



# Clearwater County Highlights

MARCH  
2024

A NEWSLETTER  
FOR RESIDENTS OF  
CLEARWATER COUNTY

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[clearwatercounty.ca](http://clearwatercounty.ca)

# A Message from the Reeve

Hello everyone,

On behalf of Council I hope that you all had a joyous holiday season and a safe winter break.

As we welcomed the New Year, work for Council and Administration has gotten off to a very busy start.

In late December, Council approved the 2024 operating and capital budgets, along with the four-year financial and 10-year capital plans. These decisions reflect the meticulous efforts of our staff, who have worked tirelessly to analyze County programs and services while upholding our commitment to fiscal responsibility. For an overview of the 2024 budget, please refer to page 14.

In February, I had the privilege of delivering the 2024 State of the County Address at the Chamber of Commerce, highlighting our achievements and addressing the challenges of the past year, while outlining our vision for the future. A recording of this address will soon be available on the County's YouTube channel.

Negotiations with the Amalgamation Committee are quickly progressing, marking significant strides towards potential amalgamation between the County and the Village. This project, initiated in 2020, aims to explore the amalgamation with the Village of Caroline and Clearwater County. We anticipate hosting public engagement sessions starting in April; details regarding locations and key decisions to date can be found on pages 18-19.



Michelle Swanson  
Reeve

Serving as an elected official is both an honor and a responsibility. All elected officials are elected to make the right decisions, not just the popular ones. I can assure you that this Council is committed to making the right decisions that benefit the region as a whole, ensuring that all our communities can reach their full potential, and ensuring Clearwater County continues to thrive as a land of rural opportunity for generations to come.

Before concluding, I wish to emphasize the importance of accessing official communication from Clearwater County through our verified channels, including our website and social media platforms. Official County communication from can be found by visiting:

- **Website:** [www.clearwatercounty.ca](http://www.clearwatercounty.ca)
- **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/clearwatercnty](http://www.facebook.com/clearwatercnty)
- **Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/ClearwaterCnty](http://www.twitter.com/ClearwaterCnty)
- **Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/clearwatercnty](http://www.instagram.com/clearwatercnty)
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/@ClearwaterCounty>

As we embrace the arrival of spring and celebrate occasions such as Easter with loved ones, I extend heartfelt wishes from Clearwater County Council for a season filled with joy and renewal.

Warm regards,  
Michelle Swanson, Reeve



February 15, Reeve Swanson presenting the 2024 State of the County Address



February 17, Reeve Swanson jumping for charity at the 2024 Rocky's Freezin' for a Reason Polar Bear Dip



# Clearwater County Council Term 2021-25



**DIVISION 7**  
**Michelle Swanson**  
Reeve  
[mswanson@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:mswanson@clearwatercounty.ca)  
403-846-5824



**DIVISION 1**  
**Gennifer Mehlhaff**  
Deputy Reeve  
[gmehlhaff@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:gmehlhaff@clearwatercounty.ca)  
403-846-8254



**DIVISION 2**  
**Sydney Graham**  
Councillor  
[sgraham@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:sgraham@clearwatercounty.ca)  
403-846-3760



**DIVISION 3**  
**Daryl Loughheed**  
Councillor  
[dloughheed@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:dloughheed@clearwatercounty.ca)  
403-846-5817



**DIVISION 4**  
**Jordon Northcott**  
Councillor  
[jnorthcott@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:jnorthcott@clearwatercounty.ca)  
403-895-2649



**DIVISION 5**  
**Neil Ratcliffe**  
Councillor  
[nratcliffe@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:nratcliffe@clearwatercounty.ca)  
403-895-3215



**DIVISION 6**  
**Bryan Cermak**  
Councillor  
[bcermak@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:bcermak@clearwatercounty.ca)  
403-846-5197

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

Stay up to date on Clearwater County Council discussions and topics by reading the Council highlights (pages 4-7) 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.

APRIL 9 & 23, 2024

MAY 14 & 28, 2024

## Upcoming Strategic Planning Meetings

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

APRIL 15, 2024

JUNE 17, 2024

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

## Councillor Drop-in Sessions



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](http://www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/drop-in).



# Council Highlights

Regular Council Meeting  
December 12, 2023

## **Bylaw 1174/23**

Following public hearing proceedings, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1174/23 to redesignate ±3.12 acres, within, Block 1, Lot 2 (Pt. SE 30-35-08-W5M), from the Highway Development District “HD” to the Recreation Facility District “RF”.

## **Bylaw 1175/23 First Reading**

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 1175/23 to redesignate ±4.48 acres of NW 26-40-07-W5 be redesignated from the Agriculture District "A" to Country Residence Agriculture District “CRA” and will proceed to a public hearing.

## **Caroline Community Complex and Recreation**

Council granted a two-year extension, to December 31, 2025, of the terms and conditions for the following agreements until the current amalgamation discussions conclude:

- Caroline Community Complex Service Agreement and the South East Recreation Grounds Service Agreement between Clearwater County and Caroline and District Athletic and Agricultural Society; and,
- Caroline Community Complex Facility Lease Agreement between Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline.

Council also endorsed the Caroline Community Complex Lease Extension Agreement and the South East Recreation Grounds Service and Caroline Community Complex Service Extension Agreements for signature.

## **Procedure Bylaw 1177/23**

Council reviewed, amended and granted first reading to an amended Council Procedures Bylaw which includes the addition of a table of contents, an updated definitions list, and other improved clarity around procedures to keep the bylaw current.

Regular Council Meeting  
January 9, 2024

## **Bylaw 1171/23**

Following public hearing proceedings, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw 1171/23 to redesignate ±10.25 acres of the SW 06-39-06-W5M from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agricultural District “CRA”.

## **Bylaw 1179/24**

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1179/24 to redesignate ±5.0 acres, located on Plan 212 0940, Block 1, Lot 1 Pt. NE 03-37-06-W5M, from the Agriculture District “A” to the Country Residence Agricultural District “CRA” and will proceed with a public hearing.

## **Bylaw 1178/24**

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1178/24 to redesignate +/-11.49 acres of the SE 09-41-05-W5M from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA" and will proceed with a public hearing.

## **Ratepayer Request for Refund of Property Taxes**

Council received a request from a ratepayer for a refund of a portion of property taxes, as per legislation and following discussion, Council made a motion to refund the requested amount of the property taxes, at which time the motion was defeated.

## **Delegation - Travel Alberta**

Council received Travel Alberta's presentation of the David Thompson Tourism Development Zone Discovery Report for information, with highlights on an action plan to diversity year-round tourism, challenges including limited capacity and diversity of fixed roof accommodations.





# Council Highlights

## **Wild Rose School Division Request**

Council endorsed the Reeve's signature for a joint letter from Wild Rose School Division Board of Trustee's requesting to meet with Alberta Minister of Health to advocate for increased community health services resources to support student health and wellness needs.

## **AB Community Partnership Municipal Restructuring Grant Application**

Council endorsed Clearwater County's 2023-24 Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application, in partnership with the Village of Caroline, for Phase 2 Municipal Restructuring Study Stream Grant. The purpose of this grant is to fund the continuation of the Amalgamation project.

## **Procedures Bylaw 1177/23**

Council granted second and third readings of the Procedures Bylaw 1177/23 with amendments, for the purpose of establishing procedures to be followed by Council. This bylaw was formally known as the Meeting Procedures Bylaw and serves to enhance clarity and is applicable to all meetings of Council, Council Committees of the Whole, and Council Committees, unless otherwise governed.

## **Regular Council Meeting January 23, 2024**

## **Bylaw 1175/23**

Following public hearing proceedings, Council granted second and third readings to Bylaw No. 1175/23 for the purpose of amending the Land Use Bylaw to redesignate +/-4.48 acres within Pt. NW 26-40-07 W5M from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA".

