



Clearwater County Highlights

JUNE
2023

Moving to QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Let us know how you
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**Read more on
page 14.**

A NEWSLETTER
FOR RESIDENTS OF
CLEARWATER COUNTY

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A Message from the Reeve

Hello everyone, Greetings from Clearwater County Council

Summer started a bit earlier than all of us expected. I want to start off by expressing my sincere gratitude to all the firefighters and support staff in Alberta who worked and continue to work in response to the many wildfires. Clearwater County is fortunate to have an exceptional team and strong partnerships, for information on the County's response to several wildfires, please refer to page 21.

On page 12 you can find an update on the Caroline and Clearwater Amalgamation process, I encourage you to take the time to learn more about this as it is a complex and important project.

In May, Council had thorough discussions about the 2023 tax rate. We have been fortunate the last four years to have had a 0% tax increase. Council acknowledges that the decision to implement this year's increase was challenging. However, it was a necessary step to uphold our commitment to fiscal responsibility towards our ratepayers. The rising costs of inflation and the growing demand for additional services made it imperative to take this action. To learn more about this you can read more on page 13.

It's that time of year again and select transfer station hours have been extended to meet the needs of residents. Starting from July 1, 2023, certain transfer stations will open one hour earlier at 9 am. To read more about this topic, please turn to page 16.

In very exciting news, the Brazeau Collieries Historic Mine Site tours are back.



Daryl Loughheed
Reeve

They had a very successful opening weekend on May 20, 2023. To read more about the tours, please see page 26. If you are in the Nordegg area, I highly recommend you stop and enjoy a tour. You'll find the history out there fascinating, and it won't disappoint.

Throughout May and June, members of Council had the honor of attending local high school graduations. Witnessing students cross the stage, marking the end of one chapter and the start of new adventures, was a joyous experience. Council is excited and eagerly looks forward to witnessing the future achievements of our community's talented youth.

On behalf of Council, best wishes for a great summer.

Daryl Loughheed, Reeve



On June 2, 2023 Council toured the new Leslieville waste water treatment facility.



On May 20, 2023 Council attended the Caroline Bighorn Rodeo Parade.



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 8-11**) 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.

JULY 11 & 25, 2023

AUGUST 22, 2023

SEPT 12 & 26, 2023

Upcoming Strategic Planning Meetings

Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole meetings are scheduled as determined by Council. These meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. in Clearwater County's Council Chambers.

SEPT 18, 2023



Don't forget! You can drop-in with a Councillor once a week at the County office. Read more about these on **page 17** or www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/drop-in.



Council Highlights

Regular Council Meeting April 11, 2023

First Reading of Bylaw 1141/23 for Application No. 02/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw (LUB)

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1141/23 for the purpose of amending the LUB to redesignate six acres of PT SE 19-35-08-W5M from the Recreation Facility District "RF" back to the Agriculture District "A" within the proposed parcel.

First Reading of Bylaw 1142/23 for Application No. 03/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw (LUB)

Council granted first reading of Bylaw No. 1142/23 for the purpose of amending the LUB to redesignate +/- 0.55 acres of SW 27-34-05-W5M from the Agriculture District "A" to the Highway Development District "HD" for the purpose of providing adequate parking, safer access and egress to the existing businesses, and to one day, provide future EV charging on site.

Leslieville Elks Request for Funding Support - Parking Lot Paving Project

Council granted the Leslieville Elks request for funding support to pave the parking lot, and directed Administration to present additional information for this matter during 2024 budget discussions.

Emergency Services Mutual Aid Agreement between the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County

Council reviewed and approved the 2023 Emergency Services Mutual Aid Agreement between the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County.

Draft Bylaw 1143/23 Code of Conduct

Council granted first, second, and third readings of Bylaw 1143/23 Code of Conduct. Council also received legal advice on the practical aspects of a fee and/or deposit related to unsubstantiated code of conduct complaints, as presented.

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Restructuring

Council approved an additional permanent full-time equivalent administrative support position under the Office of the CAO and, approves a \$75,000 increase to the Office of the CAO 2023 operating budget and a \$75,000 decrease to contingency to fund the position, effective May 1, 2023.

Regular Council Meeting April 25, 2023

First Reading of Bylaw 1144/23 for Application No. 04/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw (LUB)

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1144/23 for the purpose of amending the LUB 714/01 to redesignate +/- 20.0 acres from Agriculture District 'A' to Intensive Agriculture District 'IA' within the proposed parcel.

Donation of Used Surplus Equipment

Council donated a used 2014 John Deere 997ZT commercial turf mower, as is and free of all liens and encumbrances, to Caroline & District Athletic & Agricultural Society.

Smart Farm Tour

Council authorized Councillors and Agricultural Service Board members attendance at an Olds College Smart Farm Tour in Summer 2023.

First Reading 2023 Tax Rate Bylaw 1146/23

First Reading of Bylaw 1146/23 was defeated. Council directed Administration to draft a new Tax Rate Bylaw for 2023 for the purpose of authorizing rates of taxation to be levied against assessable property at a 3% tax rate increase for residential and 3.5% for non-residential property as shown on the assessment roll of Clearwater County.



Council Highlights Continued

Friends of the Corridor Schools Request for Additional Matching Funds - Leslieville and Condor Schools

Council directed Administration to draft a matching funds grant agreement with the Friends of the Corridor School that includes the following terms and conditions: criteria for funding and description of funding for use by the Condor and Leslieville schools, maximum funding amount, funding expiry date, and financial reporting requirements and that the draft is presented to Council for review and endorsement at the earliest opportunity.

Allocation of 2022 Surplus

Council approved the detailed transactions restricted surplus transfers list and general ledger name changes for 2022 restricted surplus accounts as amended to include an additional \$500,000 transfer from unrestricted surplus to resource roads.

Metrix Group LLP - Draft 2022 Financial Statements and Auditors' Report

Council approved the 2022 audited financial statements as amended to include a \$500,000 adjustment for a budget transfer from Unrestricted Surplus to Resource Roads Restricted Surplus.

The 2021 financial statements are available on the County's website:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/corporate-services

Draft Rocky Mountain House Airport Agreement

Council reviewed and endorsed for signature the 2023 Airport Operation Agreement between the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County.

Hamlet of Condor Road Sidewalk Design Options

Council approved Option 5 that includes: a. curb and gutter placement along the west and east side of Condor Road from Railway Avenue north to the Hamlet boundary; b. lateral shift of Condor Road to the west, starting approximately at the mailboxes to the north of Condor Community Hall; c. installation of a monolithic sidewalk on the east side of Condor Road to the school south approach; at an additional project cost of \$370,518.50 for design changes to the Condor Road sidewalk to mitigate concerns from the Condor Community Centre Board, Charlotte Small Parent Council Advisory and Wild Rose School Division Board of Trustees Council also approved a 2023 budget adjustment to decrease the Core Infrastructure restricted surplus account by \$370,518.50, and increase the Public Works capital budget for the design changes to the Condor Road sidewalk.

Rocky Agriculture Society

Council directed Administration to set up a closed session meeting with the executive of the Rocky Agriculture Society Board by end of the 2023 second quarter, in order to open dialog on perceived partnered projects; and the vision associated with current and future projects within the Clearwater County agriculture community.

