



CLEARWATER COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

October | November

2018

A Newsletter
for Residents
of Clearwater
County

Council Highlights | 4-8

Bighorn Country Draft | 11
Management Plan

Winter Road Safety | 16

Construction & | 22-23
Hamlet Updates

2019 Alberta | 30
Masters Games

Greeting from the Reeve

Hello everyone,

Council held its annual organizational meeting on October 23 where we chose a Reeve, Deputy Reeve and assigned the various boards and committees we sit on. As a result of that it is my honour to bring greetings as your Reeve for the next year. While I have served a number of terms on Council, this is my first time as Reeve, and I look forward to the challenge and appreciate the support of fellow Councillors and staff in this transition.

Thank you to those of you who have stepped forward to serve on a variety of boards and committees in our community. Your input is valued and appreciated as is the time commitment each of you make to support the economic and social well-being of Clearwater County, Rocky and Caroline.

We finally did get some harvest weather in October and great progress was made. I hope you were able to complete your harvest and get some fall fieldwork done. The calf run is well underway as cattle producers settle into winter feeding programs and marketing of calves and cull cows. It has been a challenge for many to secure adequate feed supplies and more mild weather over the next month or two would certainly help (see page 13 for related Ag news article).

In October, our Public Works department was busy wrapping up road and bridge construction projects. With unpredictable weather conditions, some projects will likely have to be carried over to next year's construction season (see page 22 for more information).

Council adopted a Strategic Plan following a 30-day public input period in October. Thank you to those members of the public who provided input into this important governance document.

Clearwater County Council along with Town of Rocky Mountain House Council have restarted talks about future economic development, IDP amendments and other plans that would be part of that



Jim Duncan,
Reeve

process. These discussions are important for planning the sustainable future of our community.

In terms of County priorities, each year Council reviews programs and service levels and sets the direction for future years with a three year operating and capital budget. For the 2019-2021 budget, Council's deliberations are scheduled to take place December 12-14, these meetings are open to the public. As part of this year's budget process, watch the County's website for public feedback opportunities on the County's existing service levels.

Council recently attended the annual RMA convention where we are able to learn about issues of provincial and municipal significance, as well as network with peers regarding common local problems and solutions. At these conventions, there is also opportunity to lobby the province about programs and services they may or may not be providing.

The Government of Alberta recently announced the Bighorn Country Proposal and draft Management Plan to Clearwater County and the public. The plan includes one new wildland park, three new provincial parks and four new provincial recreation areas. Once the Bighorn Country Proposal information is fully analyzed administratively and local public information sessions take place in December and January, Council will review a more detailed municipal impact assessment. It is expected that Council will provide the Province the municipality's feedback on the plan in writing, by the end of January. See page 11 to read the full news release.

You have a strong, hard working Council and as always, we appreciate your comments and feedback. All the best to you and yours in the upcoming Holiday Season as we close out this year and look forward to 2019.

Jim Duncan, Reeve



Clearwater County Council



DIVISION 1

Jim Duncan, Reeve
jduncan@clearwatercounty.ca
403-846-8254



DIVISION 5

Theresa Laing, Councillor
tlaing@clearwatercounty.ca
403-895-3215



DIVISION 2

Cammie Laird, Councillor
cslaird@clearwatercounty.ca
403-846-3760



DIVISION 6

Timothy Hoven, Councillor
thoven@clearwatercounty.ca
403-846-5197



DIVISION 3

Daryl Loughheed, Councillor
dloughheed@clearwatercounty.ca
403-846-5817



DIVISION 7

Michelle Swanson, Councillor
mswanson@clearwatercounty.ca
403-846-5824



DIVISION 4

John Vandermeer, Deputy Reeve
jvandermeer@clearwatercounty.ca
403-844-9286

2019 Budget Deliberations

December 12-14, 2018, in Clearwater County Council Chambers from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public, and Council will also review a three-year operating and ten-year capital plans.

Upcoming Council Meetings

December 11

December 25 cancelled

January 8

January 22

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

Holiday Office Closures

During the holiday season, all Clearwater County offices will be closed on December 24, 25, 26 and January 1.



October 9

Cannabis Retail Sales & Production Facilities – Public Hearing

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third reading of Bylaw 1044/18 to amend the Land Use Bylaw to add four definitions: Cannabis Lounge; Cannabis Retail Sales; Licensed Premises; and, Retail Shop or Store; and to clarify guidelines for cannabis production facility setbacks. Additional amendments to the bylaw included adding libraries, child care facilities, religious assemblies and community halls to the setbacks list, as well as broadening the setbacks to include school grounds.

Parkland Regional Library 2019 Budget

Council reviewed and approved the Parkland Regional Library's proposed budget for 2019.

Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program

Council reviewed the federal government's 2018 Livestock Tax Deferral program and directed Administration to send a letter to Federal and Provincial Ministers of Agriculture requesting Clearwater County's inclusion in the Program.

Crammond Community Hall Grant Request

Council denied a request for \$5,500.00 in capital grant funding for the replacement of tables and chairs at Crammond Hall.

Council Committee Appointments List

Council reviewed and updated Council's Board and Committee appointments list in advance of their Organizational Meeting to focus on good governance and efficiencies.



Delegation - 'Village of Caroline Industrial/Commercial Lots'

Council heard from a member of the public regarding the County's industrial lots located in the Village of Caroline, who recommended that: lots need to be priced to be commercially competitive; lots need municipal water, sewer and internet; and, the County should negotiate with the Village of Caroline for a reduction in municipal taxes to incent lot sales.

Delegation – North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA)

Council heard from NSWA representative regarding the North Saskatchewan River watershed health and the background and update regarding projects completed by the Headwaters Alliance.

Central District 2 RMA Fall 2018 Resolutions

Council reviewed the proposed resolutions for the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Central Zone meeting to take place on October 12.



Council Highlights

Administrative Policies

Council directed Administration to setup a workshop to review policies related to employment legislation, health and safety and work environment.

October 23

Fleet and Equipment Management Plan

Council reviewed and approved the draft Fleet and Equipment Management Plan.

Request for Tax Penalty Waiver

Council reviewed a request to waive a tax penalty, denied the request and directed administration apply tax penalties according to the 2018 Tax Rate and Penalty Bylaw.

Third Quarter Capital and Operating Financial Report

Council reviewed and accepted as information Clearwater County's third quarter capital and operating financial report.

Caroline Municipal Library

Councillor Hoven provided a financial update on behalf of the Caroline Library and requested Council approve an additional \$1,000.00 in funding, as the 2018 budgeted amount should have been \$25,000.00 and was approved at \$24,000.00. Council approved \$1,000.00 in additional funds for the Caroline library, from Contingency.

Council Apparel Wear

Council discussed apparel for upcoming Rural Municipalities of Alberta convention and directed that Councillors may purchase vests identifying them as Clearwater County Councillors, at their own cost.