## **Bylaw 1181/24**

Council granted first, second, and third readings to Bylaw 1181/24 for the purpose of allowing the borrowing of sums Council considers necessary to meet current operating expenditures and obligations of the municipality.

## **Road Closure Application**

Council approved the closure of a portion of Road Plan 6241BM running through the NW 04-40-09 W5M, in accordance with Section 22 of the Municipal Government Act, subject to the rights of access granted by other legislation.

## **Request for Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) Advocacy – TWP 42-5A**

Council approved sending a letter requesting Central Alberta Economic Partnership Board of Directors' support in lobbying the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities for partnership funding to grade, base and pave the O'Chiese First Nation primary access road, Township Road 42-5A.

## **Request for O'Chiese First Nation Joint Advocacy – TWP 42-5A**

Council approved sending a joint letter with O'Chiese First Nation to the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, requesting federal funding support in partnership with Clearwater County and the Province of Alberta for the Township Road 42-5A Base Pave Project.

## **Request to Meet with Provincial Ministers**

Historically, Council meets with several Ministers during the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Convention. Council discussed this topic and determined that organizing a dedicated one-day event hosted in Clearwater County to meet with Ministers would be more advantageous. This approach allows Council to maintain focus at the RMA Convention and offers Council a valuable opportunity to discuss relevant topics with the Ministers in a more personable setting.

For more highlights of Council meetings, please visit  
[www.clearwatercounty.ca/highlights](http://www.clearwatercounty.ca/highlights)



# Council Highlights

## Regular Council Meeting February 13, 2024

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

Council received a presentation with an update on the development of a pump/bike track park in Rocky Mountain House.

### **Bylaw 1186/23**

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1186/24 to redesignate two parcels of land containing  $\pm 6.07$  from the Light Industrial District "LI" to the Country Residence District "CR" and directed Administration to proceed to a public hearing.

### **Bylaw 1180/23**

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1180/23 to redesignate approximately 9 acres (amended from the original 11.51 acres), from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA" and directed Administration to proceed to a public hearing.

### **Road Construction and Maintenance Request**

Council approved construction of Township Road 41-1, west approximately 30m, and approved this addition to the County's gravel road inventory for municipal maintenance.

### **2024 Change in Taxation and Assessment Notices**

Council received a presentation about new changes to the separation of Property Assessment and Tax Notices to offer ratepayers a more transparent and fair understanding of how property is assessed prior to the 60-days appeal period. The anticipated mailing date of property assessment notices will be April 11, 2024. Property owners will receive the annual tax notice in May 2024, after County has set the 2024 tax rate.

## Regular Council Meeting February 27, 2024

### **Bylaw 1178/24**

Following public hearing proceedings, Council granted second and third readings of Bylaw 1178/24 to redesignate  $\pm 9.06$  acres of the SE 09-41-05-W5M from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA".

### **Bylaw 1182/24**

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1182/24 to redesignate 7.0 acres from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA" and directed Administration to proceed to a public hearing.

### **Bylaw 1185/24**

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1185/24 to add "Residential Shop" as a listed Discretionary Use within the "RE" District in order to permit the development of shops within the Diamond Willow Estates Subdivision and directed Administration to proceed to a public hearing.

### **Bylaw 1176/24**

Council postponed first reading of Bylaw 1176/24 to develop a Renewable Energy Systems Land Use Bylaw, and directed Administration to set up a workshop that includes Council for more information.

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

Council granted \$250,000 to the Rocky Mountain Bike Park Society, without the condition of successfully receiving provincial funding from the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) Grant, from the Agriculture and Community Services 2024 operating budget.



# Council Highlights

**Clearwater County Highway Patrol Annual Report**  
Council received the 2023 annual report which included highlights such as conducting safety checks on commercial, passenger and farm vehicles; worked with enforcement partners to ensure continued public safety in the County (i.e. joint force operations and long weekend checks); fulfilled required mandates for training; and met the requirements of County traffic safety plan through enforcement and education.



March 7, Community Capacity Building Session with County, Town and Village Councils.

## Regular Council Meeting March 12, 2024

### Delegation – Rocky Mountain House & District Minor Football Association

Council received an update on the football field lighting project with a request for \$56,000 funding from Clearwater County in 2024. The update included lighting design and layout, potential multi-purpose uses, and summary of community support to date. Administration will bring this item back to Council at a future meeting for a decision.

### Bylaw 1188/24

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1188/24 to redesignate 6.0 acres of NW 07-39-04 W5M from the Agriculture District "A" to the Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA" and directed Administration to proceed to a public hearing.

### 2023 Assessment Data Report

Council received the 2023 Assessment Data report which highlighted the assessment process, well & pipeline holiday, small business assessment sub-class, land use zoning & assessment.

### Nordegg Lot Prices

Council directed Administration to amend the Nordegg Lot Purchasing Policy, as per closed session discussions, to come back to a Council meeting in April for review.



**Inside FPA:** If you live in the Forest Protection Area (FPA), then you need a provincial fire permit for any burning, with the exception of a campfire, from February 20 to October 31.

**Outside FPA:** For those outside the FPA, please notify us before burning brush, vegetation, or woody debris on your property. Your cooperation is essential for everyone's safety.

Visit [www.clearwatercounty.ca/burnnotifications](http://www.clearwatercounty.ca/burnnotifications) or call the burn notification line at 403-845-7711.



# Capital Projects Status Update

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 February 27, 2024. Read the full report at: [www.clearwatercounty.ca/news](http://www.clearwatercounty.ca/news).

## Asphalt Overlay - 2024 Local Roads

This project includes an asphalt overlay on Taimi Road, Beaver Flat Road, Airport Access Road (R.R. 7-2), Bunch Road, and a base pave on Taimi Access Road. The total kilometers of road scheduled for asphalt is 19.6. The project has been awarded to Central City Asphalt Ltd. The total 2024 budget is \$5,554,000. The project is projected to be approximately \$300,000 under budget. In the spring, staff will assess roads within the area for asphalt repairs that can be completed with the project.

Road	Total Cost
Taimi	\$2,444,743.25
Beaver Flat	\$1,810,298.20
Bunch	\$460,217.10
Airport (RR 7-2)	\$289,847.95
Tami Access	\$214,664.75
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$5,219,771.25</b>

*The above total costs include construction, 5% contingency, engineering, possible ACP bonus, and possibly site occ. bonus.*



*Paving Condor Public Services Building  
(September 2023)*

## Bridge Reconstruction

- **BRB002 – BF 1963:** This project includes major repairs to the 3-span bridge structure located on Range Road 5-3(NW 15-34-05-W5M) crossing James River. This structure has a load restriction of 10 Tonnes, and the repairs will not change the load rating. The repairs are to extend the life expectancy of the structure. The 2024 budget is \$2,851,000.
- **BRB004 – BF 7038:** This budget is for seasonal deficiencies that were not completed in 2023. The 2024 budget is \$22,000.
- **BRB009 – BF 71510:** This project includes the replacement of a bridge structure with two CSP culverts. The bridge replacement is located on Range Road 5-5 (NW 29-38-05-W5M) crossing Horseguard Creek. The project has been awarded to Volker Stevin Highways Ltd. The 2024 budget is \$1,460,000.
- **BRB010 – BF 7786:** This project includes the replacement of a bridge culvert structure on Township Road 39-2 (SE 18-39-05-W5M) crossing Horseguard Creek. The project engineer is currently completing the detailed design with procurement to be completed in the Spring. The 2024 budget is \$1,905,000.
- **BRB014 – BF 78211:** This project includes the replacement of a bridge culvert on the Red Deer River Access Road (Twp Rd 31-2) (SW 15-31-09-W5M) crossing Logan Creek. This project was awarded in 2023 and due to scheduling it was postponed until 2024. This culvert replacement obtained a grant from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas through the Watercourse Crossing Remediation Program. The 2024 budget is \$1,230,000.