Sanctions

Council approved to lift sanctions imposed on Councillor Ratcliffe by resolutions 531-22 and 532-22 on November 22, 2022 for contraventions of the Code of Conduct Bylaw, effective immediately, as all conditions for remedial action have been met. In addition, Councillor Ratcliffe has been reinstated to his committees and boards effective April 25, 2023.



Council Highlights Continued

Regular Council Meeting
May 9, 2023

Friends of The Corridor School Funding Agreement

Council approved an agreement between The Friends of The Corridor Schools and Clearwater County to match funds raised for buildings, equipment, fixtures, furnishing and recreation amenities at Leslieville and Condor Schools.

Council also directed Administration to include a maximum of \$179,050 in the 2024 draft operating budget to fund items as identified in Schedule A of the agreement.

Clearwater County Weed and Pest Act Appointments

Council appointed Clearwater County Agriculture and Community Services staff members Kiara Middel, Leah Sulek, Jordyn Sands, Ethan Tayles and Courtney Alstott as Weed Inspectors under the Alberta Weed Control Act and as Pest Inspectors under the Agriculture Pest Act. These appointments are for field and administrative duties, effective May 9, 2023 and for the duration of their employment.

CAO Performance Evaluation

Council approved and endorsed for signature by the Reeve and Deputy Reeve the April 2022 – May 2023 Chief Administrative Officer Performance Evaluation for Rick Emmons and, a merit increase of 4%.

Consideration of Second and Third Readings - Bylaw 1132/22 Clearwater County Municipal Development Plan

Council granted second and third readings of Bylaw 1132/22 for the purpose of establishing a new Municipal Development Plan and repealing the former Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 923/10.

First Reading 2023 Tax Rate Bylaw 1147/23

Council granted first, second, and third readings of the Tax Rate Bylaw 1147/23 for the purpose of authorizing rates of taxation to be levied against assessable property within Clearwater County for the 2023 taxation year.

Council also approved a 2023 operating budget adjustment to increase tax revenue and increase unrestricted surplus by \$4,798,692.

Invitation to Participate - Alberta Air Tour 2023

Council approved Councillor participation in the Alberta Air Tours stopover at the Rocky Mountain House Airport on August 26, 2023, and approved a 2023 budget adjustment to , decrease contingency and increase Economic Development Transfer to individuals/organizations in the amount of \$500, to fund the event.

Councillor Attendance

Council approved Councillor attendance and remuneration to the following events:

- Clearwater County Agriculture and Community Services' annual Educational Agriculture Tour (EAT), scheduled for May 11, 2023.
- Rocky Museum's 40 Anniversary Celebration, scheduled for May 27, 2023.
- Recycling Council of Alberta's Circular Economy Conference, scheduled for October 18-20, 2023.
- Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) online discussion focused on the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta's role in physician recruitment, scheduled for May 18, 2023.

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



Council Highlights Continued

Regular Council Meeting May 23, 2023

Consideration of Second and Third Readings - Bylaw 1141/23 for Application No. 02/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw (LUB)

Council granted second and third readings of Bylaw 1141/23 for the purpose of redesignating six (6) acres of Plan 892 2155 Lot 1 (Pt. SE 19 35 08 W5M) from the Recreation Facility District 'RF' to Agriculture District 'A'.

Consideration of Second and Third Readings - Bylaw 1142/23 for Application No. 03/23 to amend the Land Use Bylaw (LUB)

Council granted second and third readings of Bylaw 1142/23 for the purpose of redesignating +/- 0.55 acres of the SW 27 34 05 W5M from the Agriculture District 'A' to Highway Development District 'HD'.

Strategic Steps Inc.: Clearwater County - Village of Caroline Amalgamation Study Report

Council accepted the May 2023 Clearwater County-Village of Caroline Amalgamation Study Report as prepared by Strategic Steps Inc. for information as presented.

April 25, 2023 Notice of Motion Item 11.1 - Third Party Review of Clearwater County Municipal Planning Commission

Council directed Administration to provide Council with information regarding a review of Clearwater County's Municipal Planning Commission including third party review agency availability, review scope, time frame and associated cost.

2023 Annual Communications Update

Council received the 2023 communications update for information as presented.

2023 Contractor Equipment Rate Review

Council approved the 2023 Clearwater County equipment rates as amended and directed Administration to include a revised rate schedule to the Hiring of Equipment Policy as the new schedule "A".

Paramount Resources Ltd. - Proposed Sweet Natural Gas & Liquids Processing Facility

Council received Paramount Resources Ltd. - Proposed Sweet Natural Gas & Liquids Processing Facility presentation for information.

No Discrimination Policy Update

Council approved the revised No Discrimination Policy, as amended to include 'Clearwater County board and committee members' and wording of 'protected human rights' under Council principles section.

RMA 2023 Fall Resolution(s)

Council directed Administration to draft resolutions for the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) 2022 Fall Convention encouraging the Province to increase municipal involvement in the RCMP funding model, review the rural school allocation of funds formula, increase sustainable community hospice funding, and, the implementation of more severe regulations for sale of copper.

2023 Alberta Summer Games

Council supports preparing a draft letter of interest to host the 2026 Alberta Summer Games and for the Bid Committee to create required documents. Council also appointed Councillor Michelle Swanson to the Alberta 2026 Summer Games Bid Committee.



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 May 23. Read the full report at: www.clearwatercounty.ca/news.

Public Works Infrastructure

Facilities Capital Project Updates

Conдор Public Services Building: Includes paving the front parking lot, this will be done at the same time as 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: Includes paving the front parking lot, this will be done at the same time as the Leslieville East Road. This project has been awarded to Central City Asphalt Ltd. and is scheduled for construction this summer. 2023 budget: \$282,948.

Nordegg Public Services Building: Includes paving the front parking lot, this will be done at the same time as the additional paving in the Nordegg area. Procurement was completed in 2022 and is scheduled to begin in May 2023 (weather and scheduling dependent). 2023 budget: \$230,000.

Leslieville Recreation Area: Includes baseball diamond, soccer pitch, washroom facility, playground area and parking lot. Detailed design is now complete for the eight acre area directly south of the Leslieville Public Services Building/Fire Training Area. Tar-ific Construction commenced construction in May 2023. Procurement of the structural elements will be completed in the coming months. 2023 budget: \$1,650,000.

Gravel Road Rehabilitation

Staff have begun acquiring permits, sending notification letters to affected landowners, and are contacting landowners for possible borrow locations for 2023 projects. The crew is working with contractor moving and removing fence in right of way for upcoming construction on Township (Twp) Road (Rd) 35-4 and Range (Rge) Rd. 4-5, north of Twp Rd 35-4.



Work is underway on Twp Rd 41-0, with erosion control being installed to finish final cleanup on the 2022 project (pictured above).

Spring Road Assessments are underway with approximately 20% complete. Crews will continue assessments while preparing for the 2023 construction season.

