



Clearwater County Highlights

DECEMBER
2023

A NEWSLETTER
FOR RESIDENTS OF
CLEARWATER COUNTY

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A Message from the Reeve

Hello everyone,

Following our annual organizational meeting on October 24, where Council appointed its leadership and assigned roles, it is an honor to address you as your Reeve for the upcoming year. While this marks my second term on Council, serving as Reeve is a new responsibility I eagerly embrace. I appreciate the support of my fellow Councillors and the dedicated staff during this transition.

I extend my gratitude to those who have volunteered to serve on various boards and committees in our community. Your valuable input and the time you commit contributes significantly to the economic and social well-being of our beautiful rural region.

The recent autumn brought favorable harvest weather, allowing for significant progress in agricultural activities. I hope each of you had a successful harvest and managed to complete your fall fieldwork. The calf run is in full swing, with cattle producers focusing on winter feeding programs and marketing efforts. For more farm-related articles, please refer to pages 20-25.

In October, our Public Works department concluded road and bridge construction projects, despite some having to be carried over to next year due to October snowfall (see pages 10-13 for details).



Michelle
Swanson
Reeve

Council actively participated in the annual RMA convention, gaining insights into provincial and municipal issues and engaging with other local municipalities to address local challenges. These conventions also provide an opportunity to advocate for provincial programs and services.

Concerning County priorities, programs and service levels are reviewed throughout the year, and confirmed during budget deliberations, setting the direction for the next four years through the operating and ten-year capital budget. The deliberations

for the 2024 budget occurred on December 6-7, with live streaming and recording available on our YouTube Channel. A public feedback form was accessible during the budget process for those wishing to share input on existing service levels.

Our Council is dedicated and hardworking, and we welcome your comments and feedback. Councillor contact information is on the next page, and you can also reach us during our weekly drop-in sessions. For the full calendar schedule, visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/drop-in.

Looking ahead to another productive season, your participation and input remain pivotal to our community's growth and prosperity. On behalf of Council, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards,

Michelle Swanson, Reeve



November 8, Council pictured with MLA, Jason Nixon at the Annual Fall Rural Municipalities of Alberta Convention in Edmonton.



Michelle Swanson received her Municipal Elected Leaders Certificate during Fall Rural Municipalities of Alberta Convention.



Clearwater County Council Term 2021-25



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Council meetings are live streamed & recorded, watch them at your convenience:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/Council or
www.youtube.com/ClearwaterCounty.

Stay up to date on Clearwater County Council discussions and topics by reading the Council highlights (**pages 4-9**) or by watching meetings!

Upcoming Regular Council Meetings

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

JANUARY 9 & 23, 2024

FEBRUARY 13 & 27, 2024

Upcoming Strategic Planning Meetings

Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole meetings are scheduled to discuss current and prepare the upcoming budget year.

JANUARY 15, 2024

APRIL 15, 2024

JUNE 17, 2024

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024



Don't forget! You can drop-in with a Councillor once a week at the County office. Find the schedule here:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/drop-in.



Council Highlights

Regular Council Meeting September 26, 2023

Public Hearing of Bylaw 1157/23

Following public hearing proceedings, Council granted second and third readings of Bylaw 1157/23 to redesignate ± 2.36 acres, located in the southwest corner of the south half of the quarter section (NW 21-36-05-W5M), from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence District "CR". The remaining ± 77.53 acres of the south half of the quarter section would remain under Agriculture District "A".

Public Hearing of Bylaw 1154/23

Following public hearing proceedings, Council granted second and third readings of Bylaw 1154/23 to redesignate the subject lands (Pt. NW 14-39-08 W5M & SW 14-39-08 W5M) from the Agriculture District "A" to the Direct Control District "DC" to consolidate the lands under one title through the subdivision process.

First Reading of Bylaw No. 1159/23

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1159/23 to redesignate ± 20 -acres, located in the southwest portion of the quarter section (NW 04-36-05-W5M), from the Agriculture District "A" to the Institutional District "P".

First Reading of Bylaw 1162/23

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1162/23 to redesignate ± 22.13 acres at NW 08-39-08-W5M from Agriculture District "A" to Intensive Agriculture District "IA" and proceed to a public hearing. The remaining 130.99 acres of the quarter section would remain under Agriculture District "A".

First Reading of Bylaw 1163/23

Council granted first reading to redesignate ± 5.5 acres, located in the east central portion of the quarter section (Pt. NE 09-37-05-W5M), from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agricultural District "CRA". The remaining ± 88.40 acres of the quarter section would remain under the Agriculture District "A".

Municipal Planning Commission Review

Council directed Administration to bring back the amended Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) Bylaw in concert with the upcoming Land Use Bylaw amendments, to include direction to MPC about detailed reasons for decisions, along with annual reporting to Council.

Request to Waive Tax and Tax Penalties

Council received a presentation from a ratepayer as information and decided to maintain the current tax/penalties without any changes.

Remuneration Analysis

Council directed Administration to bring the Council Remuneration Policy (COUNCIL-001) to a future Council meeting for review.

Fall 2023 Resolution

Council seconded Wheatland County's resolution for submission to Rural Municipalities of Alberta's Central District meeting regarding Enhancing Home Care Services for Rural Residents in Alberta.

Regular Council Meeting October 10, 2023

First Reading of Bylaw 1166/23

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1166/23 for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw 714/01 to redesignate ± 12.0 acres on Pt. NE 24 37 08 W5M from Agriculture District "A" to Recreation Facility District "RF" and proceed to a public hearing.

First Reading of Bylaw 1168/23

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1168/23 for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw 714/01 to redesignate ± 7.0 acres of the SW 03-37-06-W5M from Agriculture District "A" to Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA" and proceed to a public hearing.



Council Highlights Continued

First Reading of Bylaw 1169/23

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1169/23 for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw 714/01 to redesignate +/- 3.58 acres from Recreation Facility District "RF" to Country Residential District "CR" and proceed to a public hearing.

First Reading of Bylaw 1170/23

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1170/23 for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw 714/01 to redesignate +/- 0.18 acres of Plan 4142AS, Block 1, Lots 3 & 4 (Pt. SE 26 39 05 W5M) from Hamlet Commercial District "HC" to the Hamlet Residential District "HR" and proceed to a public hearing.

Bylaw 1172/23 to Rescind Bylaw No. 1026/17 - Parkland Community Planning Services Master Agreement

Council passed Bylaw 1172/23, for purposes of rescinding Bylaw 1026/17, which was created to develop a master agreement with Parkland Community Planning Services (PCPS), which is now expired. If the need arises for the County to use the services provided by PCPS, Clearwater County will hire at an hourly rate or revisit a contract option.

Delegation – North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

Council received a 2023 overview and project highlights presentation from the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) for information.

Rocky Mountain House RCMP Detachment

Council received Staff Sergeant Stephanie Lesyk's presentation related to current and forecasted RMH detachment staff complements and statistics for information.

Increased Funding for Clearwater Regional Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Program

Council approved an increase to the Agriculture and Community Services 2023 operating budget in the amount of \$2,838.47 funded from contingency for the Clearwater Regional Family and Community Support Services contribution.

Second & Third Readings of Bylaw 1145/23 - Local Highways Management

Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1145/23 - Local Highways Management for the purpose of regulating the use of local highways under the direction, control and management of Clearwater County.