# Capital Projects Continued

- Procurement for an engineering firm for the upcoming bridge replacements is scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024 for James River Bridge, Horseguard Creek Culvert and Bridge, and Logan Creek Culvert.

## Facilities Capital

- **Leslieville Recreation Area:** This project includes a base pave of the access road, parking lot and trail. Additional procurement for items including the garbage bins and picnic tables will be completed throughout the Spring. The 2024 budget is \$701,000. This base pave will be combined with paving and surfacing within the Hamlet of Leslieville.
- **Hamlet of Leslieville Community Feature:** This project includes the development of a community feature within the Hamlet of Leslieville. Within 2023, the County purchased land off 3rd Street for this development. Resident engagement will be throughout the winter months. Based off the resident feedback, the County will be able to develop this feature that will best encompass the vision of the Hamlet. The 2024 budget is \$200,000.

## Gravel Road Rehabilitation

- Foremen are preparing 2024 Gravel Road Rehabilitation Projects by contacting landowners for possible borrow sites and will be having project right of ways flagged to prepare for brushing where necessary. The 2024 budget is \$4,940,000 and 24km of roads are proposed to be rehabilitated. Crews have begun brushing on Township Road 36-4 between Range Road 5-2 and 5-4.



Crews commenced brushing on Township Road 39-4 between Range Road 5-4 and 5-5.

**Got used plastic  
baler twine?  
Recycle it!**



**AlbertaAgPlastics.ca**  
for details and collection sites

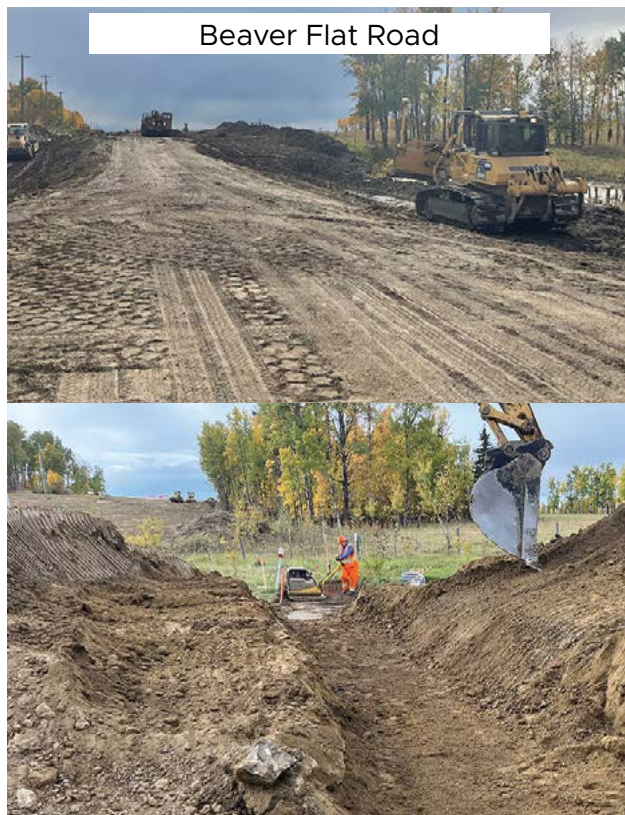
**cleanfarms**  **ALBERTA AG-PLASTIC  
RECYCLE IT!** 



# Capital Projects Status Continued

## Grading Projects

- **Beaver Flat Road (RR 6-0):** This project includes the construction of R.R. 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. Clearwater County will do snow clearing maintenance on the project until Howitt Construction resumes work in the spring when ground conditions warrant. The 2024 budget is 3,000,000.



## Nordegg Development Plan

- **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. Majority of the site grading is now complete. The completion date, for Tamarack Trail cistern and the Industrial Lots, has been delayed until Spring 2024. The contractor mobilized to the industrial lot development site on February 5th to complete winter site work on Lot 7/8. Shallow utilities including power, natural gas lines and fibre conduit will be installed in 2024. The 2024 budget is 1,932,500.
- **Nordegg Phase 2 Residential Subdivision:** This project includes the installation of streetlights, shallow utilities and sidewalk deficiencies. The work is scheduled to be completed in the Spring and Summer months. The 2024 budget is \$391,500.
- **Nordegg Engineering Procurement:** Administration received five engineering proposals for four engineering projects within Nordegg. Tagish Engineering combined with West Country Engineering scored the highest on the Request for Proposal (RFP) evaluation matrix and are the successful proponents.
- **Stuart Street (Cemetery to Elizabeth Ave):** This project includes detailed design engineering for the regrading, deep and shallow utilities c/w curb and gutter. The 2024 budget is \$184,000.
- **Phase 2 Historic Commercial Core:** This project includes preliminary and detailed design engineering for the development of 19 commercial lots along Elizabeth Ave from Cherie Ave to Center Street. This will also include the re-alignment of Elizabeth Ave at Cherie Ave, complete with underground utilities. The 2024 budget is \$550,000.



# Capital Projects Continued

- **High Density Residential:** This project includes preliminary engineering and lot plans for the development of high density residential on the east and west side of Stuart Street. The 2024 budget is \$510,000.
- **Stuart Street Service Commercial:** This project includes preliminary engineering for the development of commercial lots located west of Stuart Street, north of the Discovery Center. The 2024 budget is \$96,000. The old library that is located within this area is scheduled for removal this year. This will be completed once the hazardous materials have been removed and the water service can be relocated.
- **Stuart Street and Highway 11 Intersection:** This project includes preliminary engineering and assessment of highway 11 intersection, sightlines and traffic. The assessment will include field work and the re-alignment of Shunda Creek Road intersection. The 2024 budget is \$100,000.

## Solid Waste

- **Central Transfer Station Site:** This project includes engineering for design and planning of the future development of the permanent Central Transfer Site. The engineering consultant is working on options available at the County's NE 3-40-7 W5M property located north of Rocky Mountain House. The 2024 budget is \$100,000.
- **Nordegg Transfer Station Site:** This project includes engineering to build collection capacity. The 2024 budget is \$20,000.
- **Crammond Transfer Station Site:** This project includes engineering for the upgrade of the driving ramp at the Crammond Transfer Site to address safety concerns. The 2024 budget is \$20,000.

## Nordegg Water Meters

This project includes installing the remaining water meters on residential and commercial water lines within the south Hamlet of Nordegg. The contractor, Metercor, has scheduled the remaining installations for the week of March 25, 2024. In the meantime, they will continue to connect with the residents to ensure we can schedule a time for the installation. The 2024 budget is \$50,000.

## Dry Hydrants

- **Tamarack Trail:** This project is postponed and includes the installation of a cistern on Tamarack Trail. The 2024 budget is \$165,000.
- **Beaver Creek:** This project includes the installation of a cistern within the Beaver Creek Subdivision. Due to site utility conflicts, this project was postponed from 2023. The 2024 budget is \$175,000.
- **Misty Valley:** This project includes upgrading the dry hydrant within Misty Valley. The 2024 budget is \$300,000

## Leslieville Sanitary

This project includes the construction of a new sanitary line under the railroad which ties into 1 st Ave. The 2024 budget is \$430,000.

## Range Road 6-4 Erosion

This project includes erosion control along Range Road 6-4 where Clearwater River is eroding the bank. Due to the river's classification and species at risk, permitting will begin in the winter months with construction taking place within the fall/winter months. The 2024 budget is \$774,000.

## Hamlet Street Lights

This project includes an assessment of the current street light levels within the Hamlets located throughout the County. The 2024 budget is \$20,000.





