Agriculture Safety Week

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW) is a public awareness campaign focusing on the importance of farm safety. CASW takes place every year during the third week of March, CASW took place on March 12–18, 2023.

During CASW, and this year you're encouraged to commit to farm safety every day. Farm safety is about more than just being aware of hazards. It's about engaging in conversations that reflect on the importance of farm safety. Above all, it's about contributing to long-term changes that benefit everyone who lives and works on or visits Canadian farms.





I pledge to commit to farm safety every day.

By committing to making farm safety a priority every day of the year, we can all work together toward ensuring no one gets hurt on our farms.

Farm safety is something that should be a focus everyday, not one week in the year. Learn more about what you can to ensure your farm is safe by visiting www.agsafetyweek.ca.



### Leslieville-Condor Area Structure Plan

#### What is an area structure plan?

An area structure plan (ASP) is a document that is approved by Clearwater County Council as bylaws. ASPs outline detailed policies for growth and future land use designations of specific areas of the County.

#### **Growth Halmets in Clearwater 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.

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

#### **Public Engagement**

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 on the County website along with the terms of reference for the steering committee.

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.

**OPEN HOUSE** 





#### CONDOR

DRAFT AREA STRUCTURE PLAN (ASP)

#### **Open Houses:**

Clearwater County Planning & Development staff and Invistec Consulting Ltd. hosted two public open houses from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, one on March 29 (Condor) and one on March 30 (Leslieville). The intent of the public open houses was to review and provide comment as well as discuss the draft land use concept and ASP policies.

If anyone was unable to attend, a link will be made available to a google forms survey on the Clearwater County website that allows opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposed policies and land use concept.

#### **Next Steps:**

Once public feedback has been captured, the draft ASPs will be going to Council for review and consideration of approval.

Learn more: <u>www.clearwatercounty.ca/ASP</u>.



### MPC Agendas Now Available

The Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) is a Council committee established by Bylaw 1997 (current Bylaw is 998-14) and acknowledged within the Municipal Government Act (MGA). The MPC is a Development and Subdivision Authority for land use development and subdivisions and is a referral agency for redesignating land use.

Meetings are tentatively scheduled on the third Wednesday of every month.

#### PUBLIC MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Each year, Council holds an Organizational meeting in October to designate their memberships on boards as well as to elect members-at-large to represent the community on select boards. Last year the Organizational meeting took place on Monday October 25, 2022.

#### **MPC MEETINGS & AGENDA**

At the February 28, 2023 Regular Council meeting, Council directed Administration to advertise the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) meeting agendas on Clearwater County's website.



To view MPC Meeting Agenda and Minutes, visit: www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/municipal-planning-commission.





## Amalgamation Study Update Continued

Near the end of February and over the course of March, discussion has proceeded about the study into the potential amalgamation of Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline.

It is important to note that neither County Council nor Village Council have made any decisions that would commit to amalgamation. The only decision that has formally been made is that both councils are interested in exploring the topic amongst themselves and with County and Village residents.

As of publishing, there have been four in-person sessions, and one virtual session.

Each of the sessions explored a few topic areas such as:

- The history of the Village and the County and how collaboration has occurred over the years;
- How municipal status changes in Alberta under the laws of the province;
- The process that must be followed by the Village and the County as the discussion proceeds; and
- The presentation of a series of questions that have commonly emerged through the discussion.

Some of the topics that have come up are:

- Costs of amalgamation
- Why amalgamation rather than something else?
- What will happen to the Village?
- How might amalgamation affect the services and facilities offered by the Village or the County?
- Who pays for the repair of things like sidewalks, pipes, streets in the Village if the amalgamation happens?
- What will happen to tax rates if the County and Village amalgamate?

#### **Next Steps**

Now that the engagement sessions are complete, a report will be provided to both Councils, outlining what was heard, some of the common questions that were asked, and the pros and cons of amalgamation according to the people who live and do business in the Village and County.

Because this process is happening under Alberta law, the Councils must follow the rules set out in the Municipal Government Act.