Rocky Search & Rescue (SAR)

Council heard from SAR representatives regarding SAR services and responses as well as a financial update and overview of how the County's grant dollars were used by SAR in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (April 1 – March 31).

November 13

Medical Equipment Lending (MEL) Society of West Central Alberta

Council heard from MEL Society representative regarding the society's history, service offering and need to further market the society's services, and a request for \$80,000.00 in annual funding, for up to five years. Council indicated they will consider the MEL Society request during their 2019 budget deliberations.

Rocky Mountain House Public Library Board

Council heard from Rocky Mountain House Public Library representatives regarding the library's service programs, demographics and proposed 2019 budget.

Council Highlights

Rocky Kinsmen/Kinettes Clubs - Festival of Trees

Council heard from Kinettes representative regarding the upcoming Festival of Trees and a request for funding in support of the sleigh ride. Council granted the \$700.00 for the tractor sleigh ride.

2018 Agriculture Survey Results

Council reviewed the results of the 2018 Agriculture Survey and was updated that Clearwater County was included in second designation of municipalities included in the Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program.

Chedderville Agreement Renewal

Council reviewed, amended and approved an operations management agreement renewal with the Chedderville All Hallows Church and Cemetery Society for 10 years.

Investment Readiness Assessment

Council reviewed the results of an Investment Readiness analysis report which suggested fifteen recommendations including: developing a complete community profile, creation of a business database; development of an economic development website for the region; planning considerations to encourage industrial and commercial development; and, enhanced stakeholder engagement and communications.

Council, Board and Committee Remuneration Policy Update

Council reviewed and approved the Council, Board and Committee Remuneration Policy to reflect 2019 rates.

Request for Tax Penalty Waiver

Council reviewed a request to waive a tax penalty, denied the request and directed administration apply tax penalties according to the 2018 Tax Rate and Penalty Bylaw.



Pictured left to right: Clearwater County CAO Rick Emmons, Councillors Michelle Swanson, Cammie Laird, Reeve Jim Duncan, Councillor Timothy Hoven, and Deputy Reeve John Vandermeer pose for a picture in Legislature before the RMA fall convention in Edmonton

Letter of Request regarding Bill C-69

Council considered a request from Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (CNRL) and directed Administration to send a letter of support in line with CNRL's lobby efforts.

2019-2022 Strategic Plan

Council reviewed public engagement feedback and adopted its 2019-2022 Strategic Plan.

2018 Fall RMA Convention

Council reviewed the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) fall convention resolutions in advance of the convention and discussed meetings scheduled with Minister Brian Malkinson, Service Alberta; Minister Oneil Carlier, Agriculture & Forestry; Regional Direc-



Council Highlights

tor Russ Watts, Alberta Transportation; and, Minister Deron Bilous, Economic Development & Trade.

Council Christmas Greeting Advertising 2018

Council directed Administration to advertise a Christmas greeting on their behalf, with Councillors splitting the total cost of the greetings.

County Float Request

Council approved Riverview Campground to utilize the County's float for the week of November 22 and granted \$150.00 for their inaugural tourism event.

Councillor Appointment

Councillor Cammie Laird was appointed to the Alberta Critical Incident Board of Directors.

IDP with Town of Rocky Mountain House

Council directed Administration to proceed with scheduling a review of the Intermunicipal Development Plan for the North Development Area, and associated agreements, with the Town of Rocky Mountain House.

November 27

Parks Canada

Parks Canada representatives updated Council on the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site 2018 Draft Management Plan, including heritage camping opportunities and expanded tourism potential.

Caroline and District Athletic and Agricultural Society

Representatives from the Caroline Ag Society updated Council on proposed parking lot paving for

the Caroline Arena, HUB and South East Recreation Grounds. Council will consider the proposal during their 2019 budget deliberations.

Rocky Mountain House Library Agreement Renewal

Council reviewed and approved a five-year renewal of the Rocky Mountain House Library operations and maintenance agreement.

Alberta Master Games Agreement

Council reviewed and approved an Alberta Masters Games Agreement with Alberta Sport Connection, Town of Rocky Mountain House and the 2019 Alberta Masters Games Society.

Rocky Mountain House RCMP Detachment Upgraded Ventilation System

Council reviewed a request from the Rocky Mountain House RCMP for capital upgrades to the detachment ventilation system and approved County contribution of \$5,000.00 from Contingency.

Clearwater County Heritage Grant Advisory Committee

Council reviewed, amended and approved a Terms of Reference for the Clearwater County Heritage Grant Advisory Committee and annual funding of \$5,000.00 for heritage projects beginning in 2019.

Bighorn Country Proposal

Council discussed the Province's announcement of the Bighorn Country Proposal and draft Management Plan, that plans for the creation of one new wildland park, three new provincial parks and four new provincial recreation areas.



From All of Us to All of You:

*We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



from Clearwater County Council

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

PAID FOR BY COUNCIL

Phone 403-845-4444
www.clearwatercounty.ca



Follow Clearwater County
on Facebook
or on Twitter @clearwatercnty.



Outstanding Taxes

Additional Penalty Applied December 17

Clearwater County property tax payments, for all assessed property, should have been received by September 17, 2018.

An 8% penalty was applied to all outstanding taxes and reminder notices were sent to those with outstanding balances in October.

On December 17, 2018 an additional 4% penalty will be applied to all outstanding tax balances.

Payment Options include: Online (please contact your bank for more details, and keep in mind electronic payments may take up to 5 days); by mail; and in person during office hours. An after-hours drop box. An after-hours drop box is located at the front door of the main office. Please include your remittance portion of the notice.

Reminder that if cheques are returned from the bank for any reason, taxes are considered unpaid and penalties apply.

Combined Assessment and Taxation Notices were mailed in May. If, for some reason, you have not received your 2018 tax notice, and you own property in Clearwater County, please contact the County office at 403-845-4444. Address change forms can be found on the County's website or at the County office.

Sign up today to pay your property taxes monthly!

The Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) is an efficient program which allows you to pay your property taxes on a monthly basis instead of one annual payment. If you are interested in participating in the Plan or require more information, please contact the County at 403-845-4444.



Compacting the dirt back over a culvert at TWP Rd 420, over the East Lobstick Creek (NE-34-41-6-W5)



Snow Removal Across County Roads

Did you know?

Pushing snow out of your driveway across any public road is prohibited under the County's Highway Management Bylaw 1018/16.

Driving, turning or backing up across any road creates a hazard to you and other drivers. Large snow piles, blocking all or part of the road, can obstruct visibility and lead to accidents. Additionally, the pile of discarded snow can act as a snow fence and may cause drifting across the surface of the road which in turn makes it more difficult for County plows to maintain safe driving conditions and increases the risk of accidents occurring.