# Planning & Development 2023 Statistics

- Municipal Development Plan (MDP) final approval in May 2023.
- Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Rewrite kick-off open houses took place in Sept/Oct 2023
- Areas Structure Plans (ASPs) completed for:
  - o Hamlet of Condor
  - o Hamlet of Leslieville
- ASPs in progress for 3 Development Nodes (draft submitted for review to the province)
  - o Saunders/Alexo
  - o Shunda/Goldeye
  - o White Goat Lakes



Area Structure Plan Meeting

2023 Short Term Rental Applications	
Pending	-
Refused	1
Approved	9
Withdrawn	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

2023 Development Permit Applications	
Houses	30
Replacement of a Residence	5
Manufactured Homes	14
Residential Shops	29
Garages	21
Nordegg Residence	-
Nordegg Leisure Residences	10
Nordegg Ancillary Buildings	8
Nordegg Industrial	1
Nordegg Manufactured Home	12
Other Uses (business, legalization, towers)	56
Construction > \$500K	5
Construction < \$500K	16
Compassionate Residence	3
Shop with Living Quarters	2
Campground	1
Leisure Residence	2
Withdrawn/Incomplete	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>218*</b>

\* Note that some development permit applications have more than one structure included and the total number of 'permits' issued may be less than the numbers noted above.

2023 Land Use Amendment Applications	
Pending	7
Refused	0
Approved	23
Withdrawn	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

2023 Subdivision Applications	
1st Parcel Out	26
Severance Parcels	6
Boundary Adjustments	8
Multi-lot Applications	-
Other (e.g. Industrial, 2nd Parcels, etc.)	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>





# Economic Development 2023 Highlights

In 2023, the County's Economic Development Officer continued to promote opportunities for economic development in accordance with the 2019 Economic Development Strategy that focused on four strategic areas of focus:

1. **Foster a Culture of Growth** - Position and engage the community regarding the benefits of economic development.
2. **Prepare for Business Growth** - Grow and attract business investment.
3. **Prepare for People Growth** - Attract and/or develop a skilled workforce to enable business investment and growth.
4. **Promote Opportunities** - Identify and promote opportunities for business investment

## Marketing & Attraction

- 9 Tourism videos published
- 5 podcast videos published
- Updated the Clearwater Community Profile and the Investor Profile. These profiles are shared with site selectors and businesses interested expanding or building in Clearwater County.
- Manage the David Thompson Country webpage and social media accounts to promote tourism and attract investment.
- Participate in Passport to Christmas with the Rocky Chamber, Town of Rocky Mountain House, the Mountaineer, and 94.5 Rewind Radio.

## Engagement & Partnerships

- Agritourism Strategy was completed with Central Alberta Tourism Alliance (CATA), with representatives from 8 municipalities, Tourism Red Deer, Travel Alberta and Ministry of Jobs, Economy, and Trade. The 38 participants included farms, greenhouses, breweries, apiaries, u-pick farms, and more. Results were presented to Councils and at the Agri-Food Expo in Red Deer.



- Clearwater County, along with the Town of Rocky Mountain House, Village of Caroline and the Rocky Chamber of Commerce, hosted a Business Succession Planning Information Session in June. There were 16 people in attendance. The session covered first steps for owners of a business that are considering selling or passing it on to the next generation.
- Hosted the David Thompson Country Tourism Business Forum on November 9 with 42 attendees and over 30 businesses participating.
- Worked with Travel Alberta on the development of 2 Tourism Development Zones for Clearwater County; the David Thompson Corridor TDZ, and the Cochrane-Sundre-Rocky Mountain House TDZ.
- Presented a State of Economy and Industries session to the Rocky Ag Society and the Rocky Chamber of Commerce Board.



# 2024 Budget at a Glance



LESLIEVILLE RECREATION AREA  
\$701,000



GRAVEL ROAD REHAB  
\$4,938,000



NORDEGG DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROJECTS  
\$4,059,000



BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS & REHABILITATION  
\$7,535,525

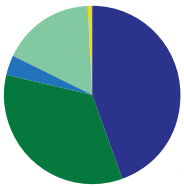


BEAVER FLAT ROAD GRADING  
\$3,000,000



ASPHALT OVERLAY  
\$5,584,000

## Sources of Municipal Taxes\*



**41.7%**  
Linear

**31.56%**  
Oil & Gas

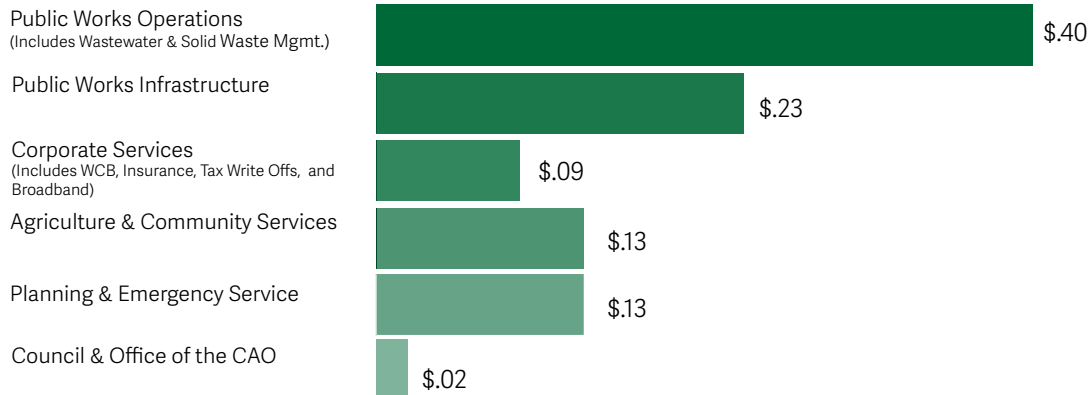
**24.28%**  
Residential

**2.17%**  
Commercial/Industrial

**0.73%**  
Farmland

\* Each year Clearwater County Council sets property tax rates in the spring to ensure the amount of tax collected will fund the services, projects, debt repayment and restricted surplus accounts that Council approved as priorities during budget deliberations the previous December. The above diagram is based on the 2023 projected revenue figures.

## How each municipal tax dollar is spent?



This diagram provides a snapshot of how one dollar (\$1) of Clearwater County's municipal tax revenue is allocated (based on the approved 2024 budgeted operating and capital expenses, not including transfers to restricted surplus or restricted funding used for tangible capital assets).



# Changes to Property Assessment & Notices

Starting 2024, property assessment notices will be sent separately from the annual tax notices. This separation aims to offer you a more transparent and fair understanding of how your property is assessed.

## What to Expect:

- 1. Assessment Notice:** You will be mailed your property assessment notice in April 2024. This document will outline in detail how your property's value has been assessed.
- 2. 60-Day Appeal Period:** You have 60-days to appeal your property assessment, ensuring that you have ample time to voice any concerns or provide additional information.
- 3. Tax Notice:** Subsequently, you will receive your annual tax notice in May 2024, after Council has set the tax rate.



## Do you Have a Small Business?

As a key part of its economic development strategy, Clearwater County Council has committed to fostering a culture of growth. This means providing a competitive tax environment that encourages sustained growth and development of small business.

Until recently, businesses were charged the same property tax rate regardless of their size. The **Small Business Property Assessment Sub-Class** offers up to **25 per cent in tax savings** compared to other non-residential property.

The program is available to all small business properties (other than designated industrial property) that are owned or leased by a business that has **fewer than 50 full-time employees**.

To qualify, each Small Business Property Owner must voluntarily register and the small business must comply with **Clearwater County's Land Use Bylaw**.

## KEY DATES

**Mailing of Property Assessment Notices: Apr. 11, 2024**

**Deadline to Appeal Property Assessment: Jun. 18, 2024**

**Mailing of Property Tax Notices: May 17, 2024**

**Property Tax Payments due upon receipt**

## Property Assessment Map

Anyone can access property information such as land-use, addresses, tax roll numbers and up-to-date assessment information of any property within the municipal boundary of Clearwater County.