2023 Proposed Gravel Road Rehab Program Map: Is available on the County's website: www.clearwatercounty.ca/news.

Grading Projects

Beaver Flat Road (Rge Rd 6-0): Includes the construction of Rge Rd 6-0 from north of Twp Road 41-0 to Twp Road 42-0 (approx 8.6km). Howitt Construction commenced work in 2022 and is scheduled to be completed in the Fall 2023. The contractor re-commenced construction in May 2023. 2023 budget: \$6,170,000.



Capital Projects Status Report

The contractor is working on culvert installations and stripping right of way. The contractor has begun placing fill on Rge Rd 6-0, north of the Twp Rd 42-0 intersection.

Base/ Pave

River Road (Rge Rd 7-4A): Includes paving Rge Rd 7-4A from Hwy 11 to Hwy 11A (approx 4km). This project has been awarded to Central City Asphalt Ltd. and is scheduled for construction this summer. Paradox Access Solutions mobilized and completed deficiencies from the 2022 grading project. 2023 budget: \$3,510,713.

Leslieville East Road (Twp Rd 39-4A): Includes paving Twp Rd 37-4A from Hwy 761 to the Withrow Rd (approx 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: Include Stuart Street Asphalt Overlay, Quarry Road Base/Pave, Coal Miner's Crescent Base/Pave, Commercial Core Phase 1 Paving, Nordegg Public Services Front Parking Lot Base/ Pave, and the Manufactured Home Park Base/ Pave (A&B). The project has been awarded to T.B.L. Construction Ltd. This project is scheduled to begin in May 2023.

Nordegg Phase 2 Residential Subdivision: Includes 28 residential lots and four (4) commercial lots. Site grading, deep utilities and curb and gutter was completed in 2022. The 2023 workplan includes shallow utilities, landscaping and paving of Lilly Ave and Centre Street. Detailed design is now complete. The successful contractor for the shallow utilities request for proposal was Site Power Engineering Consultants.

The successful contractor for the landscaping request for quote was Lalli Construction and Landscaping. The landscaping completion date is August 31, 2023. 2023 budget: \$1,200,000.

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. The tender will be posted for contractor bid within the next couple weeks. 2023 budget: \$3,113,220.

Nordegg South Access Road: The new access will provide a direct route for quarry traffic to Hwy 11 reducing the amount of heavy truck traffic within the hamlet. This road will also provide a second access for the Hamlet. The design includes preserving the existing ATV bridge and re-aligning the trail. Detailed design of the road and bridge is complete with construction to commence in 2023. Due to the complexity of this project completion will be scheduled for 2024. 2023 budget: \$3,280,000.

Stuart Street (Cemetery to Elizabeth Ave): 2023 work includes preliminary engineering for the regrading, deep and shallow utilities, curb and gutter. This project has started and will be completed in fall 2023. 2023 budget: \$200,000.



Capital Projects Status Report

Rocky to Nordegg Trail: Multiple priorities have been established in 2023 for advancing the Rocky to Nordegg Trail. Currently, the trail is constructed from the Forestry Trunk Road to Saunders/Alexo with portions constructed beyond Misty Valley. Construction priorities in 2023 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).
 - Crews have completed gravelling staging area at Harlech.
- Construct new trail and bridge installation from Saunders to just west of Baker Road.
 - Crews have completed brushing clean up and have moved trail bridges onsite for installation when ground and weather conditions permit.
- Construction schedule is dependent on Alberta Environment & Protected Areas permitting and is reflected in the Agriculture and Community budget.

County staff and the province had a meeting in April to discuss funding for the 2023 construction season and work priorities. Focus will be on installing bridges to connect constructed trail and finish surfacing trail built in 2022.

Water and Wastewater

Condor Sanitary Lines/Curb & Gutter/Drainage Improvements: The contractor returned to work in May 2023 to complete the sanitary, curb/gutter, sidewalk and landscaping. An update to the current design includes a lateral shift, to the west, of Condor Road to accommodate placing the sidewalk back on the east side. 2023 budget: \$3,310,500.



Grading Project

Regional Leslieville Wastewater Treatment System
Construction will continue throughout the winter months and into the spring of 2023. Final project completion is scheduled for fall 2023. 2023 budget: \$4,532,050.

Leslieville Sanitary/Curb & Gutter/Drainage Improvements: Urban Dirtworks was the successful contractor for the project. 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.

Nordegg Water Meters: Initial order of water meters and hardware has been received. All serviced lots, within the Hamlet of Nordegg, are scheduled to have water meters installed within 2023. 2023 budget: \$120,000.

Bridges (Replacement/Rehabilitation)

Bridge File (BF) 02394: Located on Raven River, on Rge Rd 6-1, construction began on July 4, 2022 and the bridge reopened on Nov24, 2022. Work is scheduled to last for two weeks and the road will be closed during this time (weather and contractor schedule dependent). 2023 budget: \$55,000.

BF 7038: Located over Tributary to Red Deer River, on Rge Rd 4-4, replacement has been delayed until 2023 material procurement. 2023 budget: \$1,010,000.



Capital Projects Status Report

BF 2191: Located over Lobstick Creek, on Rge Rd 5-2, tender closed on April 20, 2023, and seven (7) contractor bids were received. 1690082 AB Ltd. was the low successful contractor. 2023 budget: \$1,319,680.

BF 71510: Located over Horseguard Creek, on Rge Rd 5-5, currently is at the detailed design stage. A site survey has been completed. Procurement will begin once the detailed design is approved with construction scheduled in 2023. 2023 budget: \$1,235,000.

BF 7786: Located over Horseguard Creek, on Twp Rd 39-2, currently is at the preliminary design stage. A site survey has been completed. Procurement will begin 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 (Twp Rd 31-2), currently is at the detailed design stage. This project obtained a grant of \$1,500,000 from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for the replacement. This structure was identified, by the Province, as a barrier to fish passage. The replacement is to aid in fish passage at this crossing. Procurement was advertised from April 27 to May 24, 2023. 2023 budget: \$2,090,000.

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

BF 70151: Located over North Raven River, on Rge Rd 5-5, currently is at the preliminary design stage. 2023 budget: \$52,525.

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

Proposed 2023 Bridge Construction & Engineering Map: Is available on the County's website: www.clearwatercounty.ca/news.

Nordegg Natural Gas: In March, Staff met with members of the Rocky Gas Co-Op. Discussion included the progression of the project to provide natural gas to the Hamlet of Nordegg. Currently, Rocky Gas is working on the required regulatory approvals for the routing from Stolberg to Nordegg, utilizing the Hwy 11 corridor. Gas availability is projected to be late 2023 but likely will extend into early 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, and the design is expected to be completed by Fall 2023.



Amalgamation Study Report

Background information: In January 2020, the Village of Caroline Council indicated a desire to enter negotiations for Amalgamating with Clearwater County. As of June 28, 2022, both the Village of Caroline and Clearwater County Councils authorized the Clearwater – Village Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee to undertake and oversee the amalgamation study project.

Public Engagement: Public engagement information session meetings took place on February 27, March 1, 6, 13, and virtually on March 23, 2023 (four locations in the County, one in the Village of Caroline and one virtual session through Zoom which was recorded and available on Clearwater County's YouTube Channel).

In addition, a public survey was available during this time and was advertised in the local newspapers, social media, and other local marketing outlets.

