



CLEARWATER COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

April | May

2019

A Newsletter
for Residents
of Clearwater
County

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Greeting from the Reeve

Hello everyone,

As spring arrived early, many of you are likely finishing up calving, or getting seeding equipment ready to go. Similarly, staff and Council are planning for a busy season. The Public Works department is preparing for the road construction season that lays ahead along with the construction of the new Condor Public Services Building (see page 19). Public Works crews will be starting road and bridge maintenance programs and summer road crews will also be out to begin dust suppression, crack sealing and line painting programs. Council asks that you watch out for the road crews when they are out on the roads. Please drive with caution when you see the "Road Construction Ahead" signs.

In early May, Council appointed five seasonal weed inspectors as per the Weed Control Act and five seasonal pest inspectors as per the Agricultural Pest Act, every year we battle new weed species, one way that our seasonal staff assist the County is through inspections and delivery of weed notices (see page 11).

Enhancing and growing our community is a high priority for Council, a theme that is reflected in many areas of Council's strategic plan. See page 8 for Council's latest 180 Days Priorities Tracker, a bi-annual update to the community on the tasks that Council is working on and the progress we are making.

I recently attended the advancement ceremony for Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services' in May with nine newly ranked firefighters. On behalf of Council,



Jim Duncan,
Reeve

we appreciate all of the volunteer firefighters and their commitment to serving the community.

At this time of year, students are finishing off the school year and members of Council attend all of the graduation ceremonies to celebrate area grads. Clearwater County also provides four annual scholarships of \$1,000 to residents. Students should speak with school

guidance counsellors for more information about the many scholarships available for rural students.

An encouraging aspect of our community is the continued development in the hamlet of Nordegg, with construction underway in the commercial core. There are residential, industrial and leisure lots available in Nordegg, please contact the Planning & Development department if you are interested in learning more.

In other good news, Council was able to hold the line on the municipal tax rate to reflect a 0% increase in the municipal requisition across all classes of assessment – due to budget and reserve management strategies. Assessment and tax notices were mailed in early June, see page 10 for tax notice information and payment options.

In closing, I look forward to another busy summer and I would like to thank all Clearwater County staff for their continued hard work and dedication. On behalf of Council and staff, we wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer season.

Jim Duncan, Reeve



Clearwater County Council



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Upcoming Council Meetings

June 11
June 25

July 9
July 30

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

How would you like to stay informed with Council news and events?

- ☐ County highlights newsletter
- ☐ County social media
- ☐ County website
- ☐ Other (eg. Email subscription)

Email us at website@clearwatercounty.ca to provide suggestions on how you'd like to stay informed.



April 9

Bylaw 1059/19 Land Use Amendment

Council reviewed the feedback from public hearing and granted second and third reading to an application to redesignate +/- 5 acres from Agriculture District "A" to Highway Development District "HD", on NW 09-36-07-07-W5M.

Bylaw 1063/19 Land Use Amendment – Consideration of First Reading

Council granted first reading to redesignate +/- 13.09 acres from the Agriculture District "A" to the Industrial District "I", on SW 27-40-7-W5.

Bylaw No. 1060/19 Caroline-Clearwater Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework & Bylaw No. 1061/19 Caroline-Clearwater Intermunicipal Development Plan

Council granted first reading to adopt the Caroline-Clearwater Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework. Council also granted first reading to adopt the Caroline-Clearwater Intermunicipal Development Plan and set the public hearing to take place on Tuesday, May 14, at 6 p.m. at the Community Hall of the Caroline HUB.

Collection of Business Information

Council heard a report on the process of business licensing by rural municipalities to collect business information for economic development purposes.

Bellatrix Exploration Ltd.

Council heard from representatives regarding Bellatrix's current operation, Alberta's natural gas reserves and the need for provincial and federal government support for natural energy infrastructure.

Partnership Opportunity with Wild Rose School Division (WRSD)

Council approved matching community funds raised

to enhance Wild Rose School Division's proposed Condor School Capital Project.

Town of Rocky Mountain House Lagoon Summary Report

Council received the Town of Rocky Mountain House Lagoon Summary Report dated March 2019 as information.

Request from Clearwater County Taxpayers' Association (CCTA) for Councillors' Attendance at Meetings

Council reviewed and declined a request to compensate Councillors for their attendance at CCTA monthly meetings and directed Administration to draft a response letter to the CCTA.

Community Engagement

Council directed Administration to bring back a draft Terms of Reference and framework for an additional public engagement opportunity, Open Microphone Session with Council, to take place alongside Regular Council Meetings.

Policy Updates

Council approved the revised Councillor, Board & Committee Remuneration Policy, Conferences and Training for Councillors Policy and Travel & Subsistence Policy, effective April 9, 2019.

Condor Public Services Building

Council reviewed results of a Request for Proposal for construction of a Condor Public Services Building that will house a new Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services Condor Station as well as Public Works and Agriculture and Community Services storage needs.

Council approved proceeding with construction of a five-bay building with total project cost of \$4,750,000.00. Council also approved a budget adjustment of \$750,000 from the Fire Capital Reserve.



April 23

Working Group on Homelessness

Council heard from Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association delegation regarding a new joint initiative to address homelessness in the area community. Council will consider appointing a member of Council to the Community Working Group on Homelessness upon receiving report information.

Town of Rocky Mountain House Capital Funding Request for North Saskatchewan River Park Improvements

Council received updated information regarding the Town of Rocky Mountain House's plans for improvements to the North Saskatchewan River Park (NSRP). Council adjusted the 2019 operating budget and approved the County's portion of funding towards covered bleachers, power, non-potable water system, portable bleachers, fencing, and infield box upgrades (\$200,000).

Draft 'Grant Funding for Community Halls' Policy and Procedure

Council reviewed and adopted the revised policy to be based on a split flat rate funding model.

Grader Beat Contract Tender Award

Council reviewed and awarded the Grader Beat # 501 contract to Collar Construction Ltd., Grader Beat # 508 contract to 734989 AB Ltd., Grader Beat # 510 contract to Jomad Industries Ltd., and Grader Beat # 513 contract to Spirit Rider Trucking Ltd.

Sundre Petroleum Operators Group (SPOG) Board of Directors Appointment

Council appointed Councillor Hoven to the Sundre Petroleum Operators Group (SPOG) Board of Directors effective April 23, 2019.

