

Yellowhead County's **Yellowheadlines**

Fall 2017
Bi-Annual Newsletter

OPEN FARMS DAYS – A GROWING SUCCESS

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COUNCIL INTRODUCTIONS

Yellowhead County's electoral structure consists of a Mayor elected by the voters of Yellowhead County and eight electoral divisions each represented by one councillor.



Gerald Soroka
Yellowhead County
Mayor

Gerald is a proud third generation Evansburg area resident. He still resides on the original homestead his grandparents bought in 1930.

Over the years, Gerald has been increasingly involved in the industry and community, ultimately serving as Vice President and President of the West Central Forage Association as well as Vice President of the Alberta Forage Council.

Gerald is proud to have served as a former Yellowhead County councillor and continues to take pride in serving the county as Mayor.

This is Gerald's fourth term as Yellowhead County's Mayor.



Sandra Cherniawsky
Div.1 - Evansburg & Area

Sandra has lived in the Evansburg area since 2004. Originally raised on a grain farm North of Vegreville, Sandra left to pursue an education in Business Management at Red Deer College.

Sandra's career background includes Newspaper reporting, Business Management and Human Resource management.

Sandra has served as a two-term Vegreville Library board member, and volunteered for Santa's Anonymous and as an Evansburg Girl Guide Leader.

This will be Sandra's second term serving as councillor.



Anthony Giezen
Div.2 - Wildwood & Area

Anthony has been a lifelong resident of the Wildwood area. Today he owns and operates the very same farm his parents began building in 1967.

In addition to a life-long involvement in the farming industry, Anthony has also been in the forestry and trucking industry for the past 33 years.

He and his family proudly maintain a farming, forestry, and trucking operation.

This will be Anthony's second term as councillor and first as Deputy Mayor.



Penny Lowe
Div.3 - Niton Junction,
Carrot Creek and Area

Penny has been a resident of Yellowhead County for 32 years. 33 years ago, Penny and her husband married and moved to the farm that was homesteaded by her husband's parents to help run the family business.

To this day, Penny and her family still run Jacqueline Gardens Ltd. year-round.

Penny has been proudly serving her community as a volunteer fire fighter for 13 years.

This is Penny's first term as councillor.



David Russell
Div.4 - Peers, Rosevear,
and Shiningbank

David has had a diverse experience in oil and gas, agriculture, and forestry.

He and his wife have a small farm at Shiningbank Lake where they have raised their four children and now enjoy visits from their grandchildren.

David previously sat on the Edson & District Recycle Society, the Yellowhead Recreation Board, Assessment Review Board, FCSS Board, and the Synergy Alberta board representing Yellowhead County.

This is David's third term serving on council.



Shawn Berry
Div.5 - Wolf Creek/
Pindale Area

Shawn has lived in Yellowhead County for 18 years and has been councillor of his division for 7 of those years.

Shawn has sat on the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, the Edson Chamber of Commerce, and Community Futures.

He has been self-employed for the past 38 years. Shawn enjoys going for walks and working with his Bobcat on his acreage.

Shawn has been married for 48 years, and is the father of two married sons and grandfather of 4.

This will be Shawn's third term on Yellowhead County's council.



Wade Williams
Div.6 - Edson Area

Wade and his wife of 32 years, Lora, are long term residents of Yellowhead County.

Wade received his Journeyman Heavy Duty Mechanic ticket from Red Deer College and a Private Septic Designer and Installer ticket from Alberta Municipal Affairs. He also has 12 years Emergency Response Training from various coal mines.

Her background is in accounting and correctional services.

This is Dawn's second term as councillor.



Dawn Mitchell
Div.7 - Edson West

Dawn was born and raised in Yellowhead County.

She is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and represents Yellowhead County on the Inter-Municipal Committee with Hinton, the West Yellowhead Regional Waste Management Authority, and the Edson and District Recycling Society.

During this time, Lavone worked as a school bus driver. She currently works as an elementary educational assistant. Lavone also teaches horse-riding and coaches the Chinook Rider drill team.

Lavone is returning for her third term on council, as she formerly served from 2007 to 2013.



Lavone Olson
Div.8 - Robb, Cadomin,
Brule, and Hinton Area

Lavone has been life-long resident of Yellowhead County. She grew up on a ranch in Brule in an outfitting family.

She and her husband Wald purchased a lodge in the Tonquin Valley in Jasper Park from her father and operated it for 25 years.

OPEN FARMS DAYS - A GROWING SUCCESS

Hundreds of residents and visitors flocked to Yellowhead County farms this summer to take in the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of Alberta Open Farm Days. The two-day event gave participants an opportunity to experience a variety of farms in Alberta.

Although this is the first year that Yellowhead County has actively taken part in this event, which gives people a chance to experience rural life up close and personal, several of the farms have opened their doors to the public in the past.

"When people think about their milk and dairy products, they can now see it comes from farms that are run by local farming families, and see that it comes from a lot of hard work and from people who they may go to school with or see at the post office or grocery store every day."

MAYOR GERALD SOROKA

There were four farms that took part in both the self-guided driving tour and the County's bus tour this year. They ranged from a small, recent startup to a larger industrial dairy farm that utilizes the latest technology as part of its daily operations.