Quick website access: <http://tinyurl.com/bnduzryz>

### How to use the map:

1. Go to our website home page ([www.clearwater-county.ca](http://www.clearwater-county.ca))
2. Select "Services" from the menu bar to the right of our logo.
3. Select "Property Assessment Map" under the "Corporate Services" section.
4. Agree to the disclaimer that comes up (or open the map in a new window to make it larger).
5. Enter in the Roll Number, Legal Land Description or Municipal address in the "Search Bar" in the upper left corner of the map.
6. Click on the property that comes up on the map and then click on "View Assessment Report".



# FireSmart Home Assessments



## LANDSCAPING

A FireSmart yard includes making smart choices for your plants, shrubs, grass and mulch. Selecting fire-resistant plants and materials can increase the likelihood of your home surviving a wildfire. Ensure there is a 1.5 metre horizontal non-combustible surface perimeter along the outer walls of the primary structure (house).

### LANDSCAPING WITHIN 10 METRES

Plant a low density of fire-resistant plants and shrubs. Avoid having any woody debris, including mulch, as it provides potential places for fires to start.



### CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS

- Moist, supple leaves
- Accumulates minimal dead vegetation
- Water-like sap with little odour
- Low amount of sap or resin material

### CHARACTERISTICS OF HIGHLY FLAMMABLE PLANTS

- Leaves or needles are aromatic
- Accumulates fine, dry, dead material
- Contain resin or oils
- Loose papery or flaky bark

### PLANTS TO AVOID

- Cedar
- Juniper
- Pine
- Tall grass
- Spruce

### GRASS

A mowed lawn is a fire resistant lawn. Grasses shorter than 10 centimetres in height are less likely to burn intensely.

Check local fire permits for backyard fire pits

Firewood piles far from home



12

Clearwater County's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) team remains active in local FireSmart initiatives, conducting workshops with Clearwater County, Alberta Wildfire, and Olds College. These workshops led to a surge in requests for FireSmart home assessments during the intense 2023 fire season.

**The team conducted over 20 assessments and provided guidance to residents on available resources.**

Additionally, the team continues to collaborate with local forest areas to apply FireSmart principles, fostering strong partnerships and enhancing operational efficiency.

Learn more: [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca)

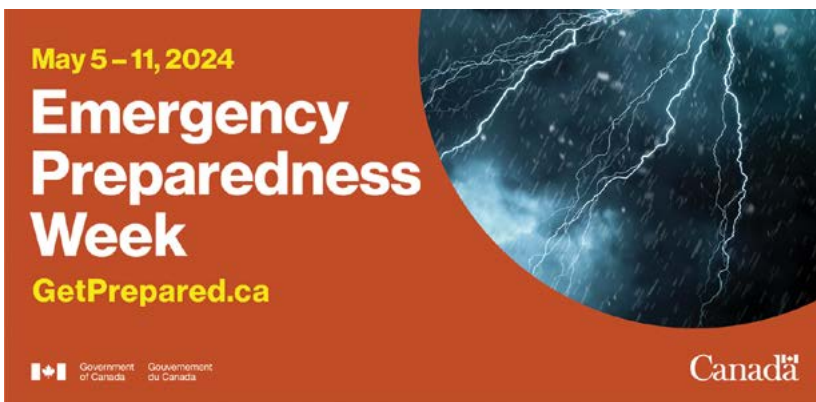
**If you would like a home assessment of your property, contact our Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) team today at 403-845-4444.**



Source: FireSmart Home Development Guide



# Emergency Preparedness



**FOLLOW @GET\_PREPARED  
FOR HELPFUL TIPS AND  
INFO ON WHAT TO DO  
BEFORE,  
DURING AND  
AFTER AN EMERGENCY.**

Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week) is a national event supported by Public Safety Canada for over 25 years,.

## Wildfire preparedness

Wildfire season officially starts March 1 and runs until October 31 each year.

Wildfires can affect communities in forested or grassland areas, including urban green spaces like ravines and parks.

If a fire is near, protect yourself and loved ones by following directions from authorities and be prepared to evacuate.

### Before a wildfire

- Be prepared
- Protect your property and belongings
- Have a plan to safeguard pets & livestock

### During a wildfire

- Prepare to leave
- Safeguard pets & livestock
- Safety first
- Evacuation alerts and orders
- Some emergencies lead authorities to issue an evacuation alert or an evacuation order

*(see next column for definitions)*

- ▶ **Evacuation alerts** warn the public of a potential or current threat. An evacuation alert can lead to an evacuation order. If an alert is issued, you should prepare to evacuate.
- ▶ **Evacuation orders** are used when the public must leave the area for their own safety.

### After a wildfire

If you are ordered to evacuate, you cannot return to your community until authorities have declared it is safe to do so.

You should not re-enter your property if:

- authorities have not deemed it safe to do so
- any part of the structure has collapsed

Use extreme caution, especially if there are holes in the floor, broken glass or dangerous debris.

### Prevent fires from restarting

- Check hot spots, like smouldering stumps and vegetation. Saturate these spots with water and monitor them closely.
- Check the roof and all exterior areas for sparks and embers.
- Check the attic and the house for hidden burning, sparks and embers.
- Monitor problem areas for several days.



# County-Village Amalgamation Negotiations

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.

Focused on community well-being, the Committee is diligently negotiating in the best interest of all residents. Importantly, budgetary decisions will be reserved for the Interim Council of the newly amalgamated municipality during the review of existing service levels.

The Committee recently met on January 25, 26 and February 29, 2024.

March 7, the Committee has negotiated 19 out of 24 mandatory topics and five (5) operational topics.

## PROPOSED AMALGAMATION DATE

January 1, 2025, has been proposed for the formation of the new municipality. The effective date of formation (proposed date of incorporation) of the new municipality must be identified in the report to the Minister. If the date is not specified, the formation date will be chosen by the Minister and/or Cabinet. At minimum, the proposed date of formation should be six months following the report submission date.

## INTERIM COUNCIL

The Interim Council, effective from the formation date to the next general municipal election, will consist of all existing Clearwater County and Village of Caroline Council members. The organizational meeting for the Interim Council will take place on January 7, 2025.

## MUNICIPAL STAFFING

A Human Resources Change Management Plan will facilitate the integration of existing Village of Caroline employees into the new municipality.

## GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

No changes to the 2025 general municipal election timeline are required.

## FIRST ELECTION AFTER AMALGAMATION

The Committee recommended that a first election after amalgamation is not required, and the next general municipal election will be held on October 20, 2025.

## APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER

The Returning Officer for the newly amalgamated municipality will be Tracy Haight. Since the timing of the proposed amalgamation will be close to the nomination day and election day, the name of a returning officer(s) is required for inclusion in the Ministerial Order for the first/general election.

## RESOLUTIONS & BYLAWS

No special actions are needed for existing bylaws and resolutions of Clearwater County and Village of Caroline. The default is for all current municipal bylaws and resolutions to remain effective until the new municipality's Council decides otherwise.

## LIBRARY SERVICES

A new municipal library board, allowed within the Libraries Act and Regulations, will be established by the newly formed municipality.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

Current Regional Emergency Management Program and Plans, along with existing staff and bylaws, will carry over seamlessly to the new municipality.

## FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITY

The current status quo remains, including facility ownership, for both Clearwater County and Village of Caroline.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT (OPERATIONAL)

All existing staff, bylaws, resolutions, and agreements related to these operations will carry over to the new municipality.



# Amalgamation Facts Continued

## BYLAWS/ENFORCEMENT (OPERATIONAL)

Clearwater County's current staff, bylaws, resolutions, agreements, and contracted services for municipal bylaw enforcement will continue seamlessly into the new municipality. Evaluations for potential service level adjustments will be considered during the transition.

## ENVIRO. SERVICES OPERATIONAL PLAN

Services will continue under the amalgamated municipality by staff appointed to administer and enforce applicable Acts.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENTS & TELUS NEXT GENERATION 911 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Existing contracts will transfer to the amalgamated municipality.

## COMPENSATION TO OTHER MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES

No compensation is due to other municipalities resulting from the proposed amalgamation.