On **May 23, 2023** during both Councils' regular meeting, Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline received the final report for the amalgamation study that explored the possibility of amalgamating the two municipalities.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document about the amalgamation study is available at www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/amalgamation-study.

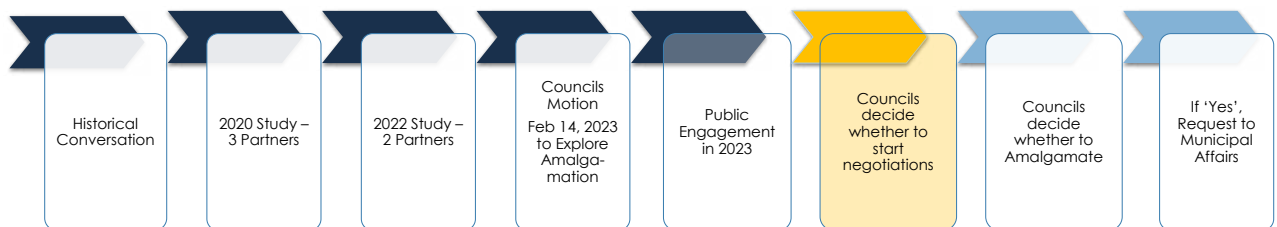
Public engagement and input was critical to this study and helped to highlight seven themes and insights for Councils' consideration, these include:

1. debt overview;
2. efficiencies and economies of scale;
3. governance decision vs. financial decision;
4. self determination vs. outside determination;
5. service mix and service levels;
6. property taxes;
7. and, where each municipality stands on the issue(s).

Next Steps: The next step for both municipal Councils is to formally decide whether to enter negotiations that could move the County and the Village an additional step down the path towards possible amalgamation.

This decision is required by the *Municipal Government Act* before any negotiations can take place. Ultimately, it is the Minister of Municipal Affairs who makes the final decision and chooses the best course of action to take based on what the two municipal partners recommend.

HIGH LEVEL PROJECT TIMELINE



Combined 2022 Property & Tax Assessment

On May 19, 2023 Clearwater County mailed the 2023 combined assessment and taxation notices. Any ratepayer that has not received a tax notice by the **end of June** is advised to contact the County Office at 403-845-4444.

Taxpayers, or an assessed person, wishing to file an appeal regarding any assessment will be able to do so within 67 days from the date notices are mailed in accordance with Section 460 of the *Municipal Government Act*. All taxes are due upon receipt of tax notices, and penalties will apply if not paid before 4:30 pm on **September 15, 2023**. The next penalty dates are **December 15, 2023** and **April 19, 2024**.



Clearwater County also offers a Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP) allowing taxpayers to pay property taxes on a monthly basis. To learn more, visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/taxes.

For questions regarding your notices, please contact the Assessment Department: 403-845-4444 or assessment@clearwatercounty.ca.

2023 Tax Rate Bylaw

During their regular meeting on May 9, 2023, Council adopted the 2023 Tax Rate Bylaw 1147/23 reflecting a **3% municipal tax rate increase for farm and residential classes** of assessed property, and a **3.5% rate increase to non-residential** assessed property.

The provincial school requisition has decreased by \$383,281 with an additional credit of \$114,996 for over collection, thereby decreasing the school requisition by about \$500,000.

The decrease in the rate is also due to the increase in the pool of assessment that hasn't been included in the County's equalized assessment numbers, which is an additional year behind. Equalized assessment isn't finalized until all opportunities for a change in the assessed value have passed, requiring the additional year.

The Seniors Westview Lodge total requisition has decreased by \$226,796. The operating requisition has increased while the capital requisition has decreased.

The Designated Industrial Property requisition rate decreased slightly from .0766 per thousand to .0746 per thousand. This rate is set by ministerial order by the province.

Clearwater County's assessors work diligently to value property as fairly as possible in relation to similar property and provincial regulations and guidelines.

Do you want to learn more about how taxes are calculated? Visit the County's website: www.clearwatercounty.ca/taxes.



Changes to Newsletter Publication

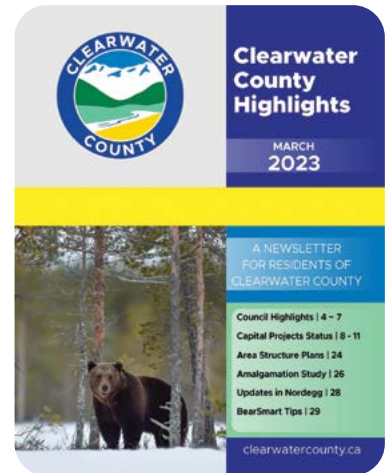
Starting this year, the County Highlights Newsletter will be published quarterly, four times a year. The publication dates will align with the end of each business quarter in a calendar year, specifically in March, June, September, and December.

Since 2013, the County has provided valuable information to residents through this publication, which has been sent to approximately 5,200 households in the County. Over the years, the newsletter has evolved, increasing its frequency to six issues per year, with a special "year in review edition" that spans 48 pages instead of the regular 32.

By reducing the number of issues from six to four annually, the County can optimize cost efficiencies, ensuring the best use of resources. Additionally, it will enhance public education and awareness of County programs and services by utilizing other communication tools in conjunction with the newsletter.

The goal with this change is to provide you with valuable information that you will find truly beneficial. By doing so, we hope to enhance your overall experience with this newsletter and offer even better value.

For more information on Clearwater County's Strategic Communications Plan for 2023-26, visit the County's website at www.clearwatercounty.ca/newsletter



We Value Your Feedback!

Are you enjoying the content in this newsletter?

We greatly appreciate your input on how we're doing, what areas we can improve upon, and any ideas you have for future content.

We are here to listen and ensure that we continue to deliver a newsletter that meets your needs and expectations.

Share your feedback using the following options:

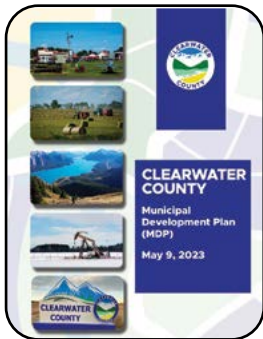
communications@clearwatercounty.ca

403-845-4444



Municipal Development Plan (MDP)

What is a MDP?



A Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is a high level policy document that provides the framework for how Clearwater County will change and grow over time.

The MDP is visionary, strategic and long-term in its outlook and application. The Plan reflects the kind of

community residents wish to see in the future and identifies ways to achieve this future.

The updated MDP was drafted over the course of three years of public engagement, and it builds on multiple other studies, strategies, and plans completed by staff.

Since the first reading (Dec. 20, 2022), staff made updates to the document to incorporate feedback received at the February 21, 2023 public hearing at the Lou Soppit Community Centre.

On May 9, 2023, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1132/22 with new amendments.