2023 Budget Adjustment for Rocky Mountain House Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade

Council approved a \$1,000,000 budget increase to Lagoon Cost Share with the Town of Rocky Mountain House, transfers to other Governments in the 2023 Public Works operating budget and that the increase is funded by the sewer general restricted surplus for the Rocky Mountain House Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade.

This \$30-million project not only ensures compliance with stringent provincial and federal environmental standards but also positions the Town to support anticipated growth over the coming decades.

In 2020, The Town of Rocky Mountain House was awarded \$10,889,200 in funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (Rural and Northern Communities stream), delivered through Infrastructure Canada, toward the project. Additionally, the Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership Program, delivered through Alberta Transportation, is contributing an additional \$9,073,426.

To guarantee the project's success, the balance is cost-shared between the two municipalities, where the County will contribute 25.4% and the Town 74.6%, as per the Wastewater Treatment Capital Funding Agreement.

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



Council Highlights Continued

Regular Council Meeting October 24 2023

Bylaw 1161/23

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1161/23 for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw 714/01 to redesignate +/- 4.76 acres within Pt. NE 21-36-06 W5M from Agriculture District "A" to Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA".

Bylaw 1160/23

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1160/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw 714/01 to redesignate +/-7.0 acres from the SW 15-38-07-WM from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA".

Bylaw 1158/23

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1158/23 for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw 714/01 to redesignate +/- 5.75 acres of NE 30-34-04 W5M from Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agricultural District "CRA".

Bylaw 1165/23

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1165/23 for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw 714/01 to redesignate 725 sq. metres (+/- 0.18 acres) within Plan 4142AS, Block 1, Lots 1 & 2 (Pt. SE 26-39-05W5) from the Hamlet Commercial District "HC" to the Hamlet Residential District "HR".

2024 Parkland Regional Library Budget

Council approved the 2024 Parkland Regional Library Budget as presented.

Financial Reports – September 30, 2024

Council received the Clearwater County Capital and Operating Financial Reports as of September 30, 2023, as presented for information.

Council Remuneration Policy Review

Council approved the updated Council Remuneration Policy COUNCIL-001 effective October 24, 2023.

Formation of Amalgamation Committee

Council granted three readings of Bylaw 1173/23 for the purpose of establishing the Clearwater County and Village of Caroline Councils of the Whole Amalgamation Committee to enter into negotiations as required by Municipal Affairs. To learn more about the project, please visit <https://www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/amalgamation-study>

Budget Allocation

Council approved allocating \$250,000 in the 2024 Agriculture & Community Services operations budget to be paid to the Town of Rocky Mountain House for the Rocky Mountain Bike Park project, contingent upon the successful acquisition of the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) Grant.

Council decided to wait until the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County finalize a new recreation agreement before making any decisions about funding the long-term operating costs.

Council also requested clarification on the bike park location at the next Rocky-Clearwater Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee Meeting.

Regular Council Meeting November 14, 2023

Bylaw 1162/23

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1162/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw No. 714/01 to redesignate ±22.13 acres of the NW 08-39-08-W5M from the Agriculture District "A" to the Intensive Agriculture District "IA".



Council Highlights Continued

Bylaw 1166/23

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1166/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw No. 714/01 to redesignate ±12.0 acres of Plan 212 0254, Block 1, Lot 6 (Pt. NE 24-37-08-W5M) from the Agriculture District "A" to the Recreation Facility District "RF".

Bylaw 1159/23

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1159/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw No. 714/01 to redesignate +/- 20.0 acres of NW 04-36-05-W5M from the Agriculture District "A" to the Institutional District "P". In addition, Council recommended the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) investigate environmental easement options to protect Raven River.

First Reading of Bylaw 1171/23

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 1171/23 to redesignate ±13.0 acres, located in the northwest portion of the quarter section on SW-06-39-06-W5M, from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agricultural District "CRA", and proceed to a public hearing.

First Reading of Bylaw 1174/23

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 1174/23 to redesignate the existing ±3.12 acre parcel being on Plan 832 2789, Block 1, Lot 2 (Pt. SE 30-35-08-W5M), from the Highway Development District "HD" to the Recreation Facility District "RF", and proceed to a public hearing.

Compassionate Care Hospice Society

Council received a presentation from the Hospice Society, approving a funding request of \$85,000 for 2024 and to draft a funding agreement for funding in future years.

Council directed Administration to draft a letter urging a meeting with the Ministers of Health and Seniors, Community, and Social Services to advocate for more hospice support.

Tax Account Write Off

Council approved a list of accounts for write-off totaling \$1,080.25 for November 14, 2023. The processes for collection of non payment of tax levy are different for each type of assessment category. In the case of industry assessment property, bankruptcy is the overarching way that tax arrears are deemed uncollectible, the balances are likely expensed in a prior year and once bankruptcy is finalized, the accounts are reset to zero.

First Reading of Bylaw 1164/23 for Aggregate Levy

Council deferred first reading to the Community Aggregate Payment Levy Bylaw 1164/23 for the purpose of implementing an additional tax for gravel extraction until the Tax Rate Bylaw review takes place in the spring of 2024.

Renewable Energy

Council directed Administration to include a section in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) addressing renewable energy. To allow this item to be addressed before the LUB rewrite is complete, Council directed Administration to draft an independent renewable energy bylaw that can be repealed following the LUB review and adoption.

Revisions to Dust Suppression Policy

Council directed Administration to prepare a revised Dust Control Policy at a future Council meeting.

Farm Crossing Signs

Council directed Administration to research building a policy regarding farm crossing signs as per Alberta Transportation and their implementation in Clearwater County.

Councillor Attendance

Council authorized Councillor attendance and remuneration to a variety of events.

Central Alberta Economic Partnership

Council endorsed Reeve Michelle Swansons nomination for the upcoming election for the Director position with Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) Ltd.



Council Highlights Continued

Regular Council Meeting November 28, 2023

Bylaw 1168/23

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1168/23 for Pt. SW 03-37-06-W5M to redesignate ± 7.00 acres, located in the southeast corner of the quarter section, from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA".

Bylaw 1169/23

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1169/23 for Plan 102 2159, Block 1, Lot 6 (Pt. SE 30-35-08-W5M) to redesignate ± 3.5 acres, from the Recreation Facility District "RF" to the Country Residence District "CR".

Bylaw 1170/23

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1170/23 for Pt. SE 26-39-05-W5M to amend the Land Use Bylaw from the Hamlet Commercial District "HC" to the Hamlet Residential District "HR" for the construction of a playground.

Council Highlights are always posted
on social media & the website:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/highlights

Bylaw 1153/23

Council lifted Bylaw 1153/23 from the table and granted second and third readings to redesignate ± 5.0 acres, located in the east central portion of the quarter section (Pt. NE 24-37-08-W5M), from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA".