When the snow pile freezes it can cause severe damage to plow trucks and graders during snow removal. The clearing equipment that you may be using can also potentially damage the roadway as it pushes snow and debris across the surface, and any ridges of snow that are left behind become traffic hazards. Clearwater County reminds residents not to move snow across public roads. If you require assistance with snow removal, please contact a contractor in your area.



Bylaw No. 1018/16 - Highway Management Bylaw

HIGHWAY OBSTRUCTIONS

19. No Person shall permit any structure, object, or thing on or forming part of property that they own or occupy to:
 - (a) cause a drifting or accumulation of snow on a highway;
 - (b) damage a highway;
 - (c) obstruct the vision of pedestrians or drivers of vehicles on a highway; or
 - (d) create a hazard or obstruction to vehicular or pedestrian traffic on the highway.
20. A Person who causes any damage to a highway contrary to section 19 shall, in addition to any penalty that may be specified in Schedule "B", be liable to the County for the costs to repair the damage.



Bighorn Country

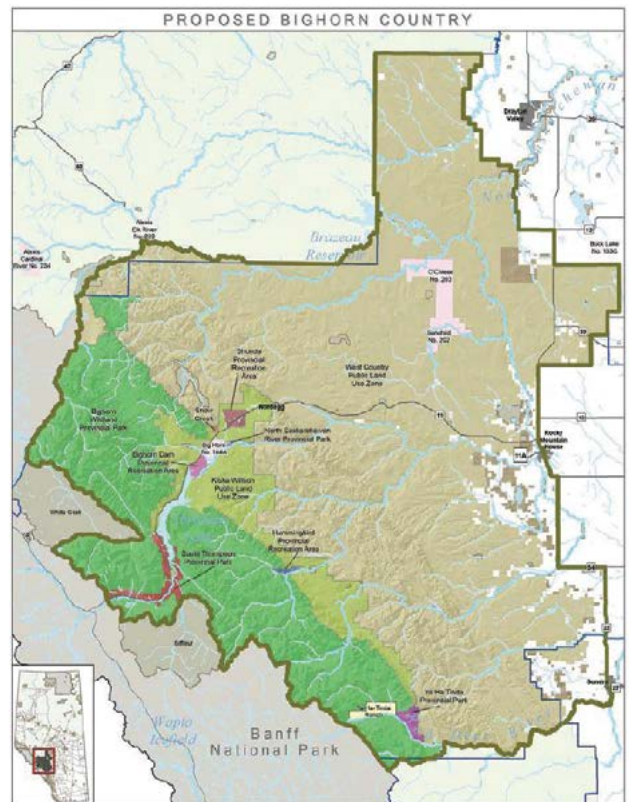
Province Launches Bighorn Country Proposal Draft Management Plan

(Rocky Mountain House, AB) – On Friday, November 23, 2018, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Alberta Environment and Parks Minister Shannon Phillips announced the Bighorn Country Proposal and draft Management Plan. Clearwater County received notification last week of the plan for Bighorn Country, proposing one new wildland park, three new provincial parks and four new provincial recreation areas.

“Clearwater County looks forward to working with Alberta Environment and Parks and to participating in discussions and consultation related to the Bighorn Country proposal, as this process moves forward,” said Clearwater County Reeve Jim Duncan. He continued by saying that “not only will we participate in consultations through our Administration and Council, but also the various boards and committees Council sits on such as Bighorn Backcountry Standing Committee, Clearwater Trails Initiative, West Central Stakeholders and Nordegg Community Association.”

Information on the draft Bighorn Country plan and public consultation survey are available at the following link: <https://talkaep.alberta.ca/bighorn-country>. The plan includes additional Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ) boundary adjustments west of Nordegg and the creation of a large new PLUZ east of Nordegg, with several planning areas within. The Province’s announcement comes with \$40 million of funding to support infrastructure upgrades, safety and enforcement and is an effort to promote economic development and tourism in the region.

“We urge all interested citizens and groups to take part in the Province’s consultation opportunities and help shape the future of our backyard,” stated Reeve Duncan. “I believe that all stakeholders need to participate in this process, voicing their opinions and solu-



tions in a respectful and professional manner. There will be differences – but there may also be opportunity as well.”

The Bighorn Country Proposal is open to public comment for 75 days and the province plans for a number of meetings to gather input from stakeholder groups and municipalities.

Public Information Session

Monday, December 17, 4-9 p.m.
Lou Soppit Community Centre, Shunda Room
5404 - 48 Street, Rocky Mountain House



Clearwater County Broadband Project Update



Clearwater County Council reviewed a draft broadband infrastructure masterplan in the fall and directed Administration to conduct further research on options related to broadband project implementation. More time and additional details are required to assist Council in their decision-making around how to best proceed with enhancing broadband in the County.

Clearwater County's broadband business plan is also currently under development and is expected to be before Council sometime in the new year. In order to be prepared for federal and provincial grant applications, Council also recently directed Administration to proceed with preliminary engineering for a 2019 project, once broadband priority options are selected.

In the New Year, Council will be reviewing additional pieces of information and broadband options and from there develop a broadband implementation plan.

Council also eagerly awaits the Province of Alberta's release of their Provincial Broadband Strategy and related Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant funding, and any other broadband-related grants that may follow.

At this point, Clearwater County Council's vision remains constant in terms of the desire to improve broadband capabilities in the region. The broadband business and implementation plans are still very much in the conceptual stage. Council believes strongly in transparency and intends to engage further with stakeholders and the public again in 2019.



Choosing Cattle Feed Alternatives

This year local cattle producers have been faced with a summer drought that sent forage prices through the roof, followed by a cool wet fall that has put harvest on hold and reduced the potential for marginal feed crop alternatives.

Local grass hay averages 11 percent protein (CP) and 1.23 and 0.66 Mcal/kg of net energy for maintenance (NEm) and gain (NEg), respectively (DM basis). In contrast, barley grain is likely 11 percent CP and 2.03 and 1.37 Mcal/kg of NEm and NEg respectively.

The process of looking at alternatives does help one to start thinking outside the box when meeting an animal's feed requirements.

The traditional feed test that provides moisture, protein, energy, calcium and phosphorous content may not always be adequate. In some circumstances it may be necessary to do specific tests that indicate nitrates, sulphur, potassium, oxalates or other atypical nutrients that could cause feeding issues.

Other alternative feeds that may be used to replace the typical hay-based feeding programs are the various byproducts of the grain and oilseed processing sectors. Byproduct feeds can however, vary in nutrient content, price and availability.

Dried distiller's grains with solubles (DDGS) is an excellent source of energy and protein and are priced relative to barley. CP levels average between 30 and 38 percent for wheat and corn-based products with energy levels that usually exceed barley. It can be fed as a sole energy and protein source for wintering cows.

Producers should be aware that DDGS have sulphur levels ranging from 0.75 to one percent or more. Over the long term, high levels of dietary sulphur can tie up copper making it unavailable to the animal. The national Research Council recommends that sulphur



levels not exceed 0.4 percent on a dry matter basis although some consider that number too stringent.