The updated MDP Bylaw No. 1132/22 can be found here: www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/bylaws

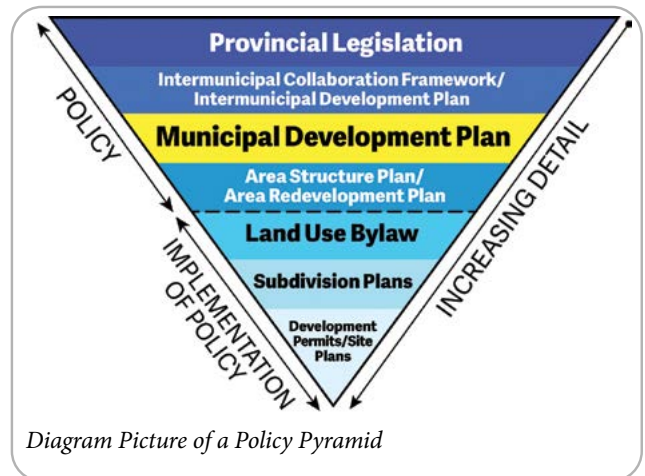
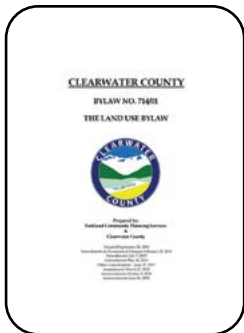


Diagram Picture of a Policy Pyramid

Land Use Bylaw (LUB)

What is a LUB?



A Land Use Bylaw (LUB) is a Bylaw that all municipalities in Alberta are required to adopt. It identifies the development right and regulations for private property throughout the municipality, the process for applying for developments and the associating requirements.

Clearwater County will soon be in the process of creating a new bylaw that will fully review and update the existing LUB from 2001 that aligns with the new MDP Bylaw No. 1132/22 and serve the community needs into the future.

How does the LUB impact residents?

If you're planning to construct a building, start a business, begin renovations, or would like to establish an Airbnb in your home or backyard, the Land Use Bylaw provides direction on the rules and regulations you will need to follow.

The Land Use Bylaw helps to create compatible uses in our rural context. For example, ensuring a gas plant is not constructed in a recreational area.

To learn more or stay in the know with updates on this new project, visit the County's website:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/municipal-planning-documents



Transfer Station Summer Hours



Effective July 1, 2023, select transfer stations will open one hour earlier (9 am) and close at their regularly scheduled time (5 pm).

In previous years, hours have been extended one hour later (to 6 pm), this has been adjusted based on feedback from residents and an analysis of activity after 5 pm. Based on these factors, opening one hour earlier is the best use of resources and better meets community needs.

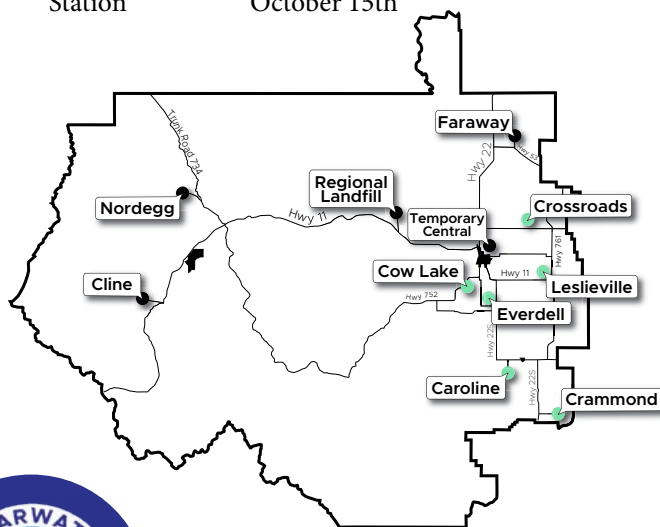
LOCATIONS	HOURS OF OPERATION	
Regional Landfill	Monday - Friday	8 am – 4 pm
	(Closed Statutory Holidays)	
Caroline Transfer Station	Sunday	9 am – 1 pm
	Tuesday	1:30 pm – 5 pm
	Wednesday	1:30 pm – 5 pm
	Saturday	1:30 pm – 5 pm
Crammond Transfer Station	Sunday	1:30 pm – 5 pm
	Tuesday	9 am – 1 pm
	Wednesday	9 am – 1 pm
	Saturday	9 am – 1 pm
Crossroads Transfer Station	Thursday	9 am – 5 pm
	Saturday	1:30 pm – 5 pm
Leslieville Transfer Station	Tuesday	9 am – 5 pm
	Wednesday	9 am – 5 pm
	Saturday	9 am – 1 pm

LOCATIONS	HOURS OF OPERATION	
Cow Lake Transfer Station	Sunday	1:30 pm – 5 pm
	Wednesday	9 am – 1 pm
Everdell Transfer Station	Sunday	9 am – 1 pm
	Wednesday	1:30 pm – 5 pm
Faraway Transfer Station	Tuesday	10 am – 2 pm
	Saturday	1:30 pm – 5 pm
Nordegg Transfer Station	Sunday	12 pm – 5 pm
	Monday	10 am – 2 pm
	Wednesday	1:30 pm – 5 pm
“Temporary” Central Transfer Station	Tuesday	7:30 am – 6 pm
	Wednesday - Saturday	8 am – 4 pm
Cline Transfer Station	*Seasonal Only – April 15th – October 15th	



If you would like to learn more, scan the QR code above or visit:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/solidwaste



Councillor Drop-In



Councillor drop-in sessions allow residents to connect with their local representatives in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

These sessions encourage face-to-face interactions, where residents can share their feedback, ideas, and concerns. It provides an opportunity for Councillors to better understand their constituents' needs and build stronger relationships.

The informal nature of these sessions promotes open dialogue and problem-solving.

Conveniently located at the County's Main Administration building (4340 47 Avenue, Rocky Mountain House), these sessions ensure accessibility and diverse participation.

Overall, Councillor drop-in sessions enhance community engagement and collaboration for a more inclusive and responsive local government.

Below is the July/August schedule, you can visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/drop-in for more information and the complete schedule.

JULY 2023

Friday, July 7
9 AM - 12 PM
Councillor Graham

Monday, July 10
1 PM - 4 PM
Councillor Cermak

Friday, July 21
9 AM - 12 PM
Councillor Ratcliffe

Wednesday, July 26
9 AM - 12 PM
Councillor Northcott

AUGUST 2023

Wednesday, August 2
9 AM - 12 PM
Reeve Lougheed

Friday, August 11
1 PM - 4 PM
Councillor Swanson

Friday, August 18
9 AM - 12 PM
Deputy Reeve Mehlhaff

Friday, August 25
9 AM - 12 PM
Councillor Graham



Business Succession Planning

Over \$2 trillion in business assets could change hands within the next decade as over three-quarters (76%) of small business owners are planning to exit their business, according to a report by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

Retirement is the top reason business owners cited for leaving their business (75%), while 22% are burned out and 21% want to step back from their responsibilities as owners. However, only one in 10 business owners (9%) have a formal business succession plan in place.

The most common obstacle to succession planning for half (54%) of small business owners is finding a suitable buyer or a successor. Nearly half (43%) of owners are struggling to measure the value of their business, while 39% say the business is too reliant on them for day-to-day operations.

Just under half of owners (49%) will exit their business by selling to an unrelated buyer(s), while 24% will sell to a family member and 23% to their employees.

The following are a few points to keep in mind when considering business succession planning.