Agriculture Service Board Appointment

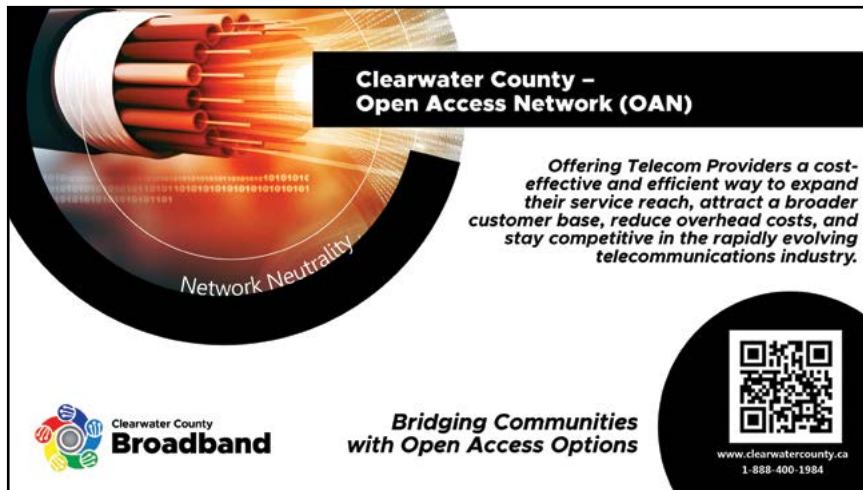
Council appointed Jim Duncan as an interim member at large to the Agriculture Services Board, effective immediately and ending October 31, 2024.

Clean Energy Improvement Program

Council defeated the recommendation to implement a bylaw for a Clean Energy Improvement Program in Clearwater County, and instead directed Administration to add information about the greener homes grant information on the County's website.

Rocky Mountain House Municipal Library Board Position


Council recommended Deborah Skeels be appointed as a trustee, by the Town of Rocky Mountain House Council, to the Rocky Mountain House Municipal Library Board for a term effective December 5, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024.




**Clearwater County –
Open Access Network (OAN)**

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Network Neutrality

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Budgeting for Your Community

Administration prepares a budget to cover the next year's anticipated operating and capital costs. This budget is then reviewed by Clearwater County Council during meetings that run over multiple days in early December (Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole meetings - or Budget Deliberations) based on priorities identified by Council.

Throughout the year recommendation are made to Council through the Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole meetings on items that have a budget impact on the current or upcoming years. Ultimately, Council makes the final decision on what projects are approved to take place in the new year.

Did you know that restricted surplus is a key saving mechanism for municipalities?

Alberta's *Municipal Government Act* doesn't allow municipalities to budget for a deficit, so restricted surplus (formerly known as reserves) allows municipalities to save money for major infrastructure projects while adhering to financial management requirements. This is used to pay 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.

Operations Budget
is prepared to a four-year outlook, but reviewed and approved yearly.

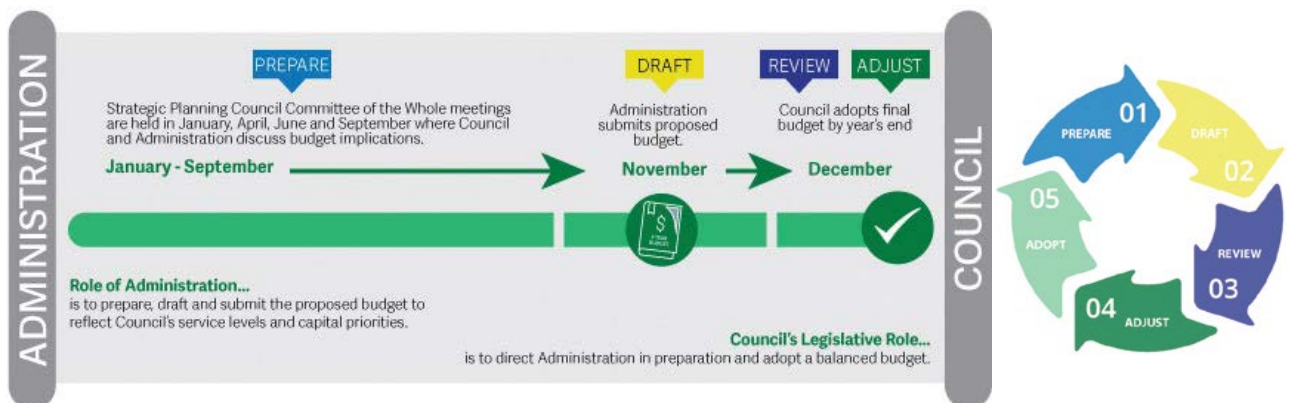
4 year outlook

Capital Budget
is prepared to a 10-year outlook as per the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and submitted to the Province when preparing grant applications.

10 year outlook

In 2017, Clearwater County Council deferred the construction of a new Administration Building to 2028 (reflected in the 10-year capital plan.)

The funding strategy sets aside dollar amounts each year to ensure there are sufficient funds when the projects starts.



Capital Projects Status Report

Capital Project Status Update Reports are prepared by Administration and presented to Council at the last Council meeting of each month. This report was presented on November 28. Read the full report at: www.clearwatercounty.ca/news.

Public Works Infrastructure

Facilities Capital Project Updates

Leslieville Recreation Area: This project includes baseball diamond, soccer pitch, washroom facility, playground area, parking lot and other structural elements. Tar-ific Construction completed construction on August 9th, 2023. The playground structure was completed on September 18, 2023. The washroom facility was installed September 15, 2023. Additional procurement for items including the garbage bins and picnic tables will be completed throughout the winter months. Agriculture and Community Services has taken over the vegetation management for this site. **2023 budget: \$1,650,000.**

Leslieville Recreation Area



Condor Public Services Building: Paving of the front parking lot was combined with the paving of the Hamlet. The project has been awarded to TJ Paving Ltd and was completed on September 16. 2023 budget: \$409,000.

Leslieville Public Services Building: Paving of the front parking lot was combined with the paving of the Leslieville East Road, which was awarded to Central City Asphalt Ltd., and construction was completed on September 15th, 2023. 2023 budget: \$282,948.00.

Nordegg Public Services Building: This project includes paving the front parking lot of the Public Services Building. Paving was completed on July 18th, 2023.

Gravel Road Rehabilitation

- Crew is working on Range Road 5-4 between Twp. Rd. 36-4 and 37-0 for 3200m. Crew has roughed in 3200m of road grade. Cleanup is ongoing as conditions warrant.
- RR 6-5 south of TR 38-2 (1600m). Crew has entire 1600m of road grade completed. Cleanup is ongoing as conditions warrant.

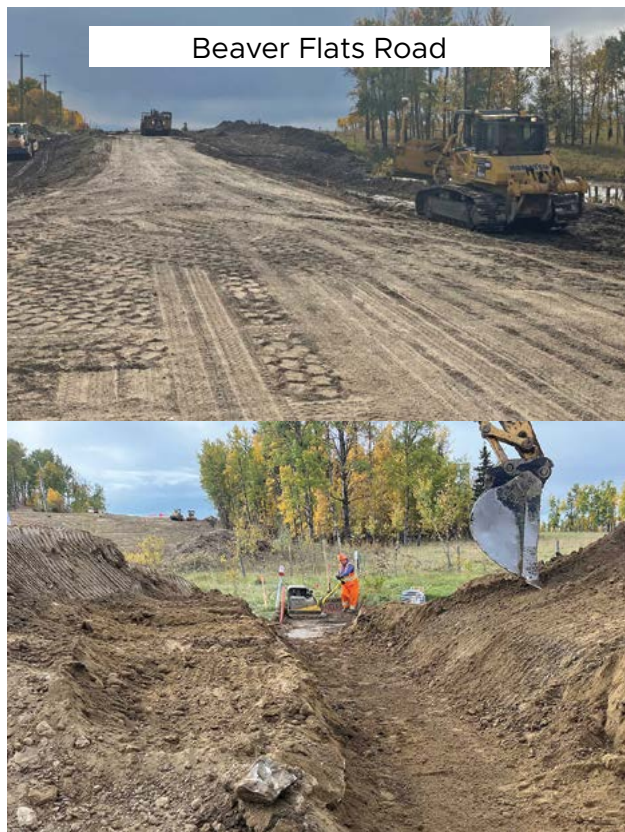
Paving Condor Public Services Building Parking Lot



Capital Projects Status Report

Grading Projects

Beaver Flats Road (RR 6-0): This project includes the construction of RR 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 now scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2024. Gravel has been applied on the entire road and temporary erosion control measures are in place for winter shutdown.