Alberta Masters Games – Road Race Request for Resources

Council tabled a request for resources and additional support for the Alberta Masters Games pending presentation from Board of Directors.

Appointment of Clearwater County's Director of Emergency Management

Council appointed Christine Heggart, Director of Emergency and Legislative Services, as Clearwater County's Director of Emergency Management (DEM), as per the Local Authorities Emergency Management Regulation (LEMR) requiring each municipality to appoint their own respective DEM.

Allocation of Surplus for Year Ending December 31, 2018

Council approved transfers from unrestricted surplus to reserves as reflected in the unconsolidated financial statements.

CAO Report

Council appointed Councillor Vandermeer and a second Councillor to attend the 2019 Economic Developers Association of Canada Conference in Edmonton on September 21-24, 2019.

Tax Rate Bylaw

Council debated potential 2019 tax rates and direct-administration bring back a draft tax rate bylaw to reflect an overall increase in municipal tax rate of 1%.

2018 Audited Draft Financial Statements and Auditors' Report

Council heard the third-party auditor's report conducted by Metrix Group, LLP, which noted that the County remains in good financial position with below average debt and moderate/comparable spending to other municipalities of similar size. The auditor also noted that there were no control deficiencies, unusual



Council Highlights



Clearwater County Council at a Regional Emergency Management Training on April 26, 2019.

accounting policies or material uncorrected mis-statements. Council approved the 2018 consolidated financial statements, subject to finalization of minor budget and schedule adjustments.

May 14

Bylaw 1062/19 - Land Use Amendment

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third reading of Bylaw 1062/19 to redesignate +/- 8.01 acres from Country Residence Agriculture District "CRA" to Intensive Agriculture District "IA" on Plan 812 1809, Block 1 containing 8.01 acres of land; and to redesignate +/- 13.25 acres from Agriculture District "A" to "IA", on SW 06-39-07 W5M.

Bylaw 1066/19 - Land Use Amendment

Council granted first reading to an application to redesignate +/- 3.5 acres from the Country Residential District "CR" to the Recreation Facility District "RF".; and directed Administration to proceed to Public Hearing process.

Weed and Pest Inspectors

Council appointed five weed inspectors as per the Weed Control Act and five pest inspectors as per the Agricultural Pest Act – for seasonal staff positions.

Delegation - Alberta Masters Games Society

Council heard from 2019 Alberta Masters Games Society representative regarding their operations, budget, event logistics, and anticipated resources needed to help make this a successful event from August 22-25, 2019.

Rocky Mountain House Public Library Board Member Appointment

Council reviewed applications received for the Rocky Mountain House Public Library Board and appointed Mike Stannix for the term ending December 31, 2020.

Clearwater Regional Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Board Member Appointment

Council reviewed the applications received for the Clearwater Regional FCSS Board and appointed Sandra Wilson for the term ending December 31, 2019.

Christensen Sports and Wellness Centre Arena Upgrade Project

Council reviewed and received as information an update on the Christenson Sports and Wellness Arena Upgrade Project, and directed Administration obtain confirmation of final outstanding balance owing.

Manufactured Home Park/Community Assessment and Tax Notice

Council granted first reading of Bylaw 1067/19 to hold Manufactured Home Park/Community owners responsible for property taxes related to manufactured homes located on their property and remit to Clearwater County.

Tax Rate Bylaw

Council debated 2019 tax rates and granted first reading to Bylaw 1065/19 with an amendment to reflect a 0% increase in the municipal requisition across all classes of assessment. Council directed



Council Highlights

Administration adjust the 2019 operating budget by decreasing net municipal tax revenue by \$435,000 and increasing transfers from the County's tax rate stabilization reserve by the same amount to maintain a balanced budget.

CAO Performance Evaluation

Council reviewed and approved a 2% salary increase, consistent with that given to staff.

Special Council Meeting Village of Caroline – May 14, 2019

Following a joint public hearing, Clearwater County Council passed second and third reading of Caroline-Clearwater Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) Bylaw and Caroline-Clearwater Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) Bylaw. To read more see page 16.

May 28

Bylaw 1063/19 - Land Use Amendment

Following a public hearing, Council granted second and third reading of Bylaw 1063/19 to redesignate +/- 13.09 acres from the Agriculture District "A" to the Industrial District "I" within SW 27-40-7-W5.

Everdell Community Association Funding Request

Council heard from Everdell Community Association representative regarding a kitchen upgrade funding request to accommodate large capacity events.

Ferrier Community Association Funding Request

Council heard from Ferrier Community Association representatives regarding a capital project funding request to build a new facility which could accommodate a wide variety of events.

High School Graduation Ceremonies

Council appointed members to attend the four area graduation ceremonies in June.

Grader Beat Contract Tender Award

Council reviewed and approved awarding the Grader Beat 503 contract to Ogopogo Graders Ltd.

Range Road 4-3 (Gimlet Road)

Council reviewed feedback from the April 23, 2019 open house at the Gimlet Community Hall and directed Administration to inform residents of dust suppression options outlined in the current Dust Suppression Policy.

Tax Rate Bylaw 1065/19

Council approved the 2019 Tax Rate Bylaw with a 0% municipal tax rate increase following a discussion on the decrease in overall assessment and municipal tax collected.

Alberta Masters Games Road Race

Council reviewed and approved a request for one Clearwater County Community Peace Officer to participate in a lead vehicle for the Alberta Masters Games "Road Race" taking place Sunday August 25, 2019 and approved any other additional staffing resources needed for this event.

Rocky Agriculture Society

Council approved an adjustment to the 2019 operating budget to transfer \$25,000.00 out of contingency into Agriculture and Community Services for exploration into the viability of future agricultural/recreational facilities for Clearwater County.



Council's Strategic Plan & 180 Days Priorities' Tracker

From the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, Council wanted to have a tool to provide the community an update on their priorities and the governance tasks associated with moving forward. Below is Council's last 180 Day Priority Activity Tracker and as resources allow, deadlines near, or priority goals are achieved, priorities will be moved up accordingly.

Council's priority tracker template will be updated bi-annually and reported on in the County Highlights Newsletter, online and discussed at the next Council's Strategic Planning session June 17, 2019.