- ▶ It typically takes 2 to 7 years to sell a business. The more complicated the business is, the longer it can take.
- ▶ There are multiple options for selling your business, but each takes time and may take planning and mentoring as well.
 - Sell the business to a family member or employee
 - Selling to an outside buyer
 - Merging with another business
 - Liquidating and selling off assets
 - Establish a community co-operative

- ▶ Having a formalized succession plan, developed in partnership with professional advisors, can help you work through the emotions, put the business first, and create the path to a smooth transition. A well-designed succession plan will help you:
 - Ensure the future financial stability and value of your business
 - Reduce the potential tax liabilities of transferring the ownership
 - Set a timetable for transfer of ownership to your successor, whether a family member, employee, or an outside purchaser
 - Contribute to the growth of the business in terms of market share, profitability, and size
 - Provide stability for your employees



There are five phases to business transitions:

Phase One - Getting the Business Ready to Sell

Process: 12-24 months

- Get the company books in order
- Business valuation
- Identify internal issues
- Make a plan of action
- Take action

These steps allow an owner to understand what the transferable value of the business is and why it is that value.



Business Succession Planning Continued

Phase Two - Engaging the Family or Staff Member, or Actively looking for a Third-Party Buyer

Process: 6-12 months

To Do: Communicate with staff and family or look for a third-party buyer.

There is a large emotional component to exiting a business, and the majority of owners feel it is important to their legacy to transfer their business to family members or employees.

Phase Three - Due Diligence

Process: 1-12 months

During phase three, it is important to outline the expectations not only for the period the seller will stay on for, but also how it will internally affect operations.

Depending on the size of the company, timelines, and expectations of the seller and buyer, the due diligence period can vary greatly. To achieve efficacy, professionals such as accountants and lawyers, should be engaged early on.

Phase Four - Financing

Process: 1-6 months

Financing the purchase can vary greatly, depending on the size of the company, tax implications, long-term agreements, and ability to finance the acquisition. Business plans are requirements for financing from any lender. It is important to ensure the buyer understands this or it could hold up the transition by at least three months.

Due to the supply of businesses and the demand for buyers, business owners have an increasing need to become more flexible with the third party's buyout or payment terms.



Phase Five - Transition

Process: 0-60 months

An individual buying a business has a higher success rate than an individual starting a new business.

Many sellers agree to stay on under a key employee contract for up to 12 months, giving the opportunity for a corporate knowledge transfer.

As mentioned in phase two, compatibility of the seller and buyer is important to improve the working conditions during the transition phase.

The human resources of a company are often greatly affected by a transition; the new owner may want to make changes to the staff, policies, and procedures.

Having agreements in place to outline who has the final say on any hiring changes or disciplinary processes can mitigate the escalation of any issues that arise.

When a business owner has a plan, the successor tends to do better (e.g., grows profits, adds employees) and the owner also optimizes their success. Ultimately, having a well-designed succession plan not only helps to improve the transition of a business from one generation to another, but also ensures the vitality of the business, its employees, and the local community's economy.

Information for this article was sourced from CFIB and the Alberta Chambers of Commerce.



Alberta's Fire Ban System

The Government of Alberta has a tiered fire ban system restricting activities that may cause wildfires in the Forest Protection Area (FPA) of Alberta. Fire advisories, restriction or bans, forest closures and off-highway vehicle restrictions can effectively reduce the number of human-caused wildfires. These are temporary measures brought in according to conditions. As fire danger levels rise or fall, these restrictions can be adjusted to reduce the likelihood of preventable wildfires.



A **fire advisory** is an indication that the fire danger rating has increased. Fire permits may be restricted. Safe campfires are allowed in campgrounds and backcountry or random camping areas.



A **fire restriction** prohibits the use of wood campfires on public land but does allow wood campfires inside provincial campgrounds and private property. Fire permits may be restricted, suspended or cancelled and no new fire permits will be issued.



A **fire ban** prohibits wood campfires on public land, campgrounds and private land including backyard fire pits. Fire permits will be suspended or cancelled, and no new permits will be issued.



An **off-highway vehicle (OHV) restriction** prohibits the use of OHVs on public land, including designated OHV trails. An OHV is a motorized vehicle designed to go beyond defined roadways.



A **forest closure** is enacted when the fire danger has reached such extreme levels that portions of the forest are closed and no access is permitted for public safety reasons. Access will only be granted by permit for those required to enter those specified lands.

Visit www.alberta.ca/fire-bans.aspx to learn more about campfire guidelines, designated campgrounds, open flame oil devices, and more!

It is **your** responsibility to know the fire ban status, no matter where you are.

Help yourself be prepared by following the local authority (municipality) and Provincial messaging.

If you haven't already, download the AlbertaFireBans app today! Its an easy to use and free app.

Visit the Apple/Andorid/Google/etc app stores to download these free apps today!



Download the Alberta Fire Bans App for accurate information. This app covers all of Alberta.



Download the Clearwater County App for information specific to Clearwater County.



Clearwater County Responds to Wildfires

In May 2023, Alberta experienced extreme and unprecedented wildfire behaviour.

On May 1, 2023, Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) crews and mutual aid partners responded to a wildfire in the Crammond area. The fire impacted a small populated area in the County, residents that were displaced were supported by the County and were able to return home on May 3.



RWF031 on May 5, 2023

A few days later on May 5, 2023, Clearwater County issued an evacuation **alert** for everyone in the area west of Beaverdam Provincial Recreation Area and east of the Bighorn Dam, this included the hamlet of Nordegg. Alberta Wildfire crews worked hard on the wildfire that was approximately 17km Southeast of Nordegg (numbered RWF-031 - pictured above).

The fire went from classified as "**out of control**" to "**being held**" in three (3) days. Once the fire was considered being held, the evacuation alert was lifted.

- **Out of control:** the wildfire is burning and is expected to continue growing.
- **Being held:** the wildfire is not anticipated to grow past expected boundaries.

What is an evacuation alert (advisory)? People should prepare to evacuate soon, if the situation gets worse.

- Evacuation alerts help you prepare to leave on short notice.
- Take the actions directed, be prepared to go quickly and monitor trusted sources of information for updates.

What is an evacuation order (critical)? People must evacuate now.

- Evacuation orders are issued when you are in danger.
- Emergency situations can change rapidly and prompt an immediate evacuation order.
- Evacuate immediately if you are located inside an order's boundaries and directed to evacuate.
- Delaying your departure can put your life at risk and hinder emergency response efforts.
- Follow the specific instructions provided by your local authorities during an evacuation.
- Always prioritize your safety and the safety of those around you.



RWF031 on May 8, 2023

Peace Officers Share OHV Safety Tips

Using off-highway vehicles (OHVs) for recreational purposes can be fun, but they do have the potential to start wildfires, cause injury (or worse) and cost you a fine if not following appropriate laws.

Clearwater County's Peace Officers are focused on educating users about municipal bylaws and provincial regulations relating to proper OHV operation and safety precautions to consider.