Base / Pave

River Road (RR7-4A): This project includes paving Range Road 7-4A from Highway 11 to Highway 11A approximately 4km. This project was completed on October 3, 2023.



Leslieville East Road (Twp. Rd 39-4A): This project includes paving Twp. Rd 37-4A from Hwy 761 to the Withrow Road approximately 6.3km. This project was completed on October 3, 2023.



Capital Projects Status Report

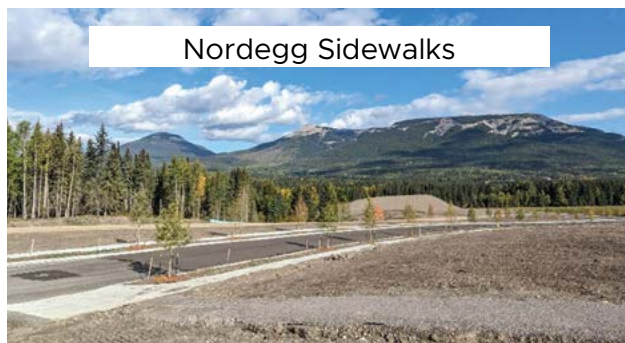
Nordegg Development Plan

Nordegg Phase 2 Residential Subdivision:

This development includes 28 Residential Lots and 4 Commercial Lots. Site grading, deep utilities and curb and gutter was completed in 2022. The current work plan includes shallow utilities, landscaping and paving of Lily Ave and Centre Street.

The successful contractor for the shallow utilities was Site Power Engineering Consultants. Site Power is completing design and procurement, and the project is scheduled to be completed within 2024.

Landscaping includes planting of trees along Lily Ave and was completed on September 2, 2023.



Nordegg Industrial Subdivision Phase 2:

Includes 14 additional lots. The project also includes the installation of a cistern located on Tamarack Trail at the existing storm pond site. The completion date, for Tamarack Trail cistern and the Industrial Lots, has been delayed until Spring 2024. Shallow utilities including power, natural gas lines and fibre conduit will be installed in 2024.

Nordegg Natural Gas:

Currently, Rocky Gas is working on the required regulatory approvals for the routing from Stolberg to Nordegg. Gas availability is projected to be 2024.

Nordegg South Access Road: Council reviewed the design alternatives and permitting requirements. Due to prohibiting costs this project is currently on hold and alternative access options are being reviewed.

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. Staff will be reviewing the preliminary engineering report in the coming weeks. The budget for 2023 is \$200,000.

Plan Rocky to Nordegg Trail:

Crews have shutdown trail construction for 2023. Operations will recommence in spring 2024.

Historic Site to Twin Lakes Trail:

WCE Engineering has been retained to commence the design work on a trail connecting Hwy 11A to Hwy 11. Stakeholder engagement has commenced. Staff are currently reviewing design and alignment options and developing cost estimates.

Crammond Fire:

Construction staff are currently working on the cleanup of the fire guard associated with the Crammond Fire. Crews are expected to be completed in approximately a week.



Capital Projects Status Report

Water and Wastewater

Condor Sanitary Lines/Curb & Gutter/Drainage Improvements: The contract was awarded to Northside Construction. Northside Construction returned to site on July 10th to complete the curb/gutter, sidewalk and landscaping. The project was completed on October 12, 2023. The paving contract, including the Condor Public Services Building and Community Hall, was completed on September 20, 2023.

Regional Leslieville Wastewater Treatment System: Substantial completion was achieved on November 14th, 2023. The contractor is working on deficiencies with some to be completed in Spring 2024. The innovative wastewater system (wetlands) is currently being tested for Provincial approvals. Clearwater County will begin the operations of the system while the project engineer will continue to test the innovative portion until 2026. The system can now accept external hauling. The revised budget is \$4,532,050 and we are projected to be on budget.



Leslieville Sanitary/Curb & Gutter/Drainage Improvements: Urban Dirtworks was the successful contractor for the Leslieville improvements. The contractor has completed contract work.

Nordegg Water Meters: Water meters and hardware have now been received. All serviced lots, within the Hamlet of Nordegg, are scheduled to have water meters installed within 2023. The Contractor has been struggling to have residents set up a time for the meter installation. The contractor is going to try and set up more installations within November 2023. The Nordegg water meter budget for 2023 is \$120,000.

Ridgeland Estates Cistern: Within Ridgeland Estates, by the storm pond, a cistern was installed for Fire Suppression. The cistern construction started on November 7th and was completed on November 17, 2023.

Bridges (Replacement/Rehabilitation)

- **BF 7038**, located over Tributary to Red Deer River, on Range Road 4-4, replacement was awarded to In-Line Contracting. The project was delayed from 2022 and construction began on September 5th, 2023. Due to encountering large timber within the excavation drilling has been slower than anticipated. Completion is scheduled for December 2023. The budget for 2023 is \$1,010,000 and we are projected to be on budget.
- **BF 2191**, located over Lobstick Creek, on Range Road 5-2, has been awarded to 1690082 AB Ltd. and construction began on August 14th and was completed on September 8th, 2023. The budget in 2023 is \$1,319,680 and we are projected to be on budget.
- **BF 70151**, located over North Raven River, on Range Road 5-5, currently is at the design stage and obtaining environmental approvals.
- **BF 71510**, located over Horseguard Creek, on Range Road 5-5, currently is at the detailed design stage.
- **BF 7786**, located over Horseguard Creek, on Township Road 39-2, currently is at the detailed design stage.
- **BF 78211**, located over Logan Creek, Red Deer River Access Road (Twp Rd 31-2), 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.



Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Rewrite Project

In the last newsletter, the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) project was introduced. Here is a short recap.

What is a land use bylaw?

A LUB is a regulatory tool that outlines the rules for the development and use of land and buildings within Clearwater County for each land use district (i.e. zoning) and identifies the process and authority for land use redesignations, subdivision, and development permit applications.

Alberta's *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) requires all municipalities in Alberta to have a LUB. The MGA provides guidance on what is included in a LUB but it is up to the individual municipalities to create and administer their own documents.

Why is the County rewriting the LUB?

The current LUB, approved in 2001, needs renewal to align with the revised 2023 Municipal Development Plan (MDP) for improved clarity and user-friendliness. Minor amendments were made over the years to align with the 2010 MDP and other necessary changes since its approval in 2001.

GOALS:

- Align the land use regulations with the County's MDP and with Council's Strategic Plan.
- Better align land use designations with community standards and priorities.
- Reduce ambiguity by having clearer definitions.
- Provide a more streamlined user-friendly document.
- Make the bylaw easier to navigate online.