Clearwater County Council 2017-2021

PRIORITIES	LAST 180 DAYS (Oct 6, 2018 – April 5, 2019)	NEXT 180 DAYS (April 6, 2019 – Oct 4, 2019)
Create a broadband/internet business plan and community-wide infrastructure masterplan concurrently.	Workshops to review decision-making metrics, comparative analysis matrix and key stakeholder engagement. Council to determine funding and project options.	Council to weigh options and review new technologies.
Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) and Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) with Village of Caroline.	Bylaws and Framework created. First reading completed.	Third reading completed for both bylaws – available at this link.
ICF with Town of Rocky Mountain House	Initial meetings to set vision and common goals completed.	Development of ICF framework draft underway.
ICF/IDP with Mountain View County	Initial administrative meetings to set vision and common goals completed.	Draft ICF/IDP documents in progress.
ICF/IDP with County of Wetaskiwin	Initial administrative meetings to set vision and common goals completed.	Draft ICF/IDP documents in progress.
ICF/IDP with MD of Bighorn	Initial administrative meetings to set vision and common goals completed.	Draft ICF/IDP documents in progress.
IDP Exemption Requests for Summer Village of Burnstick Lake, ID 9, ID 12, Brazeau County and Yellowhead County	Letters to Minister requesting exemptions, approved by Minister in December.	
Review eastern fire hall(s) decision and conduct additional consultation.	Project tendered and conceptual plans for new Condor Public Services Building complete (\$4.75M).	Construction of Condor Public Services Building anticipated to be complete by Dec 2019.
Ten-year Capital planning	Council approved the 2019-2028 Capital Plan including budget amounts for 2019 at the Special Council Meeting Dec 17, 2018.	Council to review Ten-Year Capital Plan for 2020-2029 in September.
Regional Strategic Planning	Met with Village of Caroline and Town of Rocky Mountain House Councils to review agreements related to Solid Waste and Fire Rescue service provision.	Modernized agreements for Solid Waste and Fire Rescue service provision completed by Dec 2019.
Policy Review	Council and Board Remuneration; Conferences and Training for Councillors; and, Travel and Subsistence policies revised.	Review of County's employment policies to meet new federal and provincial legislation underway. Revised Community Hall Funding Policy approved.



Nordegg - Bazeau Collieries Minesite Tours

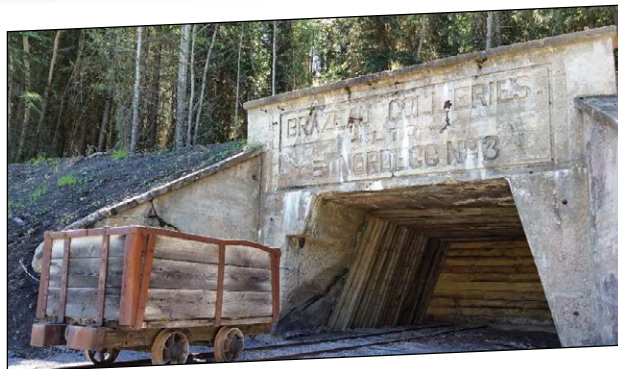
Season Open

The Nordegg Heritage Centre is open for the season May 18 - September 2, 2019, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (closed Wednesdays).

The Nordegg Heritage Centre building is home to the:

- Nordegg Museum Exhibit
- Visitor Information Desk
- Miners Café
- Coliseum Gift Shop

Join us on a two-hour walking tour of the Brazeau Collieries Mine Site. On the guided tour you will learn about this unique community and its coal mine. This is a rare opportunity to visit an industrial historic site in Alberta and learn about how coal fueled the development of Western Canada. Nestled in the mountain-side you will get to visit a variety of historic buildings from houses to mine entrances while glimpsing stunning views of Mount Baldy and Coliseum across the valley.



Minesite Tour Admission Fees

Category	Price
Adults	\$10.00
Senior/Youth	\$7.00
Children under 6	Free
Family Pass (2 Adults & up to 4 Children) ...	\$30.00

Please note that tickets can only be purchased at the Nordegg Heritage Centre. School tours, group tours, weddings, and photography access is also available by pre-booking, please email heritage@clearwatercounty.ca for more information.

May 18, 2019 - June 28, 2019

Tour Times	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	x						x
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	x						x
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	x						x

June 28, 2019 - September 2, 2019

Times	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.			x		x		
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	x	x				x	x
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	x	x				x	x
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.			x		x		
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	x	x				x	x



Combined Assessment and Tax Notices

Combined Assessment and Taxation Notices were mailed on June 7, 2019. The Assessment Roll is open for inspection at the County office during regular office hours, weekdays 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Taxpayers, or an assessed person, wishing to file an appeal regarding any assessment must do so within 67 days from the date notices were mailed in accordance with Section 460 of the Municipal Government Act. Appeals must follow the direction indicated on the back of the tax notice. The last date to submit an appeal will be August 16, 2019. For inquiries or to make appointments regarding your notices, please contact the Assessment Department by phone at 403-845-4444, fax at 403-845-7330 or email assessment@clearwatercounty.ca

Payment options include:

- **Online** – contact your bank for more details, and keep in mind electronic payments may take up to 5 business days.
- **Mail** – ensure to make the cheque payable to Clearwater County (please have the remittance portion from your tax bill included).
- **In person** – by debit or cheque, also post-dated (until September 17) payments are welcome, otherwise penalties will apply to outstanding balances after that date. An after-hours drop box is located at the front entrance of the County office.

Clearwater County encourages residents to join the tax installment payment plan (TIPP) program which allows you to pay your property taxes on a monthly basis. If you are interested in participating in the TIPP's program or require additional information, please contact us at 403-845-4444.

REMINDER - If cheques are returned by the bank, taxes are considered unpaid and penalties will be applied.

Property Tax Calculator

Did you know that Clearwater County's website has a "Property Tax Calculator"?

Estimate your taxes based on your assessed value with the NEW online feature. Choose your assessment class from the drop-down list. Enter your 2019 assessment values and you will see a table (illustrated below) showing the breakdown of the four requisitions collected by Clearwater County.

This calculator is for information purposes only. The calculation does not include any penalties, local improvement levies, or outstanding taxes owed from previous years.