Canola meal is also relatively high in protein (38 to 40 percent) but is only moderate in energy content, so it will require supplementation. It can also be high in sulphur content, so should be treated accordingly.

Screening pellets and various combinations of DDGS, screenings and grains can be a good feed alternative or supplement, but energy and protein levels vary widely between products so be aware of variations. Cost may also be higher due to processing.

Sourcing alternative feeds, while trying to keep costs manageable and balance the nutritional needs of livestock can be an arduous process that requires a lot of time and attention to detail. Clearwater County's Agriculture and Community Services staff can help work out your rations using Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's COWBYTES Program to balance your feed program and maintain adequate nutrition throughout the winter.

Grant Program Supports Health and Safety on Farms

A new farm and ranch safety grant launched October 15 by the Government of Alberta to help eligible agriculture employers comply with new occupational health and safety requirements. The grant will help offset some of the costs employers may incur in complying with the new regulations. Up to \$6 million is available through the program during the next three years. As of December 1, the Occupational Health and Safety Code (OHS Code) applies to farms and ranches that employ waged, non-family workers. This means Alberta farm and ranch workers will have similar health and safety protections as workers in other industries and other parts of Canada.



Farm Health and Safety Producer Grant Program:

- Applications open Oct. 15, 2018 and the program runs until March 2021.
- Farms and ranches with waged, non-family workers and a WCB account may apply for the grant.
- The grant covers up to 50 per cent of eligible safety expenses to a maximum of \$5,000 per year or \$10,000 over the life of the program per eligible applicant. Expenses going back to Jan. 1, 2018 are eligible under the program.
- Eligible expenses (with receipts) include things like:
 - First aid kits, fire extinguishers and warning signage.
 - Respirators, eye and hearing protection.
 - Health and safety programs, courses, education and training.
 - Seatbelt installation, warning lights and auger guards to improve equipment safety

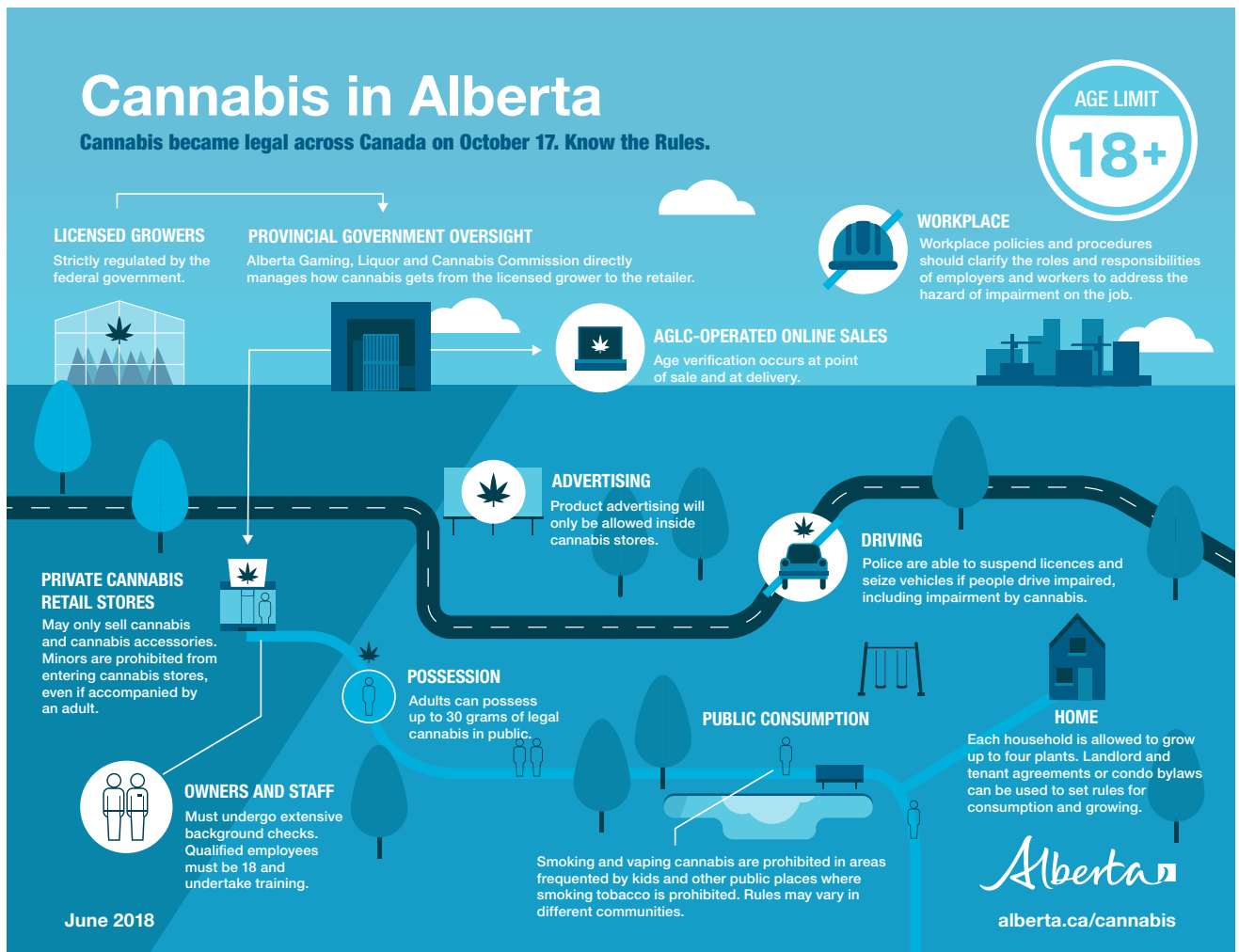
Thank You Sponsors!

Aspen Ranch Outdoor Education Facility would like to thank our sponsors and volunteers for another successful program year and for their support with generous donations of time and money.

Aspen Ranch Outdoor Education Facility provides elementary school students in Central Alberta with hands-on education in Farm Safety, Agricultural & Environmental Awareness. Program dates for 2018 were held September 17 & September 24-28.

- Alberta Agriculture & Forestry
- Alberta Health Services
- Aquatech West Ltd.
- Blue Dairy Farm & Associates
- Bowden Correctional Institute
- CFC Seniors Group
- Classroom Agriculture Program
- Clearwater County
- Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services
- Cows & Fish
- Eagle Signs, Olds
- Fort Garry Industries
- Future AG Inc.
- Mountain View County
- NAL Resources
- Olds College
- Our Can Company
- Pengrowth
- Plains Midstream Canada
- Prairie Mobile Communications
- Red Deer County
- Shell Canada
- Sundre IGA
- Sundre Fire Department
- Tim Hortons, Olds
- Veritiv
- Western One Rentals
- Westburne Electric





Why does the plow drop more snow on my side of the road and in front of my approach?