Next Steps

Many people might be wondering what is happening with the project since the kick-off events from September 26-October 2. Here's what the team is working on:

- ✓ We held our first Public Advisory Committee meeting and look forward to future meetings.
- ✓ We attended the 2023 Cattlemen's Day to spread awareness and seek feedback from the farming community.
- ✓ We are currently working on scheduling stakeholder meetings to gain additional topic specific feedback. Some of the topics we plan to explore include:
 - agriculture,
 - aggregate resource extraction,
 - industry,
 - tourism,
 - home based business,
 - short term rentals,
 - home builders/developers, and
 - realtors.
- ✓ We are conducting research on critical topics identified during the kick-off meetings.



Your voice matters!

We continue to accept additional landowner feedback via the project email address or the website feedback form.

Feedback from Clearwater County residents and businesses is an important element in creating our new LUB, please share your comments today.

Once we have an early draft to share, we will be looking to you for more of your thoughts and ideas.

Get involved:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/LUB

403-845-4444

LUB@clearwatercounty.ca



The following areas will be reviewed during the LUB rewrite project:

- Definitions
- Aggregate Resource Extraction
- Removal of Telecommunication Towers regulations
- Secondary Suites / Bonafide Need
- Recreational Vehicle Use
- Comprehensive review of the Permitted and Discretionary uses in all districts
- Compliance with existing County Policies including new 2023 Municipal Development Plan
- Compliance with Provincial Legislation
- Readability of entire document – added graphics were possible.
- Mapping Updates
- Ag Districts – General and Intensive
- Animals, including Wild Boars and Game Farming
- Campgrounds
- Childcare
- Density
- Development Permit Exceptions
- Flood Hazard Area
- Home Based Businesses
- Land Use Districts – permitted / discretionary, lot coverage, building heights, housing types, setbacks
- Lot Grading Permit
- Floor Area – Max and Min
- Nordegg Specific – land uses, parking, lot sizes
- Sea Cans
- Short Term Rentals
- Signage
- Renewable Energy
- Temporary Development
- Transportation
- Variances

1. Reviewing the list above, what **other areas should be reviewed** in the existing Land Use Bylaw 714/01?

2. What is **your experience** with the existing Land Use Bylaw 714/01 (approved in 2001) ?

3. What do you think **should be changed** in the existing Land Use Bylaw 714/01 (approved in 2001) ?

4. Do you have any other ideas or comments that you would like to share regarding this project?

Options for submitting your completed feedback form:

- drop off at the County office or use the after hours drop box
- take a picture/scan and email to LUB@clearwatercounty.ca
- Use a blank page to add more if needed
- Write a letter and mail it to the County (or email it to the above email address)
- This feedback form will be available until the next stage of the project.



Development vs. Building Permits

<i>Your Development Permit...</i>	<i>... is not a Building Permit</i>
<p>A development permit considers the what and where of a potential project, including the use. The County's Planning Staff reviews proposed applications for compliance with the Land Use Bylaw and other relevant regulations.</p> <p>They look at details like allowable land use in the area, impacts to nearby properties, setbacks, and more. If approved, the applicant receives their development permit. If they also need a building permit, they must first be approved for a development permit.</p>	<p>The landowner/applicant is required to apply for a building permit from an accredited agency approved by the Alberta Safety Codes Council. The agency will use the regulations of the Alberta Building Code to review the application.</p> <p>If approved, the applicant receives their building permit and may go ahead with construction.</p> <p>Clearwater County does not process building permits.</p>

Why get a Development Permit?



Obtaining a development permit in Clearwater County, or any other municipality, is generally a requirement for specific types of land development activities. Development permits are issued by local governments to ensure that construction, renovations,

or changes to land use comply with the Land Use Bylaw, and other regulations. Here are some common reasons to get a development permit:

- 1. Real Property Report Compliance:** When selling, subdividing or building other new structures on property.
- 2. Land Use Regulations Compliance:** Clearwater County, like other municipalities, has land use districts (i.e. zoning) that define how land can be used and developed in different areas. A development permit is often required to ensure that your proposed development aligns with these regulations.
- 3. Environmental Protection Compliance:** A development permit may be needed to ensure that your project complies with environmental regulations to protect environmentally sensitive areas, water bodies, or wildlife habitats.
- 4. Safety and Building Codes Compliance:** An approved development permit may be required before getting a building permit. Building permits are to meet safety standards and comply with building codes. This includes considerations for structural integrity, fire safety, and other aspects of public well-being.
- 5. Community Planning Compliance:** Clearwater County, like other municipalities, engages in community planning to guide the growth and development of the area. Development permits are a tool to implement these plans and ensure that new developments contribute positively to the community.
- 6. Infrastructure Planning Compliance:** Local governments need to plan for infrastructure such as roads, utilities, and services. Development permits help ensure that new developments do not encroach upon roads or neighbouring properties.
- 7. Aesthetics and Design Standards Compliance:** Some land use districts have regulations regarding the aesthetics of buildings and developments to maintain a certain character or appearance within the community. A development permit may be required to ensure your project aligns with these design standards.



Bear Spray

Bear spray has proven to be effective in turning away a charging bear. A capsicum pepper-based spray, it irritates the bear's eyes, nose and lungs causing temporary blindness and breathing restriction.

The unusual sound and sight of deployed bear spray can be enough to startle a bear off its course.

Anyone living, working, or recreating in bear country should carry bear spray and know how to use it. The bear spray canister should be attached to your belt, chest holster or pack so it's instantly available. Do not carry it in your pack or under your clothing. It will not do any good if you cannot access it.

In the event of an encounter be ready to spray it in 2 seconds. Using your bear spray when you have surprised a bear is a defensive move that can save you from a mauling.

Things you should know when you use bear spray:

- ✓ Draw your spray canister and remove the safety clip immediately upon sighting a bear at close range.
- ✓ Evaluate the wind direction – if possible, rotate so the wind is at your back.
- ✓ Don't attempt to spray unless the bear approaches within 9 m (30 feet).
- ✓ If the bear approaches to 9 m (30 feet), give it a short warning blast, placing a cloud of spray between you and the bear. Aim low in front of the bear so the animal moves into the spray.
- ✓ If the bear continues to approach and gets within 6 m (20 feet), give it 1 or 2 more blasts (of 1 to 2 seconds) aiming at the face.
- ✓ If the bear approaches within 3 m (10 feet), give it more 1 to 2 more blasts aiming directly into the bear's face and eyes – continue to fire until the bear retreats or the canister is empty.
- ✓ After spraying, be sure to move out of the bear's way. Retreat but do not run. Do not turn your back on the bear. As the bear leaves walk in another direction.



Things to remember:

- ✓ Be sure to buy canisters labelled 'Bear Spray' or 'Bear Pepper Spray' or 'for deterring bear attacks'. Some products labelled 'Pepper Spray' or for 'personal protection' are not meant for use on bears.
- ✓ Bear spray can be purchased at most sporting good stores and other retail stores like Canadian Tire. It is a good idea to purchase a belt or chest holder to carry the bear spray.
- ✓ Check the expiry date on the canister and replace it when it is outdated. The pepper part of the spray does not deteriorate but the aerosol portion does.
- ✓ Carry a large canister, 225 grams (7.9 ounces) or more, with a high level of active pepper ingredient (1 to 2 percent capsicum). Make sure your bear spray is a fogger, not a stream pattern. Also, this is not the time to go cheap so don't go for the lowest price (imminent expiry date).