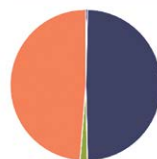
To learn more, visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/property-tax-calculator

RESIDENTIAL (BASED ON 2018 ASSESSMENT / 2019 TAX RATES)

Enter your assessment or estimated market value: 300000

Calculate

Tax Rates		Tax Distribution
School Uncollectable	.0000200 %	\$6.00
School	.0028930 %	\$807.90
Seniors	.0000860 %	\$25.80
Municipal	.0028640 %	\$799.20
Your Total Taxes		\$1638.90



■ School Uncollectable ■ School ■ Seniors ■ Municipal



Make your property tax payment simple!

Sign up today for our monthly tax payment plan.

To learn more, call 403-845-4444 or visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/tax-installment-payment-plan



Seasonal Summer Weed Staff

Starting in early May, seasonal weed staff will begin summer employment assisting Clearwater County residents in their efforts to control invasive species through inspections and delivery of weed notices.

Brooklyn Smith - Weed Management (Central)

WCentral@clearwatercounty.ca

Phone 403-845-8963

I grew up on a cattle farm just outside of Alhambra. I have studied Environmental Sciences for two years at Red Deer College and will be starting the Land and Water Resources Diploma at Olds College this fall. Sports has always been a big part of my life and I have played just about everything from co-ed fastball to college basketball. In my free time I enjoy hiking and camping in the mountains. I am grateful for the opportunity to work at Clearwater County as a weed inspector because we are working to solve environmental issues and my job relates closely to the type of work I hope to do after schooling.



Laeken Kinch - Community Weed Control Coordinator

WCommunity@clearwatercounty.ca

Phone 403-845-8623

I live on a hobby farm south of the Arbutus Hall. I study Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta and hope to apply my undergraduate degree towards a Masters in Physiotherapy or an MD. I enjoy playing rugby and other fitness related activities. In my spare time, I also like riding my horse and assisting my dad in animal husbandry around the farm. I am excited to work personally with the individuals residing within my assigned area. My goal is to develop positive and professional relationships with the people in these communities to ensure the control and eradication of noxious weeds.

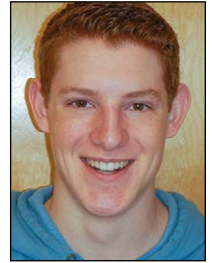


Ryan Jeffery - Weed Management Coordinator (North)

WNorth@clearwatercounty.ca

Phone 403-845-8926

I am a local Rocky resident and in the fall I will be returning to RDC for my second year of a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. This is my second year working as Weed Management Coordinator in the north region for Clearwater County. I have found that my interest in science comes in handy helping residents determining various invasive species and how to manage their control. When not at work I like to work out, hang out with friends and enjoy the outdoors.



Edith van Ginkle - Weed Management Coordinator (South)

WSouth@clearwatercounty.ca

403-845-9183

This past year I finished my second year of education at Dordt University in Iowa where I was a sprinter on the track team. I am really looking forward to meeting and working with the residents in my area. In my off time I like to hike and camp in the mountains.



Bailey Eklund - Eradicable Weed Coordinator

WAssistant@clearwatercounty.ca

403-846-6990

This is my second summer working at Clearwater County. I grew up in Rocky Mountain House and am currently studying Education at the University of Alberta, majoring in Physical Education, with a minor in French. I enjoy playing sports and being outdoors. I am looking forward to meeting and learning from County residents as well as from my peers this summer.





Biodiversity is like the spokes of a wheel. When its parts are properly in place it works well. When one or more parts are out of place then it doesn't work as it should.

Some insects play beneficial roles such as pollinating a wide variety of flowers, balancing population levels by feeding on other insects as well as being a food source for birds, spiders and others alike. Pest insects tend flourish when beneficial insects are in short supply.

Some diseases or pests play a role targeting weakened and/or older trees to make room for healthy, young plants over time. Some of these decadent woody plants become habitat or food for something else.

Before using chemicals that could kill good insects along with the bad, encourage tree health with proper pruning, adequate water and fertilizer. The healthier the tree or shrub, the better it will be at fighting off damaging insects and disease.

Soil is an example where diversity of biological things is essential. There are more microorganisms in a teaspoon of healthy soil than people on the earth. Soil scientist Danielle Cranmer refers to soil as a "natural internet" with scores of living components working to inhale and exhale water and nutrients.

In a sense biodiversity can be built into our altered landscapes. Probably like a puzzle if we were to do it right with the pieces fitting together and probably unlike the 25 piece puzzle we assembled as toddlers.

Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) ran a show featuring the ten urban parks that changed America showing how nature and people can function together in an urban place.

The Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership joined forces with the Alberta Riparian Habitat Conservation Society – better known as Cows and Fish – in a Street2Stream initiative. The goal was to protect riparian habitat by teaching and showing city dwellers how to manage runoff from storms and yard/garden activities.

Similar principles of urban biodiversity management can work around a home in a hamlet, on an acreage or around the farmstead.

Correct use of fertilizer and pesticide, managing rainwater, proper handling of hazardous materials, maintaining a functioning wastewater system, planting pollinator-friendly plants for birds and other wildlife and controlling invasive plants and other species to protect what is good are just a few biodiversity-friendly things everyone can do.



Skunks

The striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) is the only species found in Alberta and is a member of the weasel family. Above all, the skunk has the most advanced glands, containing approximately 15cc of a yellowish, oily liquid. The odor of the compounds in skunk spray can be detected by the human nose up to 1 mile downwind at concentrations of as little as 10 parts per billion.

Should the little mammal become a nuisance in need of control, keep in mind that their defense mechanism is not just a one-shot deal. Skunks can spray six times in quick succession.

Skunk behavior is slow and deliberate. They often go to great lengths to give plenty of warning when they feel threatened. They prefer to retreat from danger rather than resort to spraying. They will usually stamp their feet rapidly, raise their tail straight up, click their teeth and growl or hiss before discharging.

A nocturnal creature, the striped skunk usually hunts at night and spends the day sleeping in any shelter it finds at dawn. In that respect, skunks are beneficial to farmers and gardeners as efficient mousers, as well as eating harmful insects and rodents, eggs, frogs and young birds.