The first pass of a snowplow always picks up more snow than the second pass, often resulting in more snow on one side of the road dependent upon the direction of travel. Snowplow routes are designed to maximize the speed and efficiency of snow clearing operations. Many factors are taken into consideration when planning a route, including width of road, geographic features and destination points. **Beat graders try to minimize the amount of snow that is left in front of an approach.** While passing by an approach, the operator will lift their side wing blade and straighten their front blade. The operators do not clear snow from approaches.



Winter Road Safety and Snow Clearing

With the harsh and unpredictable winter season upon us, the County beat graders strive to diligently clear gravel roadways within 96 hours of the end of a snow storm or series of storm events as per Council's Snowplowing and Grading of Gravel Roads Policy.

Clearwater County public works crews do their best to ensure roadways are opened up as quickly as possible, however, timeframes vary depending on the severity and duration of storms. We want everyone to make it home safely at the end of the

day and we appreciate your patience and support for our workers this winter.

Snowplows and graders are not redirected to clear roadways based on requests from residents.

Reminder

Any numbered highways – 11, 12, 22, 54, 591, 598, 734, 752, 756, 761 – are provincial roadways and snow clearing of those roads is managed by Alberta Transportation.



Passing Snowplows

When clearing snow from the roads, snowplows may create a snow cloud that makes it difficult for drivers of other vehicles to see them. It may also be difficult to see past snowplows for any oncoming vehicles.

As per the Surfaced Roads Winter Maintenance Operations Plan, snowplow drivers will shut their sander off when meeting oncoming traffic however, this does not apply for vehicles passing a snowplow in the same direction.

Alberta Transportation recommends the following safety tips when driving near a snowplow:

- Snowplows are equipped with flashing amber and red lights to make them more visible. Remember “flashing amber and red means snowplow ahead.”
- Maintain a safe following distance behind the snowplow. Keeping this distance will give you more time to react to the unexpected, and avoid rock damage to your vehicle from the snowplow's sanding unit.
- Snow plow operators will move to the side of the

road, where it is safe, every 8 to 12 kilometers to allow vehicles to pass. Even when passing is permitted, it is safer to stay well back until the snowplow operator can safely move over to allow vehicles to pass.

- Before passing a snowplow on a two lane highway (one lane in each direction), be sure you can see far enough ahead and that passing is permitted by the road markings or signs.

When a snowplow is approaching from the opposite direction, look ahead in your lane carefully. There may be an oncoming vehicle that is passing the snowplow using your lane. Be prepared to use an escape route.

A friendly reminder to all landowners, farmer & ranchers who may be moving livestock or equipment to pullover, when possible and safe to do so, to allow snow plows to pass.



Biologicals - Next Revolution in Agriculture

Agriculture has experienced three major revolutions in the past century: the mechanization of farming; the introduction of chemical fertilizers and pesticides; and, the genetics revolution that introduced new plant varieties, breeding tools and genetic engineering.

Innovations in all these areas have drastically increased agricultural productivity, efficiency and how we farm. Now on the cusp of a fourth revolution, advances in microbiology are opening the eyes of scientists, farmers and venture capitalists alike.

There is no longer any doubt that microbes (Bacteria, Fungi, Algae and Cyanobacteria and protozoa) are critical to sustaining agriculture. Some microbes convert organic matter into nutrient forms useable to plants while others protect plants from disease and pests.

As defined on the Monsanto website, “Agricultural biologicals are a diverse group of products derived from naturally occurring microorganisms, plant extracts, beneficial insects or other organic matter. They are typically broken down into two or three major categories according to their use in agriculture:

- Biostimulants (plant growth/productivity enhancement products)
- Biopesticides (plant protection or biocontrol products)
- Biofertility (plant nutrition products)”

From the farmers perspective, biologics fall into either the pesticide category, or as some form of fertilizer or plant stimulant. As pesticides, biologics can be a great alternative to traditional control methods since they are very target specific, non-toxic and have a low impact on non-target organisms and the environment.

As pesticides, biologics can work well as the effectiveness of chemicals becomes depleted, since there is no known resistance given that they are such chemically and microbially diverse products. They are



however, known to have less strength than synthetic chemicals and work best as part of an integrated system.

Growth enhancement and plant nutrition products can prompt a plant to produce more than its genetic potential suggests is possible. Instead of just feeding the plant, the idea is to feed the microbes necessary for the conversion of chemical fertilizers into nutrients that the plant can take up.

Biological products today are targeted for their activity. Science defines how they work, and farmers know what to expect when using them.

The biggest question entering most farmer's minds is how to tell if biologics are needed on their farm. Simply put, it boils down to how healthy the soil is on your land. That (soil health) is determined by the degree of microbial activity in the soil.

Adding biologicals to healthy soil will likely make a noticeable improvement, while adding biologicals to depleted soils may make little difference.

An easy test that farmers can do themselves is to look for earthworms. At the top of the food chain, earthworms in large numbers indicate large numbers of microbes which is an indicator of good soil health. Biologicals are here to stay but thankfully, gone are the days of unproven biologic products marketed as all natural and miraculous, magically curing all ills.





The following article was submitted and written by Land Stewardship Centre

The last Alberta census indicated that rural residential landowners represent 14% of Alberta's population – a growing proportion of the rural population. Acreage living can offer much that urban living does not, including having nature right at your doorstep. But, it can also be overwhelming, especially for those accustomed to urban life, to manage the many aspects of an acreage or recreational land property.

Discover how one southern Alberta acreage owner has used the Green Acreages Guide resources to help transform his acreage, reduce his carbon footprint and, ultimately, become a better steward of his property.

Guiding a Transformation

Several years ago, when Terry Krause bought his Red Deer County acreage, a good portion of the property consisted of bare ground and an unhealthy groundcover mix consisting of timothy, quack grass and Canada thistle. With a mind to improving the ecosystem services, natural functions and biodiversity associated with his property, Terry turned to his copy of the Green Acreages Guide Workbook to help him remedy the issues he was facing and improve the health of his acreage landscape.



"The Green Acreages Guide helped validate our ideas and inform our path to transforming our acreage," explains Terry. With the help of the Guide, Terry has implemented numerous best management practices on his property. He's also quick to point out that the information in the Guide enabled him to adopt practices that best suited his needs and goals for his property.

For example, rather than just use a huge open plot that would be barren over the winter and have no habitat value, the garden was instead designed as four plots with crisscross pathways lined with fruit trees (e.g. sour cherries, choke cherries and honey berries) and perennial flowers to provide year round cover for birds and insects. By keeping the garden plots smaller and surrounded with cover, the garden functions better ecologically year round.

A Plan With a Purpose

In addition to establishing a large, diverse garden and naturescaping (e.g. combining early and late flow-ers species to cover the season for pollinators), Terry planted 1,000 trees and shrubs on his 2.5 acres, using shelterbelt hybrids and a genetic diversity of tree/shrub species to mimic nature as closely as possible.