OHVs include the following:

- all-terrain vehicles
- quads
- side-by-sides
- dirt bikes
- jeeps
- other vehicles designed for traveling off public roads and on unpaved trails and rough terrain
- pickup trucks
- sport utility vehicles
- snowmobiles
- trikes

As the school year comes to a close and summer holidays just around the corner for many, camping and off road recreating are at the top of the to-do list! Before heading out, check out the below tips:

- ✓ When operating any OHV on crown land registration and insurance are **required**.
→ This also applies to small 50 cc quads.
- ✓ Licence plates must be attached and visible, not in backpacks or under seats.
- ✓ If your route happens to take you on any local Clearwater County roads, on top of registration and insurance, **a valid drivers licence is also required.**



OPERATING YOUR ATV ON ANY PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY IS PROHIBITED

- ✓ Wearing a helmet is also required when operating any OHV.
→ The only time helmets are not required is when your OHV has manufacturer installed rollover protective structures **and** seat belts, which have not been modified and are being properly worn.
- ✓ In relation to other equipment requirements, quads and dirt bikes are required to have headlights and tail lamps.
- ✓ The same rules and penalties apply as if you were operating a regular motor vehicle down a highway.
- ✓ As summer also brings us into wildfire season, another important reminder to be aware of is that no person is allowed to drive an off-highway vehicle unless the off-highway vehicle is equipped with an exhaust muffler.
- ✓ The exhaust muffler must cool and expel the exhaust gases from the engine without excessive noise and without producing flames or sparks.

WE WANT YOUR SUMMER TO BE SAFE AND FUN, REMEMBER:

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS DO NOT MIX WHEN OPERATING ANY TYPE OF VEHICLE



OHV Safety Tips

Dirt bike requirements:



Side-by-side requirements:



If you would like more information, please contact Clearwater County's Emergency Services department:

Phone: 403-845-4444

Email: highwaypatrol@clearwatercounty.ca

Website: www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/clearwater-county-peace-officers

**REMEMBER:
BE SAFE &
ENJOY!**



2023 Rural Beautification Awards

Do you know someone who puts that extra effort into their yard?

Lets celebrate their hard work and dedication!

Rural Beautification Awards are presented to residents across the County that have been recognized for their hard work and extra effort in creating a beautiful property.

The annual awards competition held in the middle of summer, with five judges that tour nominated properties representing the horticultural, landscape, agriculture and media industries.

After spending the day visiting various nominated properties, winners are chosen in different categories.



Winners receive a cast iron plaque for their property gate commemorating their achievement!

Past example of winning categories include:

- working/active farm,
- retired farm,
- recreation property,
- acreage under 15 years,
- acreage over 15 years.

Nominations are being accepted until Friday July 28, 2023.

Learn more about this award, and follow for updates on the 2023 winning properties:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/ag-awards.



2022 winner for most creative design:
Trent Vanderaa & Sandra Kanten



2022 winner for Rural Commercial:
Lazy M Lodge



2022 winner for Retired Farm:
Diane & Doug Lutz



Agriculture & Community Upcoming

EVENTS



Recreational Stewardship Fair

The 2023 Recreational Stewardship fair is scheduled for July 22, 2023 at 10 am - 3 pm.

The event will be held in the hamlet of Nordegg, with a welcome/staging location in the Shell/Miners Cafe parking lot (619 Unit A Miners Crescent, Nordegg, AB).

Purpose of the Recreation Fair:

To fill a void in Alberta where there are missing collaborative courses and training focused on developing knowledge, skills, and practices that foster a stewardship ethic for conservation. The aim of this fair is to showcase stewards, develop skills, and change knowledge, actions, and behaviors through good fellowship, food, and fun!

Goal of the Recreation Fair:

To positively influence participants' knowledge, practices, and ability to monitor their land use impacts, foster a supportive environment for the event and reduce negative impacts of recreation and increase use of sustainable recreational activities and practices.

Learn more: www.clearwatercounty.ca/landcare.

West Country Ag Tour

The Agriculture Tour is back in 2023!

Follow the County's website and social media pages for more information to be shared as it becomes available.



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.



Off-site watering system

Verbenone Repellent Pouch

Available for purchase through the Agriculture and Community Services office. They are used to protect high-valued pine trees over a small area, the pouches give off a natural pheromone letting beetles know "this tree is full" to ward off attack. Hang one pouch (pictured here) per tree between June 15 and July 1 at a 10-15 m radius to the next pouch.



To learn more about these programs, please visit: www.clearwatercounty.ca/landcare or contact the Landcare team directly at 403-846-4040 or landcare@clearwatercounty.ca.



Brazeau Collieries Mine Tours

Did you know: Clearwater County owns and operates the Nordegg Discovery Centre (NDC)! This includes the management of the Brazeau Collieries Mine Tours.

The NDC building includes the:

- Visitor Information Desk
- Interpretive/Exhibit Centre (**opening in 2024!**)
- Coming soon: Nordegg Public Library will be moving into the NDC!

The centre is a wheelchair accessible facility and has wheelchair accessible washrooms.

The NDC visitor information desk is open Monday - Sunday at 9am.



Brazeau Collieries Entrance Sign

**TOURS OPENED
MAY 20, 2023**

Mine tours are back for 2023! Registration for tours can be taken at this time by drop-in or by phoning 403-721-COAL (2625).

Hours of operation Wednesday - Monday (please note that tours are closed on Tuesdays).

Upper & Lower Mine Tour (approx. 2.5 hrs) 10am

Upper Mine Tour Only (approx. 1.5 hrs) 2pm

Please note that the site/tour is not set up to allow for guests to bring pets.



The three (3) photos displayed above capture County tour guides conducting tours on the opening weekend.

To learn more about the mine site, visit:
www.clearwatercounty.ca/visitnordegg

Do you have any questions? Contact the Agriculture & Community Services department:

- Discovery Centre: (403) 721-COAL (2625)
- Clearwater County: (403) 845-4444
- Email: heritage@clearwatercounty.ca



Nordegg Discovery Centre

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

Inside the building you will no longer find the Miners Café and Colliseum Gift Shop as they have relocated. With the vacant spaces on the lower level of the Discovery Centre, Clearwater County has engaged the services of the Hatlie Group to develop a new exhibit. The new exhibit will be expanded from the original room to encompass the old gift shop room as well.

At Council's Strategic Planning meeting on April 17, 2023, a report on the feedback heard from community engagement was presented to Council. The NDC Exhibition Renewal Project began in October 2021 with a two-part phased approach:

PHASE
1

Planning & Development focused its efforts on strategy, business planning, and interpretation planning to set the stage for next steps.

PHASE
2

Development, fabrication, and installation of the renewed NDC exhibits - coming next year in 2024.

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



Nordegg Discovery Centre

Clearwater County has developed a strategy for the NDC that draws from the community feedback solicited in 2022. From this strategy the team highlighted values to set a foundation for the project through community, respect, history, and creativity.

Vision: “The Nordegg Discovery Centre engages our visitors in the exploration of this place, the stories of its people, communities and history, and their enduring spirit.”

Mission: “The Hub for experiences, education, and information, the Nordegg Discovery Centre connects visitors and residents with the natural, cultural, and industrial heritage of the region.”



Visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/visitnordegg to check out the complete strategy and approach document, there you can also find more information about the Nordegg Discovery Centre and mine tours!