## FINANCIAL TRANSITION

Based on the proposed January 1, 2025, date of amalgamation, independent financial statement audits will take place at the appropriate time between 2024-25.

## MUNICIPAL ASSETS/DEBT/LIABILITIES

All assets, debt, liabilities will transfer to the amalgamated municipality

## ANNEXATION OF LAND FOR CONTIGUOUS BOUNDARY

The Committee agreed that annexation of lands to achieve contiguous boundaries for the amalgamated municipality is not required.

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## AMALGAMATION NEGOTIATION

# PUBLIC MEETING SESSIONS

### APRIL 17-19, 2024

**17**  
APRIL

**Caroline  
Community HUB**  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**18**  
APRIL

**Leslieville  
Community Center**  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**19**  
APRIL

**Virtual Online  
ZOOM Meeting**  
11:00 am- 1:00 pm

*We want to hear from you,  
don't miss this chance to shape the  
future together!*

→ Drop-in during session times to provide feedback and ask questions about amalgamation progress made to date.

→ Explore different topics at information stations, each offering insights and resources.



# Nordegg Discovery Centre Grand Re-Opening

Nestled among mountains, forests, and sparkling waters with endless opportunities for exploration, creativity, and learning, Nordegg has a magnetic pull that draws people in. Its remoteness is part of its story and a quality that is probably at the root of the innovation, resilience, and sense of playfulness that have marked its history and created a lasting, vibrant community.

Today, Nordegg finds itself once again in a time of transition, and the Nordegg Discovery Centre (NDC) is in a position to anchor that change. The NDC has the opportunity to re-ignite its role within the community and become a central attraction for locals and visitors alike in an area that showcases Nordegg's incredible story and provides space for the future innovators and creators to continue writing its next chapters.

**Open 7 days a week (9:00 am - 4:30 pm)**

**May long weekend to September long weekend**

*Gallery entrance by donation.*



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Grand Re-Opening**

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**


**(12:30 - 1:30pm)**


Join us for speeches, refreshments and snacks.

## Brazeau Collieries Mine Site Tours



Experience the rich history of the Brazeau Collieries' mine and briquette plant through a guided tour, where you will learn about:

 The general process of the Nordegg's mine and briquetting plant.

 The importance of coal in Alberta's early days and how the mine workers lived.



Brazeau Collieries Ltd. was founded by Martin Nordegg and William Mackenzie in 1909, it operated until 1955.



One of Canada's largest industrial heritage sites and has stood abandoned since the mid 1950's.



After your mine tour, check out the rest of what the hamlet of Nordegg has to offer!

**Open: May long weekend - September long weekend**

**Daily Tour Times: 10:00 am and 2:00 pm**

**Closed Tuesdays**

**Call: 403-721-COAL (2625)**

*Tours are by donation  
(all proceeds go directly to the  
rehabilitation of the mine site.)*





# Nordegg History Followed the Fortunes of Coal

Nordegg and the Brazeau Collieries were started in 1911 to mine the rich, semi-bituminous coal seams for fuel in steam locomotives.

Martin Nordegg, founder of the collieries, was a visionary entrepreneur. He created the first planned mining community with streets arranged in a semicircle, a design reputed to be modelled after Montreal's then avant-garde Mount Royal Garden City.

In 1914, the rail line arrived at Nordegg. The collieries were active until 1955 with peak production bringing out 500,000 tons of coal each year. The Nordegg operation was renowned for its innovative technology and practices.

In 1937, the coal was manufactured into briquettes (not to be confused with barbecue charcoal) for efficiency and easier handling. Within three years it was the largest briquetting operation in Canada.

But times changed. The demand for railroad fuel coal dropped and by 1955 the loss of the market closed the mines. Because the collieries owned the Nordegg town site, it too was abandoned.

Today, a few of the original buildings still stand in testament to the rugged, vibrant industry that began with hard work and a vision more than a century ago.

The Nordegg Historical Society has worked with provincial and federal governments to preserve Nordegg for its historical and tourism value. It was designated an Alberta Historical Resource by Alberta Community Development in August 1993. In 2002, it was declared a National Historic Site and a plaque was unveiled there on July 29, 2005.

The historic mountain town of Nordegg is a scenic 96-km drive west of Rocky Mountain House on the David Thompson Highway (Hwy. 11).

- Article from the Mountaineer, Visitor Guide

## *Historic Nordegg*

- Named after founder Martin Nordegg who established a coal mine in 1911
- The town was abandoned in 1955 when the collieries shut down
- Declared a Provincial Historic Site in 1993 and a National Historic Site in 2002



*Please remember that as a National and Provincial Historic Site, Brazeau Collieries has been deemed historically significant to Albertans and all Canadians.*

*Access can only be permitted through our guided tours, in order to ensure the longevity of the site so that more people can come enjoy and learn from it.*



# Upcoming County Events

9  
APRIL

**Farmer Pesticide Certification Course**  
From 9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Walking Eagle Inn & Lodge, RMH  
Cost \$50 per person

The Farmer Pesticide Certification course is a tool intended to help farmers to reduce risks associated with pesticide use.

This course is recommended under the Alberta EFP, but is also mandatory for farmers who wish to use restricted pesticides that require certification. This course qualifies for 6 CEU credits. Acreage owners wishing to use pesticides will also find this course informative. Contact 403-846-4040 to register.

30  
APRIL

**Livestock Emergencies Workshop**  
From 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Hardindell Hall  
FREE

Topics include: livestock emergency preparedness and response, as well as, transport and hauling.

Whether you are a commercial producer, large or small cattle producer, grazing lease holder or an acreage owner with horses, learn how to handle emergencies involving livestock before they happen. Contact 403-846-4040 to register.

## 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](http://albertaefp.com)

### 3 EASY STEPS

WWW.ALBERTAEP.COM

1.

The first step of registration begins through the Alberta EFP website [www.albertaefp.com](http://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.



# Clear Water Landcare

## Tree Seedling Program

County landowners can order affordable white spruce or lodgepole pine seedlings suitable for starting a shelterbelt or rejuvenating a naturally wooded area.



The Tree Seedling Program, in partnership with West Fraser, provides opportunity to purchase bundles of fifteen spruce or fifteen pine seedlings at \$5.00 per bundle. A minimum order of five bundles is required (for minimum purchase of \$25.00).

Trees must be planted on the property applied for and not sold or given away. Verification of landownership in Clearwater County required with application submission (example: property tax notice).

Application forms can be found on Clearwater County's website. **Deadline to submit application forms is June 7, 2024.** Contact 403-846-4040 or email [landcare@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:landcare@clearwatercounty.ca) for more information.

## Hemp Mats

Square hemp fiber mats available to help maximize your tree seedling investment. These are great for seedling establishment and helping them to access light, nutrients and moisture that other vegetation robs.

Hemp fiber products also come in rolls (4ft X 50ft) for custom applications like slope protections, row planting where plants are closer together, lining swales or low areas, culvert inlets or outlets, and even pond banks and are an alternative to straw or coconut matting.

## Caring for My Land funding Program (C4ML)

The C4ML program offers 25%-75% funding – up to \$5000 - through Alberta Environment and Parks Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program and EPCOR.

To learn more, click here or contact us at 403-846-4040 / [landcare@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:landcare@clearwatercounty.ca).

## Join the Landcare email list:

Are you interested in grant programs and new funding opportunities, virtual events, workshops, webinars, and receiving educational articles or video links relating to healthy and sustainable water and land?

Send an email to [landcare@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:landcare@clearwatercounty.ca) to be subscribed!



# Five Principles of Good Soil Health



Soil is essential for sustaining life and the loss of our soil resources will have ramifications for generations to come. As world populations continue to grow, so will the expectations of increased productivity on the agricultural sector.