This law says that the next step is for the two Councils to decide whether they should begin to formally negotiate with each other. This decision has to be provided to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

If both Councils choose to start to negotiate, this starts the process of the County and Village talking about how best to serve the residents, businesses, and community organizations in both places over the long-term. If one or both Councils vote against starting negotiations, the amalgamation process stops.



Feb 27, 2023 - Leslieville Community Centre



Mar 13, 2023 - Caroline Commuity HUB



### Leslieville Recreation Grounds

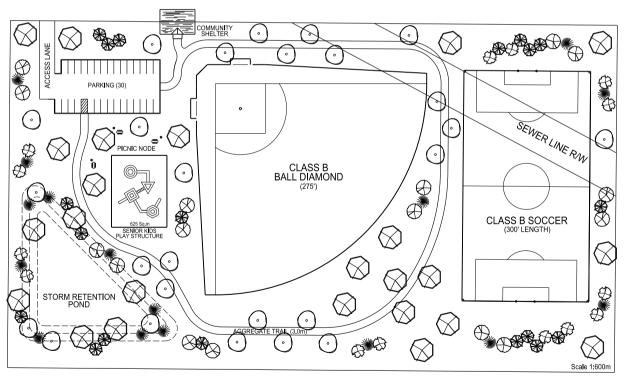
At the February 14, 2023 Council meeting, the Leslieville Recreation Area project progress summary update was presented.

Since the changing footprint of the new high school in Leslieville, community stakeholders and Clearwater County have begun discussions around the future recreation amenities within the surrounding community. During the 2021 budget process Council allocated funding to consult key stakeholders as well as the general community to identity what amenities and features should be included in the development of recreation lands purchased in 2019 conjunction with the development of the Leslieville Fire Hall.

As per the latest Capital Projects Status Update, Administration is currently reviewing the detailed design and finalizing permitting in preparation for tender advertisement. The tender will include site grading, baseball diamond shale, chain-link fencing, parking lot construction and trail construction.

Structure elements such as the washroom, playground structures, picnic tables, bleachers, dugouts and tree planting will be sourced through other procurement processes. The 2023 approved budget for this project is \$1,650,000.00.

The tender award is anticipated to be announced this spring. Stay tunned for more information.



Leslieville Recreation Site Concept Plan, Feb 14, 2023 Council meeting.



### **Updates in Nordegg**

#### **Nordegg Discovery Centre**

Clearwater County leases from the province the historic Brazeau Collieries Mine Site in Nordegg and manages it for tours to the public. As a National and Provincial Historic Site, Brazeau Collieries has been deemed as historically significant to Albertans and all Canadians.

This is one of Canada's largest industrial heritage sites and has stood abandoned since the mid 1950's. Brazeau Collieries and the Nordegg Town Site thrived during the first half of this century before the trains that used the coal briquettes, after it switched from these briquettes to diesel power.

Visitors are invited on the site only as part of a guided tour due to its remote location and the fact that it was an abandoned industrial site. Group, School and Photo tours are also available; for more information and to book, please contact call the County office at 403-845-4444.

Tours run out of the County's newly renovated museum building which houses both the new Nordegg Discovery Centre and the Visitor Information Centre. Tours will resume in 2023 and run annually from the May long weekend to September long weekend.

Phase 1 of the newly redesigned exhibit inside the Nordegg Discovery Centre is expected to open to the public in the summer of 2023.

It is anticipated that the full exhibit will open in 2024. Included in this project is the mural recreation in an accessible location.

Stay tuned for more updates!

#### Nordegg Cemetery Engagement

Clearwater County provides voluntary services and funding to all sixteen community cemeteries located in the County. In addition, the County manages and operates the Nordegg Cemetery.

In 2023, the County will be engaging contracted services to assist with the creation of a Cemetery Master Plan and Cemetery Bylaw(s) to meet legislative requirements.

Later in 2023, work will begin with re-surveying and pin laying as well as straightening existing headstones.

Additionally, the current Nordegg cemetery is reaching capacity and planning is currently underway for public engagement for the development of a new cemetery for the Hamlet of Nordegg and surrounding area.

Consultation for project start up and preliminary analysis is complete. Potential sites have been assessed and concept plans for the most favorable are currently being finalized. It is anticipated the this project will be tender ready for 2024.