Skunks can be a problem for apiarists as they are the primary predator of honeybees. With a thick coat as protection from stings, the skunk will scratch at the front of the beehive and eat guard bees that come out to investigate. This hunting behavior is often passed on to young kits by their mother.

Most predators, including wolves, foxes, badgers and bears, rarely attack skunks. The great horned owl, perhaps because it lacks a sense of smell, is the skunk's only regular predator. In one case the remains of 57 striped skunks were reportedly found in a single owl nest.

Skunks mate in late February or March and give birth in late May or June, to four to seven kits. They do not hibernate but remain inactive in winter dens, only leaving for short periods during warm weather.

Kits are weaned at about two months of age and by



the fall start to move to new territory that can be as much as 6 to 10 km away. Their normal home range is 2 to 5 kilometers (1/2 to 2 miles) except during breeding season, when they can travel up to 8 kilometers (5 miles).

As young skunks search for a new place to live, the best way to minimize problems is to remove potential sources of food and shelter. Skunks like living beneath buildings, brush piles, rock piles, stacked lumber and wrecked automobiles.

Skunks can be prevented from living under farm buildings, granaries and other structures by closing off openings with wood or metal screening. Wire mesh of 5 cm or less diameter spacing is recommended and should be buried 15 cm below ground level to prevent skunks from digging under.

It should be kept in mind that even though the striped skunk is the most social and commonly domesticated pest, next to the raccoon it is one of the greatest vectors of rabies. The Agricultural Pests Act has declared the skunk a nuisance and so they are not protected by law in Alberta.

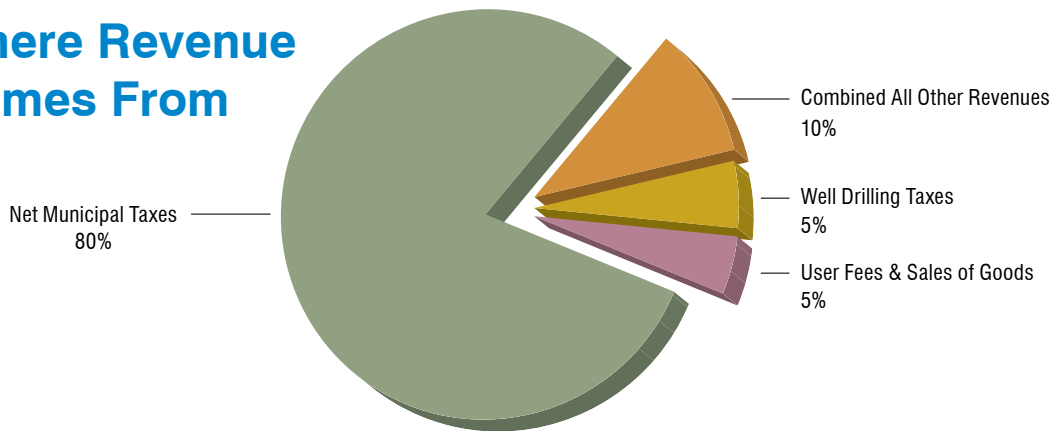
Due to their notoriously bad eyesight, skunks are often hit on roadways, with the smell alerting drivers well before reaching the scene of the accident.

For more information about the striped skunk and appropriate control methods give Agriculture and Community Services a call at 403-845-4444.

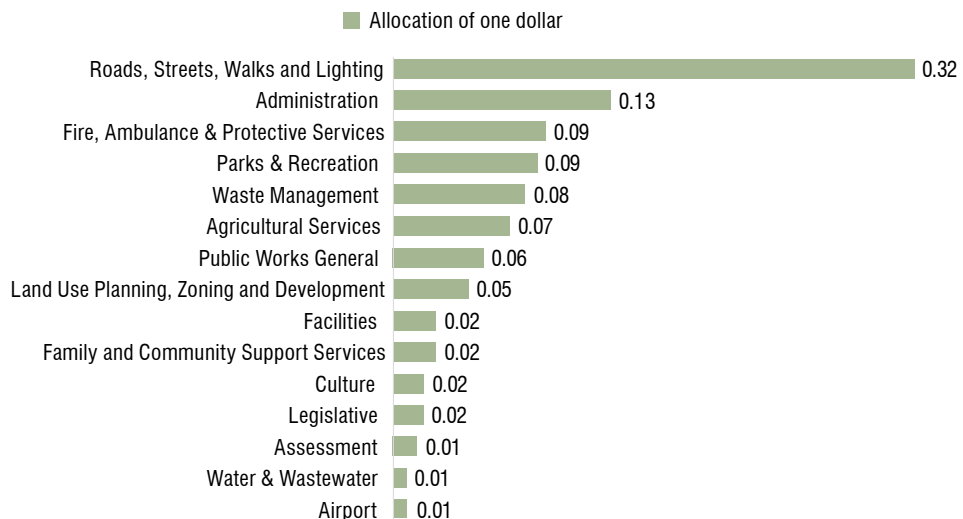
2018 Financial Statement Summary

The complete consolidated financial statement for Clearwater County for the year ended December 31, 2018, is available at www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/financial-services

Where Revenue Comes From



How Each Municipal Tax Dollar is Spent



This diagram provides a snapshot of how \$1 of revenue is allocated (based on the 2018 consolidated financial statements, operating expenses excluding amortization which totalled \$30,397,552.00, not including transfers to reserves or restricted funding used for tangible capital assets).



Heritage Grant

The inaugural Clearwater County Heritage Grant is now accepting applications for community projects taking place in Clearwater County that will interpret, recognize or celebrate our local heritage.

The application deadline is June 30, 2019.

More information and to complete an application form visit: <http://www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/county-grant-programs>



Custom Spraying

Clearwater County Agriculture and Community Services will custom spray range and pasture for residents. Rates: Cost of Chemical plus \$80/hr for equipment.

For details call the County office at: 403- 845-4444

Be #FLOODREADY ALL YEAR ROUND

Flooding can happen anywhere in Canada, any time of the year. To be #FloodReady this summer, add these tasks to your seasonal list of home maintenance.

Summer Checklist



Keep eavestroughs and downspouts clear.



Check driveway and patio drainage.



Install French drains (weeping tile) in areas that get waterlogged.