He also seeded the remaining acreage to a fescue-grass mix that enabled him to limit mowing to three or four times a year, fostering a deep rooted system. As a result, impermeable surfaces have been minimized as much as possible and the deep rooted vegetation and grass does a good job of sponging up precipitation. Grass clippings are also swept up and used in the garden as mulch/compost and the house itself even has a number of efficiency features incorporated.

An Informative Resource

All of Terry's efforts have resulted in a beautiful and a more sustainable acreage; one with a landscape that is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also yields fruits and vegetables, and benefits the natural world.



In addition to reinvigorating the property, Terry says implementing best management practices and being very purposeful about what he planted on the acreage has improved habitat for an abundance of important wildlife, such as birds, bumble bees and other pollinators.

"The Green Acreages Guide covers a range of topics and is hugely informative," offers Terry. "I would recommend it to anyone thinking of moving to an acreage or who has just moved to an acreage. It will give you the basics but also helps you understand the more detailed aspects of how to better manage or transform your acreage property."

Learn more about the Green Acreages Guide resources and what they can do for you.

You Asked:

Why do similar Range Roads have different speed limits?

Question:

Beaver Flat Road has a posted speed limit of 80 km/hour, but similar roads like Taimi and Oras seem to have the same safety measures in place, yet they all have different posted speeds, why is that?

Answer:

The Taimi, Oras, and Beaver Flats are different speed limits because the road design on each road varies. The engineering criteria for designating the speed limit is based on the standards for sight lines, crest/curves, road slopes, side slopes, reaction time to intersections, panic stopping distance calculations, etc. These roads have different design speeds on each due to the standard that they were constructed to and

these past decisions were made based on the economy of scale. Sometimes it is cost prohibitive to address issues that would raise the standards to allow a higher speed limit.

Whether the roads are a range road or a township road, it does not impact the speed limit postings, but the standard to which it was designed and constructed to.

Did you know:

70% of the violation tickets written by a County Peace Officer goes back to the County as a revenue, with the remaining 30% going to the province. If a ticket is written by the RCMP, revenue could go to the County, but may also go into provincial and federal funds depending on how the RCMP Officer fills out the violation ticket.



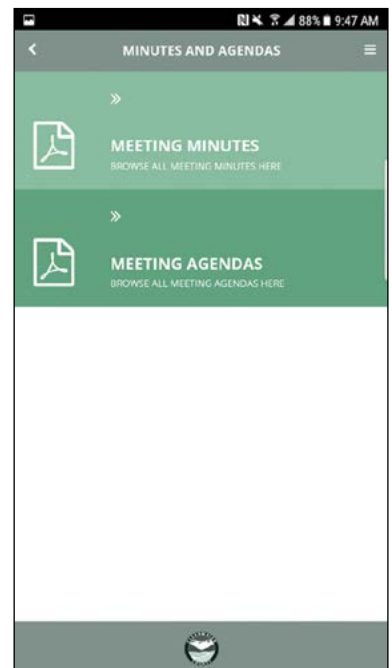
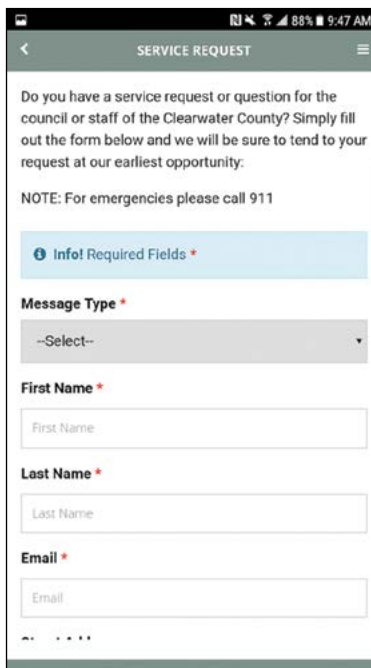
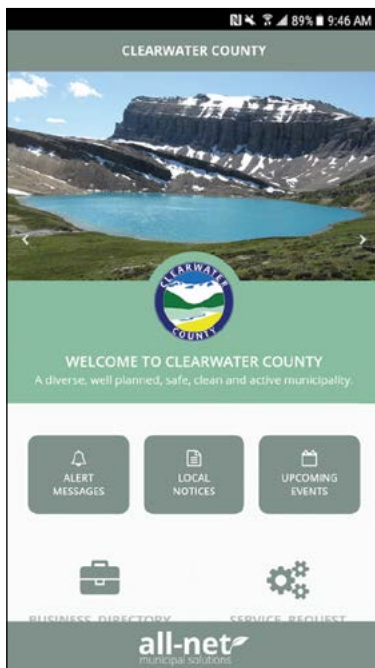
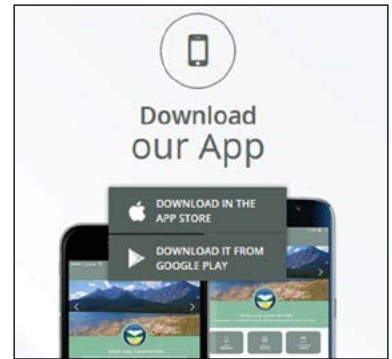
November 1-7 was Carbon Monoxide Week – learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of CO exposure, have a working alarm in your home and make sure to test it regularly. Learn more at: <http://www.ofc.alberta.ca/ofc-carbon-monoxide-awareness-week>



Download Clearwater County's Mobile App

Download Clearwater County's App to stay up-to-date with the latest news, events, Council meeting agendas/minutes, submit a service request and much more. You can also register online to subscribe to our e-news at www.clearwatercounty.ca

The app is available to Apple and Android devices, and can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play by searching "Clearwater County".



Condor Wastewater Treatment System Modernization



Condor Wastewater Lift Station Phase 2 upgrades are concluding this fall. Crews are focusing on electrical hookups and cleanup.

Leslieville/Condor Sidewalk Repairs

Repair(s) and replacement of sidewalks, in Leslieville and Condor, commenced on October 18, 2018 and were partially completed for the season as of November 2. Approximately 2/3 of the project was completed and will be finished in the spring of 2019.

Ditching projects, and most of the culvert work for 2018, have wrapped up for the season due to weather.



Construction Updates



Bridge replacement on Range Road 6-1 (Bingley Road), over Lobstick Creek (NW 36-40-06-W5M), north of Highway 12.



Pictured above: Bridge culvert replacement located on TWP RD 42-0, one half mile east of Oras Road.



Taimi Road project wrapping up for the 2018 construction season.

Protect Expensive Hay from the Elements

Hay is the most commonly used livestock feed on farms across the province. Unfortunately, losses of hay during storage are usually high, particularly with round bales. Surprisingly, it is still common to see bales left in the field throughout the winter.