Capital Planning for New Admin Building

During the April 17, 2023 Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole meeting, a list of projects was discussed that are in the current 10-year capital plan.

To be included in the Capital Budget, a project must meet one of the following requirements (criteria):

- Facility construction or major renovation extending the existing useful life of the facility and the cost exceeds more than \$50,000
- Engineered structures construction or major rebuild extending the existing useful life of the structure (road, bridge, water, wastewater) and the cost exceeds \$50,000
- Equipment purchase or rebuild extending the existing useful life of the piece of equipment and the cost exceeds \$5,000

Funding Sources for these projects could include current year's tax levy, previous year's tax levy (restricted surplus accounts or previously known as reserves), grant revenue or debt. Restricted surplus accounts are an essential planning tool to help municipalities deal with aging infrastructure, especially in the rural landscape.

Clearwater County's land mass encompasses 18,961 sq km and the long list of infrastructure responsibilities include:

- **Bridges:** 461 bridge structures are located within Clearwater County of which 272 fall under Clearwater County's administration, with the balance of the remaining bridge structures being managed by Alberta Transportation
- **Roadways:** Clearwater County is responsible for 350 km of paved roads and 1,873 km of gravel roads (a combined total of 2,223 km)

- **Trail systems** - 74 km
- **Sewer lines** - 8.5 km
- **Sidewalks** - 1.8 km
- **Water distribution lines** - 6.5 kms
- **Fleet equipment** required to complete the above-listed work (unless contracted out)
- **Maintenance of buildings:**
 - Rocky Mountain House:
 - **Main Administration ***
 - **Agriculture and Community Services ***
 - **Emergency Services ***
 - **Public Works ***
 - Broadband Central Office
 - Salt Storage Facility
 - NE 3- 40-7 W5M Acreage
 - Martin Shop
 - Martin Broadband Point of Presence
 - Nordegg:
 - Public Services Building, Nordegg Operations Facility, Discovery Centre, Staff Housing, Old Shop, Misc. Nordegg Facilities.
 - Condor:
 - Public Services Building, Old Fire Hall, and lift station
 - Caroline:
 - Two (2) Residential Acreages, Caroline operations Facility, and salt storage Facility.
 - Leslieville:
 - Public Services Building, old Fire Hall, and Storage Facility

** see picture of buildings on the next page*



New Admin Building Continued



Main Administration



Agriculture and Community Services



Emergency Services



Public Works

For over a decade now, one of the key capital project priorities identified is a new administration building to consolidate the majority of County operations in one facility.

Building on the historical context from 2016 that followed the last public meeting in Dovercourt, we heard from the public at the time that this project was not emergent, and more transparency was needed about the funding strategy that will be used for this new construction.

Later in June 2018, staff presented to Council a Facility Needs Assessment Review, which resulted in Council of the day making the following motion:

(293/18) That Council directs Administration to implement Option 2 to reinvest in existing facilities and supplement with added sites and facilities as needed; and, plans for consolidation of facilities in the long term (defer the new construction from 2018 to 2028), implement life cycle reserve budgeting practices and uses the Facility Condition Index to guide future investment.

Existing draft plans indicate for a facility to be located on the NE 3 40-7 W5M; however, Council may consider other south of Rocky locations as Council resumes this conversation in the near future. The funding strategies include the disposal of existing four (4) facilities and budgeting into the County Facilities Reserves.

Each year, Council has set aside between \$1.25-1.7 million to have a total of \$36 million in the restricted surplus account (called the County Facilities Reserve) by 2028. As of Dec. 31, 2022, the County Facilities Reserve had \$13.4 million.

New Admin Building Benefits



Current Main Administration Building (1 of 4 buildings in the Town of Rocky Mtn House)

What benefits would residents see from the construction of one consolidated facility?

In the pursuit of efficiency, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness, consolidating four separate County buildings into a single, purpose-built facility is a compelling solution. By bringing together various government services under one roof, we can streamline operations, enhance interdepartmental communication, improve public access, and optimize resource allocation.

Streamlined Operations and Resource

Optimization: Consolidating four buildings into one central location offers significant advantages in operational efficiency. It eliminates redundancies in administrative functions, lowers maintenance costs and optimizes staffing levels. Additionally, a centralized facility promotes smoother internal communication and collaboration among government departments, resulting in more effective decision-making and coordinated service delivery.

Enhanced Public Access and Convenience: A single building for government services greatly improves public access and convenience. With all services housed in one location, citizens can access a comprehensive range of government assistance in a single visit, saving time and resources for both the public and the government. This accessibility fosters a stronger sense of community and government responsiveness to resident needs.

Improved Collaboration and Innovation:

Consolidation fosters increased collaboration and information sharing among government departments. Physical proximity facilitates interdisciplinary cooperation, leading to improved coordination, streamlined processes, and innovative solutions. This collaborative environment enhances service delivery and ensures a more efficient use of resources.

Sustainability and Environmental Impact: The consolidation of County buildings allows for the implementation of sustainable practices. A purpose-built facility can incorporate eco-friendly design principles, energy-efficient systems, and renewable energy sources. By embracing sustainability, we demonstrate our commitment to responsible stewardship and inspire the community to adopt environmentally conscious behaviors.

Consolidating four separate County buildings into one new, purpose-built facility is a practical solution that enhances County services. Through streamlined operations, enhanced public access, optimized resource allocation, improved interdepartmental collaboration, and sustainability efforts, a single building can deliver numerous benefits. By consolidating resources and efforts, we can create a centralized hub for County services that prioritizes efficiency, accessibility, and fiscal responsibility.



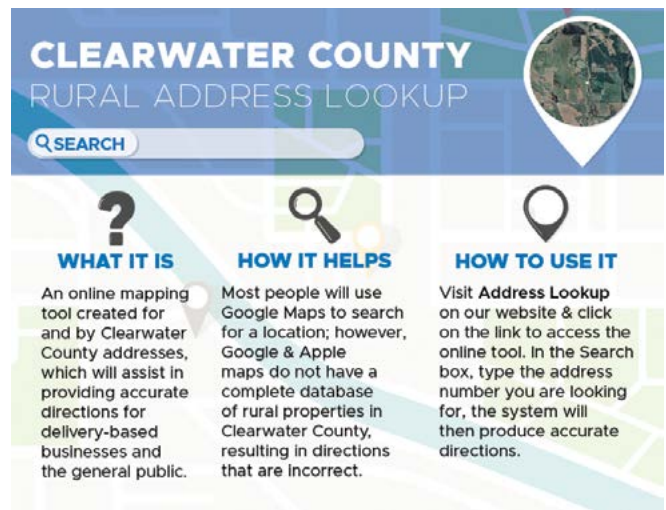
Now Available: Rural Address Look Up

The most common way to find a location is to lookup the address online. However; Google and Apple maps do not have a complete database of Clearwater County's rural addresses. This means the directions may not always be accurate.

Clearwater County has been developed a tool that will help provide you with the accurate directions you need.

This new map feature is available on the County's website:

www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/address-lookup.



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



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**Read more on
page 14.**



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Box 550, Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1A4
admin@clearwatercounty.ca

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



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www.clearwatercounty.ca



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