For more information on bear spray, bear safety or to report a sighting, email the Mountain View BearSmart Society at sightings@mountainviewbearsmart.com.



County-Village Amalgamation Negotiations

Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline have entered into negotiations to discuss the possibility of amalgamating the two municipalities. If a decision is made to proceed, the Village of Caroline would become a hamlet in the new municipality like Leslieville, Condor, Alhambra, Withrow and Nordegg.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND INPUT

The significance of public engagement and input in this process cannot be overstated. Valuable insights from the community during the Amalgamation Study in February-March 2023 has shaped essential themes for Councils' consideration.

AMALGAMATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

According to legislation in the Municipal Government Act, sections 99.1 to 106, the Amalgamation Committee is required to negotiate 24 mandatory topics prior to final application to Municipal Affairs.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION

Clearwater County has seen a gradual increase in its population, with occasional minor decreases noted between recent censuses. Despite potential future demographic challenges, the County maintains a healthy financial position. It boasts a per-capita assessment base that significantly exceeds the national average, with property tax rates lower than the national average.

The Village of Caroline, although smaller in size, has demonstrated resilience over the last decade, weathering a declining population trend. Caroline has maintained consistent service levels; however, there remains a funding gap in addressing an infrastructure deficit, particularly in water and wastewater systems, needing attention in the near future.

With strategic measures in place, Caroline has the potential to secure its future as a hamlet and contribute positively to Clearwater County's overall financial stability amidst escalating infrastructure costs.

To learn more about this project, visit:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/m/amalgamation

The Committee recently met December 4-5, 2023 where they negotiated seven of the 24 mandatory items as required for the final report to Municipal Affairs, as listed below:

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY:

The new municipality's boundaries will be the same as the current boundaries of Clearwater County and, Caroline, as a hamlet in the newly amalgamated municipality, will have the same boundaries as the current boundaries of the Village of Caroline.

MUNICIPAL STATUS:

The new municipality's status will be a 'municipal district', which is consistent with the current municipal status of Clearwater County.

MUNICIPAL NAME:

The new municipality's name will be 'Clearwater County', and the Village of Caroline will become the Hamlet of Caroline.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION:

The new municipality will be represented by seven (7) Council members, one per each division. The new Council will appoint one of its members to be the Chief Elected Official.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS:

The new municipality will be divided into seven (7) electoral divisions.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Rick Emmons will be the Chief Administrative Officer for the new amalgamated municipality.

LOCATION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICE:

The new municipality's main municipal office will be located at 4340-47 Avenue, Rocky Mountain House.

The Committee also approved an amended stakeholder participation letter to be mailed out at the end of December with a response timeframe of 30 days. News releases and fact sheets will continue to be made available following each Committee meeting.

The negotiation discussions will continue at the next meeting on January 25-26, 2024



Fact Sheet

NEGOTIATION TIMELINE



REASONS FOR CONSIDERING AMALGAMATION



LONG-TERM
COST SAVINGS



LARGER RESIDENTIAL/
COMMERCIAL TAX BASE

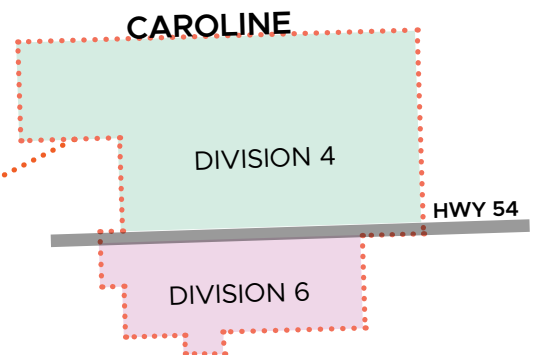
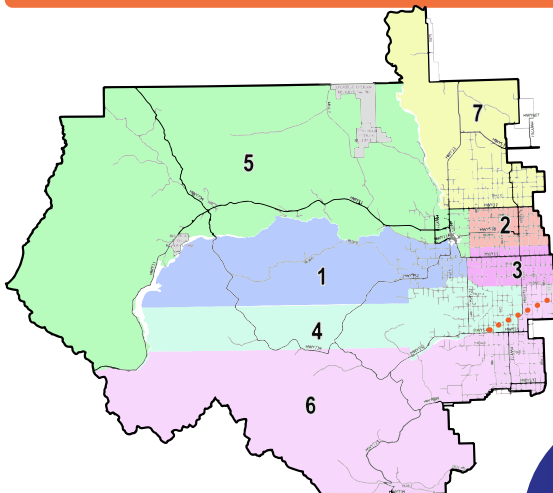


INCREASED STAFF
CAPACITY/ EXPERTISE



STREAMLINING REGULATIONS
FOR OPERATIONAL AND
SERVICE PREDICTABILITY

ELECTORAL WARD/DIVISION:



Future Outlooks for Cow/Calf Producers

It's good to see record high cattle prices benefiting local cow/calf producers. Another year of drought meant farmers were pressured to continue finding creative solutions to offset thin pastures and high feed prices.

A few years of drought have left many Alberta ranchers running out of rabbits to pull out of hats. For those that can get over the hump, and grow, or at least maintain their herd numbers, there are continued good prices anticipated for the next few years.

As a rule, cow/calf producers do not make enough money for the work that they do. Because the numbers don't pencil there has been a slow exodus from the business over the past two decades.

For the last 15 years the Canadian beef herd has shrunk from a high of 14.74 million in 2005 to 10.36 million in January of 2023. In the same period, the number of beef cows on cow/calf operations in Canada has dropped from 4.5 million in 2008 to 3.3 million in 2023. With a 1.4% overall herd contraction anticipated in 2023 the shrinkage is expected to continue, helping feed record prices.

Good prices or bad, the average beef herd in Canada is just 70 cows and as a Canadian Cattle Association study indicated, most cow/calf producers (75-85 percent) have a second job to support the farm.

Calf prices haven't kept up with the rising costs of fuel, grain and land and taxes so values would have to rise significantly for producers to make a full-time living off the land.

The days of getting by with 50 head of cows and a couple of quarters of land are long gone.

The alternative for some has been to increase the size of their herd to offset rising costs. As margins continue to shrink farms have gradually been consolidating. But with land prices beyond reach for the average cow/calf producer, only the larger ranches will be able to survive.

Even then, the net income on a 200 head cow/calf operation in Canada is only \$18,000, or just \$90 a cow. Obviously, many people are doing it for the lifestyle, not the money.



The cow/calf sector is the root of the whole beef equation, and yet producers cannot set their own prices. They are at the behest of the packing plants as to what they are willing to pay for finished beef. They are at the bottom of the pile in the beef industry.

So, to survive in the cow/calf business in the future, it appears that a profitable operation must either get bigger and more efficient, exit the business or be happy with the continued need to subsidize the farm with outside income.

It all begs the question as to why there is such a discrepancy between what the cow/calf producer is making and what the packing plants and retailers are making.

It is not a balanced equation, so the Canadian beef herd is likely to continue shrinking until profitability becomes more equitable throughout the industry.