A recent study done in the Westlock area involving outdoor storage, found that there was approximately a five percent reduction in bale weight over the first winter. That meant a 1400 lb. bale lost about 80 lbs. Other studies have indicated weight losses as high as fifteen percent, or 210 lbs. in the same size bale. It does not take an accountant to figure out how quickly the losses add up when multiplied by several bales. Damaged hay also affects what is wasted later as animals tend to reject good hay associated with what is spoiled.

Bales stored outside tend to squat due to weathering and the surface area in contact with the ground increases, causing more damage over time. Making bales as dense and large as possible helps as the bale tends to sag less, resulting in minimal surface area contacting the ground.

While net wrapped hay better withstands weather damage with an average loss of 10 percent, twine wrapped bales usually suffer about 18 percent damage. Degradation is compounded wherever bales touch and snow collects, eventually leading to snow melt which creates water damage.

When making or purchasing hay, large bales store better and have less volume per unit of surface area exposed. A 2-inch layer of weathered hay on a 4 x 4-foot bale works out to 16 percent of volume while a 6 x 5-foot bale is just 11 percent. A five-foot diameter bale with 4" of deterioration affects 23 percent of the bale.

Nothing beats indoor coverage. If waste due to spoilage is taken into consideration, along with reduced digestibility, protein and energy in the feed, the cost of creating a hay shed becomes more affordable. If



hay must be stored outside, then stacks should run north/south or at an angle northwest to southeast. Ample room should be left between stacks to allow for easy access, in addition to good ventilation and sun exposure. Use a ridge bale at the top of the stack for ventilation and snow and rain run-off.

When tarping, stack ends should be left open to allow air circulation throughout the stack, while tarps should be overlapped one-and-a-half meters and cover at least one meter at the side of the stack. If bales are stored in single rows, then they should be placed end to end with a small space between them.

Some producers prefer the mushroom method of stacking with rows of one bale on end topped with one bale on its side. An alternative method is the pyramid style where two or more bales are placed on the ground and filled with a bale at the valley between the two, using a ridge bale at the top of the stack for snow and rain run-off.

Time, labour and fuel costs often dictate when and how round bales are stored. That said, the advantages of careful bale handling and protection from the elements can translate into higher returns and better quality feed for livestock.



Family Farm Award

Nomination Deadline January 11, 2019

Since 1985, Clearwater County and the Agricultural Service Board have recognized 23 deserving farm families within our region. Awards are presented at the annual Rocky Mountain House Chamber Banquet, recipients are nominated for the Edmonton Northlands Farm Fair Farm Family Award. Agriculture remains a primary industry as Alberta's farming population decreases. It is important to recognize families within our community setting the example of high ideals in agriculture, relationships between urban and rural farms/businesses and opportunities of rural citizenship.

Farm Family nominees are:

- A family deserving of recognition for agricultural and community involvement.
 - An active farm where agriculture is the major source of income generated by family (immediate) residing on the farm.
 - Preference is given to multi-generational operations.
- Nomination deadline is January 11, 2019. Forms can be picked up at the Agriculture and Community Services building or phone Annie at 403-845-4444 for further information.

Cattlemen's Day

The annual Cattlemen's Day is a tribute to the hard working cattle producers in Clearwater County. Over 100 producers attended the gathering which features a great roast beef lunch. Cattlemen's Day is proud to feature quality speakers that present topics of significant interest to the local producer.

This year's presenters and topics were:

- Understanding the upcoming changes in Veterinary Drug Regulations by Dr. Delores Peters, Alberta Ag. and Forestry
- Rancher, Brad Osaczduk, at the centre of the 2016 TB outbreak tells his story
- New lending programs and disaster recovery programs available under CAP by Ed Ten Hove, Client Development Advisor, AFSC
- Biochar and seaweed—nutrition for the future by

HANG ON TO THAT TAIL!



Barry Yaremicio with Alberta Agriculture

- Cattle Market Update and Future Outlook by Brian Perillat with Canfax
- An update from Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef by Greg Bowie

Signs and Symptoms of Mountain Pine Beetle Attack



Boring Dust - Collects in bark crevices and around the base of trees from beetle boring under the bark.



Pitch Tube - Cream coloured resin that looks like crystallized honey and oozes out of entry holes in the trunk. This is a natural defense to 'pitch' the beetle out.



Blue Stain Fungi - Sapwood turns a grayish blue colour because beetles carry spores of blue-stain fungus that stains the wood.



What you don't see: J-Shaped Galleries - Beginning above the entrance hole and running along the grain of wood are J-Shaped galleries. Eggs are deposited within these galleries.



As the infested pine tree begins to die, its needles will begin to turn yellow. Within one year, the entire tree will have red needles, and with more time, needles slowly fade and eventually turn gray.

Alberta
Agriculture
and Forestry

SOURCE: <https://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app21/forestry?page?cat1=Mountain%20Pine%20Beetle%20in%20Alberta&cat2=What%20Can%20You%20Do&cat3=Is%20It%20MPB>



Environmental Farm Plan

The majority of the 100+ farms with an Environmental Farm Plan in Clearwater County completed their plan prior to 2005. EFP's now have an expiry date of ten years meaning any EFP beyond ten years old requires renewal. You need a current EFP to be eligible for cost-share funding under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) program's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change section.

Plus, EFP's have moved to a web-based delivery—a WebBook—making it easier to complete and keep current. Contact Landcare staff to help convert your outdated EFP binder into a computer-based EFP.

Click the link for more information or to register for an EFP online:

<http://www.albertaefp.com/>



Caring for My Land Program

Caring for my Land is a local program made possible with funding from the provincial Watershed Restoration and Resiliency program. Cost-share grants are available to strengthen land against drought and flooding and to protect water sources. Landowners may be eligible for up to \$5,000 per applicant for grazing and winter feeding management, protection of riparian and upland areas and tree planting for shelterbelts and riparian buffers.



Watershed Fact

“Over 100 species of birds have been identified in and around Crimson Lake, including nesting sandhill cranes, mourning doves, pygmy owls and boreal owls”.

Sourced from the North Saskatchewan River
Watershed Alliance publication:
LIVING in the SHED.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)

The CAP program launched in the spring of 2018 with an investment of \$406 million, toward a variety of programs and grant incentives. There is an environmental stewardship component to this program. For more information see: <https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/Programs/role/Primary%20Producer-Farmer-Rancher> or call 310-FARM.



Investment Readiness Assessment for Economic Development



Clearwater County undertook an Investment Readiness Assessment by a third-party consultant as a part of preparing an Economic Development Strategy. This involved a “mock” site selection that tested the County’s readiness for investment. Consultants portrayed being a company that produces small mechanical parts for oil/gas and agriculture equipment and was considering setting up in Clearwater County.

A list of business requirements was presented regarding land, buildings, utilities, work force skills and experience, transportation access, and community facilities and amenities. Clearwater County provided information on land availability, zoning, costs, time frame for approvals, utilities, community resources and amenities, and demographic trends for the region, including skills and education.