Consider planting a "rain garden" to absorb runoff.

Don't wait for the water!

Take steps to protect your property.

Canada.ca/Flood-Ready



Public Safety Canada
Sécurité publique Canada

Canada





Council Passes Caroline-Clearwater IDP & ICF Bylaws

Following an 11-month process with the Village of Caroline, Clearwater County Council granted second and third reading to the Caroline-Clearwater Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) Bylaw and Caroline-Clearwater Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) Bylaw on May 14, 2019.

The joint public hearing was held at the HUB in Caroline with the Village of Caroline Council.

Milestone Dates:

The major steps and target dates during the process included:

- Phase 1: Project Start-Up and Background Information – complete at end of July 2018
- Phase 2: Public Input and Vision Setting – completed at end of September 2018
- Phase 3: Writing the Draft Plan – completed at end of December 2018
- Phase 4: Public Review of Draft Plan – completed at end of January and February 2019
- Phase 5: Plan Adoption – completed in May 2019

The IDP guides the land use planning decisions of the Village and County to reach a mutually desired future for the area. It seeks to establish a clear understanding of each municipality's long term planning interests and ways to build upon the positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the County and the Village. The IDP promotes common purpose and fosters certainty for landowners and the municipalities through a clear policy framework and ongoing dialogue.

Topics covered in the IDP include:

- Land use patterns showing the locations for major existing and future residential, commercial and industrial areas of activity;
- Major existing and future road and pedestrian corridors and networks;
- Preservation of significant natural features;
- Coordination of municipal infrastructure related to water, wastewater and storm drainage;
- Coordination of economic development efforts;
- Sharing of facilities and services;
- Processes for ongoing communication and resolution of issues that may arise; and
- Future changes in municipal boundaries.

To learn more, visit www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/caroline-and-area-plan



Earth Day

Celebrating days of the year isn't for everyone. We just passed by Earth Hour (March 28) and Earth Day (April 22).

Clear Water Landcare's plans are fueled by a vision that people living in or visiting Clearwater County have healthy watersheds to enjoy. Realizing that vision requires putting four big ideas into practice.

First, Landcare is like a classroom where people can learn how to do what is environmentally good for other people and the places they live, work and play.

From the agricultural perspective, this means being a conduit of information for various livestock or crop ventures. Topics include the Environmental Farm Plan, environmental funding programs, water wells, livestock wintering sites, healthy woodlots and shelterbelts, and more.

From the non-farm perspective there are many of the same needs at a smaller scale. Examples include water wells, "green" acreages, healthy habitat including trees, and more.

Small business, especially those with a recreation focus, represent another land use looking to operate with the environment in mind. Visitors are a demographic we reach with a responsible recreation message.

Second, Landcare is like a switchboard when it comes to answering questions beyond our expertise. When we don't have the answer, the approach becomes "how might I direct your call".

For the farm crowd, Landcare has connections with

non-government agencies, forage associations and provincial government departments for matters outside our jurisdiction, knowledge or training.

For environmental grant programs like the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program we may help get someone started but we also connect the producer with CAP program specialists.

Third, Landcare is like a specialty tool store where a few unique tools can be rented or borrowed with a deposit.

Additionally, we have soil sampling tools, a meter for measuring the static level in water wells, and a tank on trailer for shock chlorinating wells. You can also source do-it-yourself patterns to build pollinator boxes, raptor nesting or hunting stands, and pond levelers for managing beavers.

We have a conifer tree seedling program through the

generous work of West Fraser.

We're working to bring in a pheromone product to help in the early stages battling Mountain Pine Beetle.

Fourth, Landcare is like a citizen science lab where get out the magnifier, camera and notebook. Citizen science is about learning together with the goal to help the landowner help themselves.

We've brokered, with the help of Alberta Agriculture's lab, the discovery of a trio of white pine trees growing in our region – two in the town of Rocky and one on a rural property.

Hopefully, we're helping you make every day earth day as well.



Educational Agriculture Tour

On May 15, 2019, approximately 286 Grade 4 students from eight schools within Clearwater County attended the annual Educational Agriculture Tour organized by the Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Society and Clearwater County. Students visited four

local farm operations including a mixed farm, beef and dairy farm, and an equestrian facility. At each location students were involved in several activities that helped enhance their understanding of where food comes from and what is involved in its production.



Economic Development

Clearwater County participated in the Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce Trade Show on May 3-4, 2019 showcasing statistics and trends in our area community and the growth challenges being address in Clearwater County's draft Economic Development Strategy.

In 2018, input was collected from an open house for business owners and managers, an online survey for business owners and managers, an online survey for County residents, and discussions with local realtors and a property appraiser. From those input sessions four (4) Areas of Focus have been identified and make up the Draft Economic Development Strategy 2019-2021, which are:

- Foster a Culture of Growth
- Prepare for Business Growth
- Prepare for People Growth
- Promote Opportunities

The summaries of each community input session can be found at www.clearwatercounty.ca/p/economic-development

Business Development / Investment Tool Kit

Clearwater County and the Town of Rocky Mountain House have created a micro-site to help businesses easily find local data about the region. This online resource (www.strongertogether.ecdev.org) can help site selectors as well as existing and potential business owners access a wide variety of information.

- Review the Business Climate
- Discover Industry Trends
- Research Customer Demographics
- Analysis your Competition
- Uncover Local Opportunities
- Identify Land Uses
- Examine the Environment
- Evaluate the Workforce
- Identify Community Facilities
- Identify Transportation
- Locate Key Infrastructure
- Search Available Properties
- Find Additional Resources

Condor Public Services Building Update

Construction on Clearwater County's new public services building in Condor is underway as the bare land gets turned into a pad. As a mixed-use building it will be home to the new Condor Fire Hall, Agriculture & Community Services and Public Works departments. Construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2019.



Is it the Mountain Pine Beetle?



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.

For questions about MPB on public (crown) land contact Environment and Parks.

For questions about MPB on private land contact Clearwater County Agriculture and Community Services.

Alberta
Agriculture
and Forestry

SOURCE: <https://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app21/forestrypage?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 Resiliency and Restoration 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

“From Nordegg to Rocky is a popular canoe run on summer weekends. As many as 200 canoes have been counted on a long weekend. There are good wilderness campsites in this area and good fishing up Shunda Creek”.