The discrepancy is even more surprising when one considers that the Canadian cattle and beef sector contributes \$24 billion to Canada's GDP annually, generating approximately 347,000 jobs either directly or indirectly, with every job in the sector yielding another 3.9 jobs elsewhere in the economy.



Clear Water Landcare

Clearwater County boasts a distinctive environmental stewardship initiative known as Clear Water Landcare, which has been actively engaged for over two decades despite undergoing name changes throughout its history. At the forefront of grassroots land and water stewardship, Clear Water Landcare, as articulated in its mission statement, champions beneficial management practices to uphold the well-being of local watersheds. The program is led by representatives from the local farm and acreage community, non-government organizations, and individuals appointed by the Agricultural Service Board (ASB).

These leaders in land and water stewardship play a pivotal role in encouraging residents to adopt responsible practices in caring for the land. Clear Water Landcare's commitment is further underscored by two dedicated full-time staff members who focus on extension activities and the promotion of environmentally sustainable agriculture within the community.

In addition, Landcare participates in various local initiatives, including Sasquatch and Partners, Clearwater Trails Initiative, workshops, mountain pine beetle monitoring and education, a conifer tree seedling program, and the provision of rental equipment to producers.

Collaborating with a spectrum of local and regional entities, such as neighboring municipalities, Grey Wooded Forage Association, Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society, Cows and Fish, Trout Unlimited, West Fraser, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, EPCOR, North Saskatchewan and Red Deer River Watershed Alliances, as well as private industry entities in oil and gas and forestry, Landcare stands as a pivotal force in promoting environmental sustainability.



20th Annual Cattlemen's Day Recap

On November 23, 2023, the 20th Annual Cattlemen's Day took place at the Dovercourt Community Hall.

A sincere thank you to everyone who came out to attend the 20th Annual Cattlemen's Day!

Big shoutout to our fantastic sponsors, attendees, exhibitors, and speakers – your support brought the community together for an incredible day.

See you all next year!



Clearwater County's Agriculture Industry

Article Submitted by Jerry Pratt, Economic Development Officer for Clearwater County

*"The only constant in life is change."
~Heraclitus, Greek Philosopher*



There have been many changes that have had long-term impacts on Albertans, and here is a list of just a few of them.

- The first car to come to Alberta was in 1901. In 1906 the Alberta Automobile Act was passed to register 41 vehicles in the province.
- Penicillin was discovered in 1928 but not made widely available through mass production until 1943.
- Seatbelts were patented in 1955, and usage made mandatory in Alberta in 1987.
- The initial version of the Internet in Canada connected Canadian Universities to each other in 1985. Usage was adopted more widely once the Internet protocols were created in 1989 and web browsers, especially Netscape navigator, rolled out in 1994.
- Smoking in restaurants and bars in Alberta was banned in 2008.
- The iPhone was released in 2007 changing the role of cell phones forever. Before 2007 flip phones and the Blackberry were the most popular cell phones being sold.
- Charles Newbold of Burlington County, New Jersey received a patent for a cast-iron plow in June of 1797. Jethro Wood designed a plow in 1819 that was cast iron and made in three parts so that a broken part could be replaced without purchasing a whole new plow.
- In 1837, John Deere developed and marketed the world's first self-polishing cast-steel plow. These large plows made for cutting the tough American prairie ground were called "grasshopper plows."
- In 1868, John Lane patented a "soft-center" steel plow. The hard-but-brittle surface of the tool was backed by softer, more tenacious metal to reduce the breakage.
- From the single plow, advances were made to two or more plows fastened together, allowing for more work to be done with approximately the same amount of manpower (or animal-power). Another advance was the sulky plow, which allowed the plowman to ride, rather than walk. Such plows were in use as early as 1844.



Agriculture Industry Continued



- The next step forward was to replace animals that pulled the plows with traction engines. By 1921, farm tractors were both doing the work better and pulling more plows—50-horsepower engines could pull 16 plows, harrows, and a grain drill. Farmers could thus perform the three operations of plowing, harrowing, and planting all at the same time and cover 50 acres or more in a day.
- In 1954 the number of tractors outnumbered the number of horses on farms for the first time.
- In the early 1960s, anhydrous ammonia was increasingly used as a cheap source of nitrogen, and manmade fertilizers increased in usage significantly, spurring higher yields.
- In the 1980s farmers began to adopt sustainable practices such as no till or low till to decrease salinization and erosion, and soil tests were used to identify nutrient needs in the soil and reduce chemical and fertilizer overuse and runoff.
- The 1990s saw genetically modified crops begin to be implemented as they increased production while better withstanding weather and pest stresses.
- The 2000s has seen the evolution of technology in agriculture move even faster. Robotic milking machines are now standard on dairy farms, and many farms across Alberta have embraced GPS based auto-steer in tractors, precision seeding and fertilizing equipment, while vision-based precision weeding is moving ahead, and employing drones to monitor and track field and livestock conditions is growing quickly worldwide.

And we haven't even touched on the progress made through selective breeding, nutrition, and medical advances for livestock.

As the farms in Clearwater County face the challenges of ever-changing markets, and the pressures to increase production and efficiencies, they will no doubt continue to adopt practices and technology that have made them so successful in the past.

References

Bellis, Mary. "History of the Plow." ThoughtCo, Feb. 16, 2021, [thoughtco.com/history-of-the-plow-1992324](https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-the-plow-1992324).

Bellis, Mary. "American Farm Machinery and Technology Changes from 1776–1990." ThoughtCo, Feb. 6, 2021, [thoughtco.com/american-farm-tech-development-4083328](https://www.innovationnewsnetwork.com/the-evolution-of-agricultural-technology/6039/).
<https://www.innovationnewsnetwork.com/the-evolution-of-agricultural-technology/6039/>



Agriculture & Community Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE!
Ladies Livestock Lessons
 In partnership with Bunkhouse Bonanza
January 19, 2024
 Cochrane Ranchhouse, Cochrane AB





For more details, visit:
www.RedBowAg.com











RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES
 FEBRUARY 8, 2024 - OLDS COLLEGE




To register visit: www.RedBowAg.com

Topics include Grazing Sustainability, Water Management, Producer Funding and Programs, Cattle Handling Demo and Much More!











AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

NOMINATIONS CLOSE JAN 31, 2024

This award recognizes residents that demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship & betterment of our local environment.





AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE GRAZING STEWARDSHIP

NOMINATIONS CLOSE JAN 31, 2024

This award recognizes producers who are stewards of the land, demonstrating sustainable grazing practices.






Upcoming Events Continued

EVENTS

31

JAN.

Septic Sense Workshop

Understanding and taking care of your septic system

Join us on January 31st at 6pm at the Rocky Regional Recreation Center, Subway Room (supper included).

Rural property owners are responsible for ensuring their systems operate properly and safely. If you have a septic system on your rural property, you will benefit from attending this workshop. Presenters will teach you how to understand, assess and properly manage your septic system, enabling you to protect your investment in your property and the valuable natural assets associated with your land.

During the workshop we will cover:

- What a septic system is and how it works
- Regulations
- Design and installation
- Appropriate use of your septic system
- Maintaining your septic system
- Troubleshooting

To register, please contact the Agriculture & Community Services department at 403-846-4040 or email landcare@clearwatercounty.ca

"Our communities are connected by our appreciation for, and stewardship of, our natural beauty, our economic prosperity, our quality living, and the diversity of our wonderful people."