#### Planning & Development Update

Clearwater County is finalizing the subdivision of the Historic commercial lots in Nordegg and it is anticipated to have the lots for sale later this year.

Also, the County is working on subdividing the second phase of residential development on what will be known as Lily Avenue north of Elizabeth Ave.



### Be BearSmart!



Its officially spring time and that means bears will begin emerging from their dens. The Provincial Government published "The BearSmart Guide to Playing Safely in Bear and Cougar Country" this is a great resource to check out. It is available online: <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-bearsmart-program-overview.aspx">www.alberta.ca/alberta-bearsmart-program-overview.aspx</a>.

As found in their guide, a few quick tips for what you should know about Alberta bears:

- In the spring, summer and fall bears need to eat enough to survive winter.
- Bears can consume up to 25,000 calories a day.
   Most of their diet is actually low in calories—the natural diet of a bear is 85 to 90 per cent plants and berries and 10 to 15 per cent insects and mammals. This means they must eat a lot, and often.
- Bears use their intelligence, curiosity and keen sense of smell to seek out new food sources.
- Bears will overcome their natural wariness of people to take advantage of the easy meals we provide when we carelessly store our food, garbage or pet food.

- Bears have good memories. They remember where to access food and how. In human-use places they can apply these skills to get food from fruit trees, containers, vehicles or buildings.
- Human food can be irresistible to bears.
   Bears that are rewarded with food when they access human use places can become "food-conditioned." Be BearSmart: store your food and garbage where bears can't get to them.

THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE
THE PROBLEM OF A FOODCONDITIONED BEAR IS TO NOT
CREATE ONE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

#### BEAR SIGHTING REPORTS

You can look up, report and learn more about bear sightings in Clearwater and Mountain View County at: <a href="https://www.clearwatercounty.ca/wildlife.">www.clearwatercounty.ca/wildlife.</a>

If the presence of a bear or other wildlife is a safety concern or a nuisance to property, contact the 24 hour toll-free Report A Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800. If the situation is a public safety emergency, call 9-1-1.





During the month of May, purchase three monthly Recreation Memberships and receive an additional month for free.

Aquatic Centre

ROCKYREGIONAL

~ 4 months for the price of 3 ~



To celebrate
Seniors (60+) in
our community,
we'll be offering
FREE access to
the Fitness Centre
and Swimming
all week.

Credit Union Co-op **Aquatic Centre** 



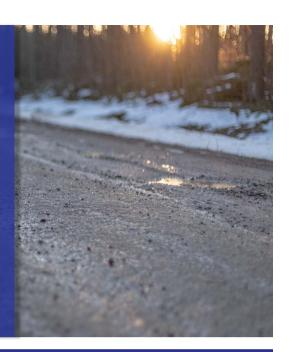


### MARCH 29, 2023 @ 12PM

# ROAD BANS IN EFFECT

As per Highway Order No. 01/23 Clearwater County will be placing road bans on local surface roadways. Gravel roadways will be banned as required. All heavy trucks utilizing gravel roads must be operating on dry or frozen track only.

For more information on road restrictions, please visit <a href="https://www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/roads">www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/roads</a> or contact Public Works Administration at 403-845-4444.



## Frequently Requested Numbers

Clearwater County Office
Clearwater County Office Fax
Clearwater Mutual Aid Co-op (CMAC) – Oil & Gas Emergency
Clearwater County After Hours Emergency Number
24-Hour Burn Notification Line
Alberta One Call
Alberta Environment
Alberta Land Titles
Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce
Family and Community Support Services
Fish and Wildlife
Health Unit
Highway Services – Volker Stevin
Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jason Nixon
Town of Rocky Mountain House
Village of Caroline
Summer Village of Burnstick Lakewww.burnsticklakesummervillage.ca
Fire Ban Information

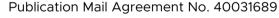


Clearwater County Council and Administration want to thank everyone for the contributions & feedback to the draft MDP.

Over the next month, Administration will be working hard to review, consider and incorporate the number of verbal and written submissions received into proposed options for Council to consider prior to second and third readings of the MDP Bylaw.



It is anticipated that this item will be going back to Council in **April 2023!** 



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

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







Scan this QR code to

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