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.



Advancement Ceremony
May 10

Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) advancement ceremony took place on May 10 for new recruits who have completed their 1001 Level 1 training to become Firefighters. They received their black helmet at the ceremony which signifies they are an officially trained firefighter.

Our two members that received yellow this ceremony have partially completed their training, now they advanced to become exterior firefighters.

The 9 members that advanced:

- Mike Benum – Station #50 Nordegg
- Chad Wolf – Station #30 Caroline
- Mandy Betts – Station #30 Caroline – Yellow Helmet (Exterior FF)
- Jason Benz – Station #30 Caroline – Yellow Helmet (Exterior FF)
- Dan Jahraus – Station #10 Leslieville
- Travis Graham – Station #20 Condor
- Brayden Boyko – Station #60 Rocky
- Mike Bell – Station #60 Rocky
- Darion Parsons – Station #60 Rocky



Firefighter Oath

I, do solemnly swear to carry out my duty as a Firefighter for Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services to the best of my ability; to serve my commanding officers with respect and dignity; to serve the citizens of Our Region Clearwater County, Town of Rocky Mountain House, and The Village of Caroline with accountability, integrity, service, and community; as my values.



CRFRS Advancement Ceremony



Farm Machinery on Public Roads

Before entering the public road, farmers should check that warning flashers, flags, lights and slow-moving emblems are clean, visible and working properly. Reflectors and reflective tape can also be used on equipment edges.

Coming from a dusty field, a quick walk around to double check tires, lights and mirrors and a quick wipe with a rag, can make a world of difference in visibility and overall safety. This is also an ideal time to practice machinery hygiene by brushing off weed seeds and clumps of soil.

While driving, lock brakes together and slow for sharp curves and hills so equipment is less likely to swerve into the oncoming lane or the ditch. Watch for obstacles and potholes while keeping a constant lookout for pedestrians, mailboxes, steep ditch embankments and other roadway obstacles.

Tractors should have two working headlights and taillights, at least two warning lights visible from the front and the rear, two reflectors mounted at the rear and amber warning lights visible from the front and rear over dual or triple wheeled vehicles.

Farm machinery has a legal right to the use of public roads just as other motor vehicles do. Sharing the road with farm equipment is a part of the rural experience and potential delays should be expected and penciled into trip planning.

Agricultural equipment can appear unexpectedly, turning onto a public road from a field or driveway. Keep in mind that due to the size and nature of the equipment it may be difficult for the operator to see clearly at times. If you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you.

Farm equipment will usually be travelling at less than 35 kilometers an hour and may be straddling the road and the ditch. Equipment may suddenly shift



completely onto the road, taking up more than one lane as it attempts to avoid mailboxes and road signs.

Before attempting to pass machinery, be sure that the operator is not intending to turn left. Keep an eye open for left turn or even hand signals.

Never assume! Though the equipment may appear to be turning right, the operator may be preparing to make a wide left-hand turn. The same scenario can occur for a wide right turn, with the operator fading left beforehand.

Recognize that passing is a very risky procedure. In most cases the farmer won't have to far to travel before re-entering a field. Remain patient. If you must pass, be sure that there is adequate road width and distance to do so without risk.

In the final summation, playing it safe by slowing down and being patient, while respecting the rights of the other party, is the common-sense thing to do. Extending a trip by a few minutes might be a better option than the alternative.

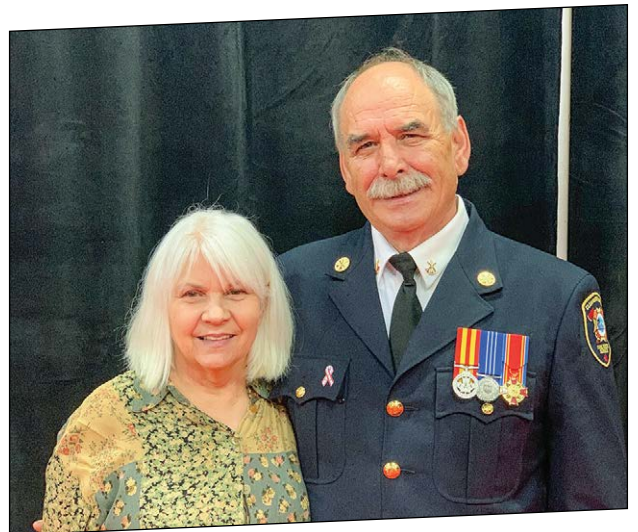




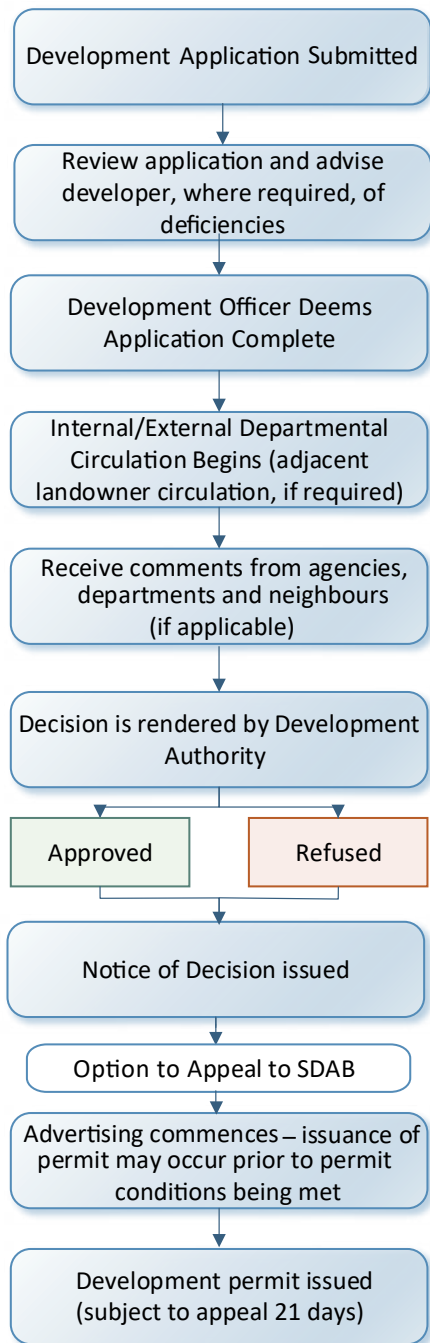
Fire Member Receives 30-Years of Service Recognition

Battalion Chief Ray Moller received his 30 years of service recognition bar on his Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal at the 2019 Alberta Fire Chiefs Association Conference in late May. This is an outstanding achievement and Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services is grateful to have such dedicated members.