One of the greatest opportunities for increased productivity can be achieved through improved soil health.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), an arm of the United States Department of Agriculture, has developed five principles often referred to throughout the agricultural industry.

The five NRCS principles are: soil armor, minimal soil disturbance, plant diversity, continual live plant/root, and livestock integration.

Often referred to as crop residue, passive armor may consist of dead plant parts from previous harvested or terminated crops, while active armor includes actively growing economic or cover crops.

Bare cultivated soil, with no residues or cover crop, is most at risk for wind and water erosion, compaction, loss of moisture and nutrients and weed growth. Armor on the other hand, provides protective benefits for a wide variety of land uses including cropland, rangeland, hay land, gardens, orchards and roadside ditches, to mention a few examples.

When it comes to passive armor on cropland, residues are often fed to animals, taken off the field

for other uses, incorporated or burned, when in fact, leaving them on the field would have tremendous long-term soil health benefits.

The advantage of soil cover is that it provides protection from wind and water erosion. By holding soil in place, valuable organic matter and nutrients remain. Soil compaction is also reduced as raindrops hit the armor rather than bare soil, dissipating raindrop action and the potential breakdown of soil aggregates. Dissipated raindrop action allows more water to infiltrate the soil rather than causing compaction, run off, possible erosion or subsequent flooding. Residues not only protect the soil surface from raindrops, but also from the sun's rays.

Be it passive or active armor such as cover crops, evaporation of precious soil moisture from solar radiation is considerably reduced. An additional bonus of good soil armor is the moderation of soil temperature.

Shielded from the sun's rays, soil stays cooler during the day and warmer at night.

Crop residues and dead plant material provide a constant food source for flora and fauna and a habitat for many organisms. Many of these organisms are beneficial, producing soil pores while attacking crop pests.

Increased biological activity enables the slow breakdown of residues and their incorporation into the soil as organic matter. Reduced tillage allows soil organic matter to last longer in the soil as humus. The plant nutrients associated with humus are more available than inorganic forms of the same nutrients.

Such activity is essential in healthy, productive soils. Soil organisms recycle nutrients by breaking down crop residue, helping to build the soil. Organisms like fungi excrete sticky carbon compounds during residue breakdown, providing the glue that helps hold soil together and form aggregates.

Improving soil health is the key to long-term, sustainable agricultural production.





# Dreaded Drought - Are We Prepared?

As defined by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, drought is a recurrent feature of climate involving a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time, resulting in a water shortage.

Drought may be caused by combinations of insufficient snow accumulation, hot and dry weather, or a delay in rainfall. Simply put, drought is a period of drier than normal conditions. This can be worrisome for our local agriculture producers.

Now consider our local community as a whole. Water supply shortages to the energy sector, disruption of water resources for the municipality, decreased forest outputs and a reduction of fish and game habitat. Not painting an attractive picture!

Just when we start to think the damage from dry conditions is irreversible the skies open and down comes pouring a million-dollar rain! A \$125 million dollar rain to be exact.

The Alberta government just announced a \$125 million dollar grant program for municipalities and Indigenous communities across the province who want to design and construct projects that protect from flooding and drought. The launch date is not yet set but is expected by the end of this year.

Clearwater County, in comparison to other municipalities, is not yet severely affected by drought. We are still seeing crop yields and surface water retention rates at an acceptable level. However, we can always be more prepared and proactive.

Have you considered a farm plan which includes the effects of drought for the upcoming season? Let's look at mitigating against drought. Improving the water-holding capacity of your soil and reducing evaporation and erosion can greatly affect drought resistance. Try increasing the organic matter in your soil through an application of compost, growing cover crops, and leaving crop residue. The addition of organic matter will increase the number of micro pores and macro pores in the soil - great for water absorption.



The increase of organic matter also creates favourable living conditions for biological organisms. This can be an effective tool for integrated pest management, such as the influx of additional beneficial insects.

Technology can be a great friend of ours and another effective tool for mitigating drought.

Agrodit's provides thorough details in ensuring we have accurate soil moisture and temperature data. This will help aid in determining the exact amount of water intake crops require, reducing an excess of water consumption.

Although more commonly utilized in drought persistent communities, irrigation systems can be an obtainable and appropriate consideration. Although more commonly utilized in drought persistent communities, irrigation systems can be an obtainable and appropriate consideration.

Water storage systems could be built to feed the irrigation equipment but also to provide an accessible reserve. It's always a great idea to consider all potential legalities before construction or diverting surface water.

More info:

[www.alberta.ca/farming-in-dry-conditions](http://www.alberta.ca/farming-in-dry-conditions)



# Revitalizing Rural Communities

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



I grew up on a farm near the Village of Amisk in eastern Alberta in the 1980s. Back then Amisk had a grocery store, 2 convenience stores, 2 restaurants, a gas station, a bar, and an autobody shop. Despite the region having a fairly stable population over the past 30 years, today it has none of those services that were previously mentioned, and the community as a whole has to work hard at fundraising to maintain its aging skating rink, curling rink, community hall, and ball diamonds. Even though population numbers did not have a sudden steep decline, the steady rising cost of doing business, whether from labour, utilities, goods, or property, combined with serving a market that was not growing resulted in many of these businesses no longer being viable. Now residents must drive much further to purchase the services they used to have so close by, and there are fewer local jobs, fewer businesses to contribute to the tax base, and fewer sources of donations and sponsorships for community organizations.

Many rural communities across Canada and the United States have been undergoing population decline and economic challenges for several decades. Factors such as the consolidation of agriculture operations and service providers, the change or even decline of traditional industries, the closure of small locally owned business that struggle to compete with large chains in bigger neighboring communities, and the migration of young people (loss of labour and skills) to urban areas have contributed to this trend.

However, these trends are not etched in stone. Communities can change their direction. This is why municipalities invest resources into economic development.

Economic development plays a crucial role in rural communities in the following ways:

*(continued on next page)*





# The Importance of Economic Development

## **Retaining Businesses and Supporting Expansion:**

Rural communities need to retain existing businesses and provide resources to help them grow. By doing so, they maintain local employment opportunities and contribute to the stability of the community via services provided by businesses or government.

## **Attracting New Investment:**

Economic development efforts attract new investment to small towns. This influx of capital can lead to job creation and diversity, infrastructure improvements, and overall growth. These efforts can include labour attraction, commercial and industrial land development, and identifying ways to revitalize underutilized properties.

## **Preparing Residents for New Careers:**

Small towns can facilitate connections between residents and businesses in need of skilled workers. By working with training institutions and identifying career development opportunities, they prepare their workforce for changing job markets.

## **Building Economic Resilience:**

Diversifying the local economy helps small towns withstand economic shocks. By encouraging a mix of industries and services, they reduce dependence on a single sector.

## **Fostering Relationships Among Stakeholders:**

Collaboration among local government, businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations is essential. Economic development initiatives thrive when stakeholders work together to achieve common goals.

In summary, economic development helps build the prosperity, sustainability, and well-being of rural communities by creating jobs, enhancing infrastructure, and fostering community resilience. A community can determine its fate rather than let fate determine the course of the community.



# Know Your Rural Address

Post your 911 address near your phone and memorize it. Telus now uses rural addresses for their 911 system. When calling 911, provide your rural address.

## What is Rural Addressing?

A standardized system assigning addresses to rural properties. It ensures easy identification by emergency responders, utility companies, and others.

## How are Rural Addresses Created?

Based on driveway location intersecting Township Roads, Range Roads, and Highways. Odd numbers are on the South and East side, even numbers on the North and West side.

## Multiple Dwellings

If multiple residences share a driveway, each house is followed by a letter designation.

## Rural Addresses in Multi-Parcel Subdivisions

Multi-lot subdivisions have assigned addresses based on internal road names.

## Who Assigns Rural Addresses?

Managed by the GIS Department. New addresses are assigned as needed.