The consultants visited a proposed development site following an interview with County staff, local utility and service providers, and a local company that employs staff with similar experience as to the simulated business. The below is a summary of results from the Investment Readiness Assessment:

- Clearwater County needs a comprehensive community profile to better communicate its advantages and assets to potential investors. A community profile can help understand what industries to target, identify competitors and act as a comparison measure to other municipalities.
- A lack of land that is zoned, serviced and shovel ready is a significant barrier. Business owners typi-

cally want to purchase land and start building immediately, not go through a re-zoning process and the installation of utilities and services.

- There is a lack of variety of land sizes and building types available to purchase or lease to attract businesses. Having only one type of land available limits the diversity of businesses willing to come. Land with minimal services has limited uses and is attractive to a narrow number of businesses, often more focused on bare industrial land than on creating jobs.
- Clearwater County needs specific economic development website for the area community for up-to-date information to potential investors and developers, including maps for zoning and services, demographic trends, labour force information and current business statistics. An economic development website would serve a different audience than the traditional municipal website meant for the ratepayers.
- Businesses want to invest and build in communities where their employees want to reside. This includes looking at housing prices and availability, land available for construction, year-round recreation, health and education facilities, as well as general consumer services and retail amenities. Business needs people available with the appropriate skills to make an investment worthwhile.

These results will be used in creating the Economic Development Strategy as Clearwater County prepares for growth.



Willow – Tough as Nails

Salix (willow) is a popular shelterbelt species, early to leaf in spring and late to shed in fall. The Celts saw willows as a place to linger and gain inspiration. The Biblical prophet Ezekiel spoke of willow as a sign of steadiness and resilience. The ancient Chinese saw willow as a sign of longevity and renewal. In First Nations lore, the Arapaho people used the capacity of willow to grow and regrowth as a metaphor for stability.

Parts of willow serve ornamental purposes from the child's bouquet of "pussy willow" to crafts like baskets, walking sticks and furniture. Willow thrive in riparian habitat, often providing shade to lower water temperature for aquatic creatures. Elevated water temperature reduces oxygen which is detrimental to fish.

Pollinators source willows as one of the first sources of food in the spring and a keystone to pollinator survival.

Bog willow is a small shrubby species, rarely taller than six feet, found on the fringes of bog (obviously) and fens. Think muskeg when thinking of where a bog willow can be found. These willows are highly desired in wet area reclamation.

There is a reason why a landscaper worth his pay will never plant a willow within fifty feet of water and sewage system components. The roots are aggressive and copious.

A resilient zone 1a shrub called bebb's willow is known for its erosion control capabilities. Be aware it is also the candy aisle for beaver and ungulates and great habitat for birds amid its fifteen-foot mature canopy.

Take a walk adjacent a stream or river and bamboo-like sandbar willow is common and important to hold soil together in flood prone places.

Once established along a wetland, stream or in a shelterbelt, willow can grow. Acute-leafed willow, popular in shelterbelts, can grow six feet annually and are relatively maintenance free.

One of the toughest species is laurel-leaf willow. Extreme cold tolerant and still productive in summer



albeit perhaps not as growth accelerated as its relatives. At maturity it has a stand-alone globe shape for people looking for a more solitary tree.

Golden willow are the pageant winners with fantastic leaf and branch colors. These beauties are fast-growing like their acute-leaf cousins. As mentioned, pussy willow is the basket-making or floral arranging person's foraging destination.

Any willow can be damaged by natural and unnatural means. Herbicide is one tool used to control where these plants are out of place. At the same time, desirable willows – the one's you want to keep – can be damaged with incorrect herbicide use.

There are also native and non-native pests of willow. This year saw grey willow leaf beetles damage willow in some parts of Alberta. Grey Pohl, Natural Resource Canada pest and insect specialist, reassured those with riparian and shelterbelt interests "that willows are really tough trees, so I don't recommend getting too panicked about the beetles – nature will usually take care of itself".



REACH YOUR PEAK

August 22 to 25, 2019

16 sports – no qualifiers
athletes age 30+
live entertainment nightly



www.albertamastersgames.ca



ARCHERY



ATHLETICS
Road/Trail



BASKETBALL
3 on 3



CANOE/
KAYAK



CYCLING



CURLING



DARTS



GOLF



HOCKEY



PICKLEBALL



SLO PITCH



SHOOTING
SPORTS



SOCCER
Female



TRIATHLON

- PARA-ATHLETICS
- INDIGENOUS GAMES

www.albertamastersgames.ca



Frequently Requested Numbers

Clearwater County Office	403-845-4444
Clearwater County Office Fax	403-845-7330
Clearwater County After Hours Emergency Number	403-844-8500
Clearwater Mutual Aid Co-op (CMAC) - Oil & Gas Emergency	1-866-950-CMAC (2622)
24 Hour Burn Notification Line	403-845-7711
Alberta One Call	1-800-242-3447
Alberta Environment	403-845-8240
Alberta Highway Service	403-845-7899
Alberta Land Titles	780-427-2742
Chamber of Commerce - Serving Clearwater County and Town of Rocky Mountain House	403-845-5450
Family and Community Support Services	403-845-3720
Fish and Wildlife	403-845-8230
Health Unit	403-845-3030
MLA Jason Nixon	403-871-0701
Rocky Mountain House Regional Solid Waste Authority	403-845-4121
Town of Rocky Mountain House	403-845-2866
Village of Caroline	403-722-3781
Fire Ban Information	www.albertafirebans.ca

Check 511 before
your road trip

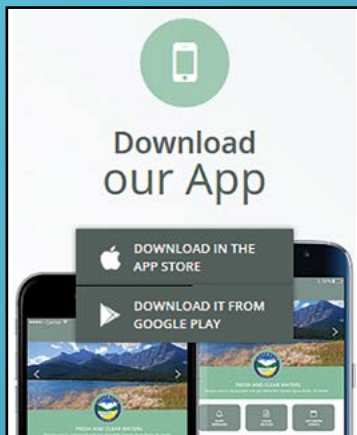


511 Alberta
iOS | Android

Alberta

Be prepared when driving this winter. Download the new @511Alberta app to get road conditions, updates and alerts delivered right to your device: 511.alberta.ca/about/mobileapp





Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @clearwatercnty to keep up-to-date with Clearwater County news.



Scan this QR code to visit our website at www.clearwatercounty.ca

Subscribe to our newsletter

Stay up-to-date with the latest news and events happening in our community. Register online at the new website: www.clearwatercounty.ca.

Tell us what you think about the newsletter or provide suggestions for future editions at admin@clearwatercounty.ca.

Call us at 403-845-4444

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

Publication Mail Agreement No. 40031689

Return undeliverable items to:

Clearwater County, 4340 - 47 Avenue,
Box 550, Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1A4
admin@clearwatercounty.ca