This medal recognizes members for their exemplary service which is characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency. The individuals recognized for this award provide service of such high quality that it serves to others as an admirable example to follow.



Development Permit Process



How does that work?

Step 1: Discuss your project with a staff member of the Planning & Development department as soon as possible. Staff can assist by providing early guidance, describe the process and ensure you are headed in the right direction.

Step 2: Complete and submit a development permit application form along with the application fee.

When the application is received, a Development Officer will review and determine if there is sufficient information to make a decision. A Development Officer may contact you if more information is required or if a site inspection is necessary. In some instances, the application may be circulated to various County departments, outside agencies and adjacent landowners for comments/consultation.

Once the application is deemed complete, the Development Authority (Development Officer or Municipal Planning Commission) makes a decision on the application as soon as possible (within 40 days; longer if you have granted an extension).

After reviewing the development proposal, comments and recommendations, the Development Officer will either approve the application (with conditions) or refuse the application, citing reasons for refusal.

Development permits are subject to appeal for 21 days from the date the decision was made. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) and accompanied by an appeal fee of \$300.

For more information, contact the Planning & Development department at 403-845-4444. Located in the main County building downstairs.



What goes where?



Paper and Cardboard:

- ✓ Newsprint and white office paper
- ✓ Magazines and catalogues
- ✓ Non-foil gift
- ✓ Paper egg cartons
- ✓ Paperback books
- ✓ Cardboard boxes (flatten and remove packaging)
- ✓ Pizza boxes (remove liner)



Plastic:

- ✓ Household bottles and containers (e.g. vinegar, shampoo, detergent, margarine, yogurt, clamshells) – please rinse, labels OK
- ✓ Plastic bags (e.g. grocery, retail, bread, dry cleaning) – stuff into one bag and tie closed

Metal:

- ✓ Metal food cans
- ✓ Aluminum trays (e.g. pie plate)
- ✓ Empty non-hazardous aerosol cans



Beverage Containers:

- ✓ Milk containers, juice boxes, beverage bottles, soda cans



Free Drop Off

Household Hazardous Waste:

- ✓ Automotive oil, fluids and filters
- ✓ Batteries (all types)
- ✓ Corrosive and poisonous cleaners
- ✓ Light bulbs (all types) and fluorescent tubes
- ✓ Glues and adhesives
- ✓ Herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers
- ✓ Paints, stains, and varnishes
- ✓ Pressurized containers (e.g. propane tanks, fire extinguishers)



Electronics and Appliances:

- ✓ Anything with a battery or a cord (e.g. computers, TVs, monitors, printers, CPU's, stereos, receivers)



Scrap Metal:

- ✓ BBQs, lawnmowers, small automotive parts, satellite dishes

Tires:

- ✓ Passenger vehicles, motorcycle and ATV tires



Fees Apply

- ✓ Appliances needing CFC removal (e.g. fridges, freezers, A/C, water coolers)



Food Waste:

- ✓ Table scraps, peelings, spoiled foods, etc.

Non-Recyclable Plastic:

- ✓ CDs
- ✓ Chip bags and candy wrappers
- ✓ Coffee pods and K-cups
- ✓ Food wrap
- ✓ Garden hoses
- ✓ Plastic plates and cutlery
- ✓ Plastic toys



Non-Recyclable Paper:

- ✓ Shredded paper (or take to a recycling depot)
- ✓ Coffee/drink cups
- ✓ Foil gift wrap and tissue paper
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Pet food bags



Styrofoam:

- ✓ All types

Others:

- ✓ Disposable diapers

Items requiring double bagging:

- ✓ Pet feces/kitty litter
- ✓ Floor sweepings, sawdust and vacuum cleaner bags
- ✓ Noxious weeds



This message is brought to you by Rocky Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority





Weekly Day Camps

Ages 5 - 12

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

\$ 132 / Child / Week

Camps run weekly from July 2 - August 23

Cost includes all activities, before and after care.

Before & After Care Available / 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM / 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

403.845.3720 ■ guestservices@rockymtnhouse.com

Register Today!

Recreation & Community Services
Town of Rocky Mountain House





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ALBERTA
MASTERS
GAMES**

**AUGUST 22-25, 2019
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE
CLEARWATER COUNTY**

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INDIGENOUS GAMES, PICKLEBALL, SLO PITCH, SOCCER (WOMEN), TRIATHLON, TRAIL RUN, TRAIL RUN (PARA)

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ALBERTA MASTERS GAMES
CONCERTS**
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North Saskatchewan River Park, Rocky Mountain House

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Dennis Bouwman

SASS JORDAN

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RUSSELL DECARLE
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2019 ALBERTA MASTERS GAMES
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE
CLEARWATER COUNTY

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE
CLEARWATER COUNTY



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

2019 Alberta Masters Games

Rocky Mountain House – Clearwater County
August 22 to 25



ARCHERY



BASKETBALL
3 on 3



CANOE/
KAYAK



CYCLING



CURLING



DARTS



GOLF



HOCKEY
Male



INDIGENOUS
GAMES



PICKLEBALL



SLO PITCH



SOCCER
Female



TRIATHLON



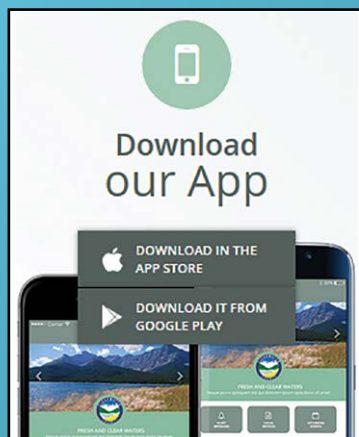
TRAIL RUN



TRAIL RUN
Para

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REACH YOUR PEAK

August 22 to 25

multi-sport event
no qualifiers • age 30+
outdoor concerts



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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.

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



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