## Other Important Information

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

**REMEMBER: Your road name is as important as your house number when giving out your address.**

# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



## What is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?



Established on November 30, 2022, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) shifts the burden of waste collection, sorting, and recycling from municipalities to producers. Operating in provinces across Canada, EPR is now being implemented in Alberta, impacting municipalities and requiring action.

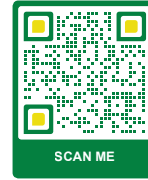
The Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) oversees EPR in the province, mandating systems for single-use products, packaging, paper products (PPP), and hazardous/special products (HSP) by April 1, 2025.

Clearwater County, registered as both a producer and community, will benefit from this legislation, ensuring responsible manufacturing and promoting waste reduction. Residents can expect innovative waste and recycling solutions from manufacturers.





# Expanding ag waste recycling options for Alberta farmers!











Alberta agricultural producers can drop-off ag waste materials, free of charge at participating collection sites across the province.

Our ag-retailer and municipal partners collect and store your ag waste materials; then we arrange for them to be transported for recycling or safe disposal.

## Here's what we're collecting

## Where & when

 <p>Containers up to 23L</p>	<p><b>Commercial pesticide &amp; fertilizer jugs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>empty jugs up to 23L; triple or pressure-rinsed and placed in a collection bag</li> <li>collection bags available free of charge through retailer at point of purchase</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ag-retailer or select municipal collection sites<sup>1</sup></b> May to October</p>
 <p>Totes &amp; drums</p>	<p><b>Totes &amp; drums</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'bulk', non-deposit pesticide and fertilizer totes and drums</li> <li>drained &amp; rinsed (where possible); otherwise ensure no more than 1" of product remains</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ag-retailer</b> May to October</p>
 <p>Unwanted pesticides &amp; old livestock/equine medications</p>	<p><b>Unwanted agricultural pesticides &amp; old livestock/equine medications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unwanted (or "obsolete") commercial pesticides</li> <li>old livestock/equine medications used in agricultural operations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ag-retailer (3-year rotation)</b> Southern AB: Fall 2024 Northern AB: Fall 2025 Peace Region: Fall 2025</p>
 <p>Bags &amp; large tote bags</p>	<p><b>Seed, pesticide &amp; inoculant bags</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fold bulk bags &amp; tie in bundles of six; place small bags in a collection bag provided free of charge through retailer at point of purchase</li> <li>excludes fertilizer &amp; feed bags</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ag-retailer or seed dealer</b> May to October</p>
 <p>Grain bags</p>	<p><b>Grain bags &amp; twine – Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle it! – Pilot Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>empty grain bags, rolled tightly &amp; secured with twine</li> <li>place used twine in collection bags; bags are available free at collection sites</li> </ul>	<p><b>Municipal collection sites<sup>2</sup></b></p>  <p><i>Alberta</i> The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group; funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.</p>
 <p>Silage film</p>	<p><b>Silage Plastic &amp; Bale Wrap – Pilot Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recycle used silage plastic (silo bags, tarps, and bunker covers for silage) and bale wrap (stretch wrap for silage and haylage bales) in select municipalities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Municipal collection sites<sup>3</sup></b> Year-round</p>  <p>This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPPP), a \$503 million, five-year investment to help the agricultural sector adapt and remain competitive.</p>

1. We're transitioning small container collection from municipal to retail sites. Scan the QR code to find a collection site.
2. Visit [AlbertaAgPlastics.ca](http://AlbertaAgPlastics.ca) for program details. Scan the QR code to find a collection site.
3. Contact Cleanfarms for participating locations.

### About Cleanfarms

Cleanfarms is a non-profit, industry-funded, stewardship organization. Its vision is to contribute to a healthier environment and a sustainable future by recovering and recycling agricultural and related industry plastics and packaging.

### Cleanfarms.ca

403.942.6012 | 877.622.4460

[info@cleanfarms.ca](mailto:info@cleanfarms.ca) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cleanfarms) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/cleanfarms) [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cleanfarms) @cleanfarms



# Fireworks Prohibited in the FPA



## Forest Protection Area of Alberta

Alberta's Forest Protection Area (FPA) covers approximately 60 per cent of the province's landmass. In Alberta, wildfire protection is shared between Alberta Wildfire (inside the FPA) and the municipalities and counties (outside the FPA).

## Forest and Prairie Protection Act

If you are found to be responsible for starting a wildfire, or using fireworks without permission, you can be charged under the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* (FPPA), fined and held liable for all costs associated with fighting the wildfire. All Alberta legislation, including the FPPA, can be found at the King's Printer.

For more information:  
[alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer.aspx](http://alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer.aspx)

## Requesting written permission

You must have written permission from a Forest Officer to use fireworks in the FPA. [Wildfire.alberta.ca](http://Wildfire.alberta.ca) has a complete list of requirements.

A fire advisory, restriction, ban or forest closure may prohibit or limit use of fireworks during times of high wildfire danger. Check [albertaforebans.ca](http://albertaforebans.ca) or Alberta Fire Bans mobile phone app for the latest information.

Local municipal fire department approval may be required in addition to Forest Officer permission in some municipalities. The Forest Officer may also make municipal approval a condition of permission.

Area	Phone number
Calgary Forest Area	403-297-8800
Edson Forest Area	780-723-8269
Fort McMurray Forest Area	780-743-7125
Grande Prairie Forest Area	780-538-5560
High Level Forest Area	780-926-5407
Lac La Biche Forest Area	780-623-5388
Peace River Forest Area	780-624-6190
Rocky Mountain House	403-845-8250
Slave Lake Forest Area	780-849-7377
Whitecourt Forest Area	780-778-7166

[wildfire.alberta.ca](http://wildfire.alberta.ca)  
 Ministry of Forestry and Parks  
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# Fireworks Safety



For safety reasons, you must store fireworks away from flammable substances and sources of ignition and protect them from theft. You must ensure that they can only be accessed by people you have authorized.

Without proper handling and storage, fireworks can be dangerous and can set unexpected fires to your home or nearby forested areas with devastating consequences.

- The storage unit must be located in a dry place, away from flammable substances and sources of ignition;

- The storage unit must be constructed and maintained to prevent unauthorized access and to protect the contents from weather;
- If the storage unit is a container, it must not impede exit in case of fire; and,
- If the storage unit is not a container, all exits must be unobstructed.

## Frequently Requested Numbers

24 Hour Burn Notification Line	403-845-7711
Alberta Environment	403-845-8240
Alberta Highway Service - Volker Stevin	1-888-877-6237
Alberta Land Titles	780-427-2742
Alberta One Call	1-800-242-3447
ATCO Gas for Gas Emergencies	780-420-5585
Chamber of Commerce for Clearwater County and Town of Rocky Mountain House	403-845-5450
Clearwater County After Hours (For Emergencies Only)	403-844-8500
Clearwater Mutual Aid Co-op (CMACC) - Oil & Gas Emergency	1-866-950-CMAC (2622)
<b>Emergency - Fire, Ambulance, Police, Hazardous Material Spills</b>	<b>911</b>
Family and Community Support Services	403-845-3720
Fire Ban Information (Sign up for Emergency Alerts: <a href="http://www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca">www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca</a> )	<a href="http://www.albertafirebans.ca">www.albertafirebans.ca</a>
Fish and Wildlife	403-845-8230
Fortis Alberta for Electrical Emergencies	780-310-9473
Health Unit	403-845-3030
Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jason Nixon	403-871-0701
Summer Village of Burnstick Lake ( <a href="http://www.burnsticklakesummervillage.ca">www.burnsticklakesummervillage.ca</a> )	
Town of Rocky Mountain House	403-845-2866
Village of Caroline	403-722-3781





USE YOUR PHONE CAMERA  
to scan the QR CODE



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

Phone: 403-845-4444

Fax: 403-845-7330

Regular Office Hours: Weekdays, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

*Stay up to date, follow us on social media!*

**@ClearwaterCnty**