- Council Strategic Plan
2022-26

PROGRAMS

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.

Environmental Farm Plan

An **Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)** is a free, voluntary, whole farm, self-assessment tool that helps producers identify their environmental risks and develop plans to mitigate identified risks.

An EFP is a prerequisite for certain Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) grants. It may also be a requirement if you wish to sell to some purchasers who have decided to use EFP as a sustainable sourcing tool.

To learn more about sustainable sourcing visit:
Alberta Environmental Farm Plan albertaefp.com

3 EASY STEPS

WWW.ALBERTAEPF.COM

1.

The first step of registration begins through the Alberta EFP website www.albertaefp.com or by calling 1-587-200-2552 to receive over the phone assistance.

2.

Once registered, click on the confirmation email you received to fully activate your account. A technician will be assigned to you over the following two weeks. If you feel comfortable you can begin your online workbook right away.

3.

if you have any questions, you can contact your technician or attend a local/online workshop to receive additional support.



Taunton Trestle



History

The Taunton Trestle is located east of Nordegg, in Clearwater County. This 220 m long riveted steel structure was built in the 1930-1940s consisting of 7 spans, including five steel girder spans and two truss spans. It replaced an earlier burnt wooden structure dating from the Canadian Natural Rail Line's opening to transport coal into the Brazeau Collieries Mine Site in Nordegg, Alberta.

Last use of the railway was in the mid-1950's following the closure of the Brazeau Collieries Mine Site. Over the last few decades, many parts of the rail line were abandoned and destroyed, and this is the only remaining structure within the original rail line.

The trestle has quickly become a popular recreation area, prompting the need to restore and improve access for public safety.

Restoration Efforts

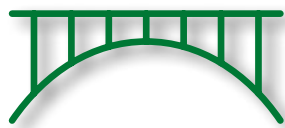
In 2009, Clearwater County started developing a multi-user trail system along the abandoned rail line, covering 109 kilometers between Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg, known as the Rocky to Nordegg Trail Concept Plan.

The Taunton Trestle is located in the section from Saunders to Harlech. The trail west of Saunders follows the rail bed to the Trestle. The concept plan included re-decking the Trestle in order to make this a major attraction along the Rail Trail.

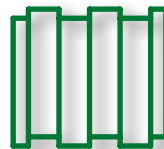
The trail is co-managed by Clearwater County and the Province of Alberta. Through a grant, the restoration cost of the Trestle was 50% cost-shared between the County and the Province equating to a total of \$1.8 million (including design, engineering and construction).



**YEARS
EXPECTED
SERVICE LIFE**



720' LONG



**82 CONCRETE
PANELS**



**12,000 - 14,000
POUNDS EACH**



Accepting Nominations: Century Family Awards

Clearwater County is proud of its agricultural history and with many homesteaders arriving in the early 1900's - many farms in the area are, or soon will be, hitting the 100 year milestone.

The Century Farm designation is intended to recognize and celebrate those founding families that own at least 160 acres in Clearwater County, which have been owned/farmed by descendants for at least 100 years. The Agricultural Services Board will accept and verify applications and select recipients on a case by case basis. Century Farm recipients will receive a plasma cut metal sign.

To view the eligibility criteria or to submit a nomination form, please visit:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/ag-awards



Congratulations to the Korth Family!

Earlier in November, the Korth Family was the winning recipient of the 2023 Farm Family Award.

The Korth family, spanning three generations, is dedicated to promoting agriculture and maintaining excellence in their 320-acre livestock and 180-acre crop farm. Norman, taking over in 1979 at the age of 27, has continued the family tradition of hard work and commitment. Alongside Irene, their children, and grandchildren, the Korths have created a nurturing farm home that embodies exploration and shared experiences. Their livestock and crop management practices, emphasizing quality, environmental stewardship, and modern handling systems, showcase their dedication to agricultural excellence.

Beyond their farm, Norman and Irene's impact extends to Dovercourt Hall, where 35 years of active volunteering has resulted in community assets such as a playground, a local baseball team, family dances, and bingo nights.



The Korths are not just agricultural leaders; they are also pillars of their community, leaving a lasting legacy of excellence and service that transcends their farm's boundaries.



Rocky Regional Recreation Centre



Recreation Membership Christmas Special

~ Four months for the price of three ~

During the month of December, purchase three monthly memberships and receive an additional month for free. This makes an excellent gift or treat for yourself.

ROCKYREGIONAL
RECREATION CENTRE

Credit Union Co-op
Aquatic Centre

Skating

Starts September 13, 2023 to March 6, 2024

Weekend pop-up skating times are posted on
Facebook & Instagram

Drop-in Schedule*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Senior Shinny Hockey 9:30 - 11:00 AM		Senior Shinny Hockey 9:30 - 11:00 AM	Preschool Skate 9:00 - 10:30 AM
Shinny Hockey 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Public Skating 12:00 - 1:00 PM		Public Skating 12:00 - 1:00 PM	Shinny Hockey 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Public Skating 3:15 - 4:15 PM		Public Skating 3:15 - 4:15 PM		

*Schedule may vary on PD days and holidays



FCSS

Clearwater Regional Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) is a partnership between the Province, municipalities and Métis Settlements that develops locally driven social programs that are preventive in nature to promote and enhance well-being among individuals, families and communities.

Program Highlights:

- Your One Stop Shop for community Information & Referral services
- Volunteer Centre – connecting volunteers with local opportunities
- CVITP (Community Volunteer Income Tax Program) will be up and running by tax season 2024
- Grants to non-profit organizations – contact us to inquire!

2024 CRFCSS

Funding Application:

Deadlines (for non-profit organizations/ events/projects) are March 1, May 1, and October 1, 2024.



Information About FCSS:

- www.fcssaa.org
- www.rockymtnhouse.com/p/fcss-family-community-support-services

Search **"Clearwater Regional FCSS"** on Facebook and Instagram for current program & service information.

Free Recreation Pass



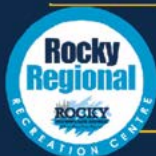
To encourage active seniors, we offer a complimentary Recreation Pass Membership to age 75 years and older.

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

Credit Union Co-op
Aquatic Centre

ROCKYREGIONAL
RECREATION CENTRE

BRING A FRIEND FRIDAYS



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



FireSmart Resources

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, available at www.firesmartcanada.ca

How FireSmart Treatments Influence the Spread of Wildland Fire

Wildland fire can follow a path from the forest or grassland to your home. A wildland fire moving via the tops of trees can be slowed if the trees are spaced. It can be further slowed by flame-resistant plants and shrubs in your yard. As plants have different flammability, consider spacing your plants to increase your home's ability to withstand a wildland fire.

If you would like a homeowners assessment of your property, contact our Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) team today at 403-845-4444.





Classification: Public: Pioneer camp alberta.ca facebook.com/rockysfreeinforareason Albertaparks.ca/events or 403-845-8349

Classification: Protected A

Frequently Requested Numbers

Clearwater County Office	403 845 4444
Clearwater County Office Fax	403 845 7330
Clearwater Mutual Aid Co-op (CMAC) – Oil & Gas Emergency	1-866-950-CMAC (2622)
Clearwater County After Hours Emergency Number	403 844 8500
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



MERRY

Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR



FROM CLEARWATER COUNTY COUNCIL

May the Christmas season bring much happiness, good health and good fortune to you and your loved ones.



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