But the one thing they had in common was that, in addition to being located within Yellowhead County, is their emphasis on being a family-run operation fuelled by passion and an obvious love for what they produce and how they do it.



The four farms that participated in the Yellowhead County Open Farm Day Tours were:

Wooden Shoes Dairy: a high-tech dairy operation

Leaman Exchange: a heritage poultry and hobby farm arts collective

Wild Country Gardens: a fruit and honey farm that produces jams, jellies, and syrups using unique fruit varieties developed at universities and other places around the world

Violet Gardens and Greenhouse: a brand new greenhouse and garden started by a young Wildwood-area family who are following their passion for growing amazing flowers, fruits, and vegetables



"The Open Farm Days gives residents and visitors to our area an opportunity to see all the things Yellowhead County offers," says Yellowhead County Mayor Gerald Soroka. "And it gives everyone a chance to see where their food comes from, and meet the people who produce it and how they do it. When people think about their milk and dairy products, they can now see it comes from farms that are run by local farming families, and see that it comes from a lot of hard work and from people who they may go to school with or see at the post office or grocery store every day."



Yellowhead County Agricultural Services staff and Community Futures West Yellowhead (CFWY) staff also got a chance to see these farm operations from the general public's perspective. "I get a chance to visit and talk to lots of our ag producers in our County fairly often and see their operations first-hand," says Agricultural Services supervisor Jennifer Benson. "So it's great to see other people getting a chance to visit these farms and get to see what they look like and how they operate. And it's great for visitors to be able



to meet the families who grow and produce the stuff that ends up in the consumer's kitchen."

"I get a chance to visit and talk to lots of our ag producers in our County fairly often and see their operations first-hand. So it's great to see other people getting a chance to visit these farms and get to see what they look like and how they operate."

JENNIFER BENSON

CFWY often works with some of these agriculture businesses when they're starting up or expanding, and helps them with the business side of

their operations. So it was encouraging for them to see these businesses sharing with the general public everything that they work so hard for.

Not only was this a new experience for many of the tour participants, but it was a great opportunity for the farmers and producers as well.

"Running a farm and being host to countless visitors over a few days are two very different things," says CFWY regional manager Nancy Robbins. "And growing fruits and vegetables and raising livestock may be second nature to these farmers and ag producers, but having this many people come by their places gives them a chance to see what opening up their farms as an ag-tourism stop would be like."

Yellowhead County and CFWY are working to develop our Grow Yel-

lowhead Local Food Initiative, with plans to expand and promote it in the upcoming year. More and more ag producers are interested in agri-tourism in one aspect or another, and being part of this event gives them a taste of how they might enter into that market or, if they're already doing agri-tourism on some level, how they can expand.



CELL TOWERS, INTERNET EXPANSION



We all know that Yellowhead County's land area is massive—22,000 square kilometres of massive, to be exact. So it comes as no surprise that you'll be hard pressed to find cell or internet service in the more remote regions of the County. In some cases, no amount of straining your arms, balancing on a chair, or even struggling up a mountaintop will get you service.

And that's a serious issue. The County's council and administration recognize the need for expanded coverage, not only for phone services, but also basic broadband internet. Chances are you've probably had dropped calls while navigating the County, or lost cell service entirely. And depending on where you live, you may not have access to internet services or may have limited internet options, including a lack of choice between providers. You're understandably frustrated—and we want to fix that.

Yellowhead County is committed to improving the standard of coverage throughout its many communities, but it is a challenging, costly, and

time-consuming process. Why don't some of us have coverage now? The short answer is this: The internet and telecommunications industry sees little to no value in establishing networks in the County's remote areas. Establishing these networks means developing additional infrastructure—building utility towers.

In the same vein, the provincial government's long-anticipated broadband coverage solution, known as SuperNet, has been moving slowly to build towers and extend fibre coverage to our remote areas. SuperNet is still a remarkable initiative and achievement, covering 429 Alberta communities and providing service to a quarter-million Alberta residents. Its goal has been to provide a speedy, stable, and secure network all across rural Alberta.

Unfortunately, many of the County's communities and residents remain neglected by this initiative. That's why Yellowhead County has partnered with a number of counties facing similar internet-coverage frustrations to create the Alberta Rural Communications Alliance (ARCA). ARCA's members include:

- Clearwater County
- Lacombe County
- Lac Ste. Anne County
- Parkland County
- Saddle Hills County
- Woodlands County
- Yellowhead County

ARCA's members recognize that our communities have been drastically transformed

by changing technologies, from railway transportation to broadcasting. New technology is imperative to improving our communities. That's why you may have noticed a number of new towers cropping up in Yellowhead County.

To date, we've built four utility towers with the potential to provide services to these areas: Wildwood, Obed, Fulham, and Cadomin. These towers offer numerous immediate advantages, including expanding the public safety communications infrastructure (through emergency services) and providing communications services for our industry ratepayers.

Our residents, however, must still rely on the interest of commercial cell and internet providers such as CCI, Rogers, Bell, and others.. Although the County has effectively covered the cost of infrastructure development by financing and building new utility towers, commercial service providers still need to attach their services to our towers. We've made it easier for those providers to bring their coverage to our communities, but it's still up to them to recognize this enticing business opportunity.

And we'll continue developing our communications infrastructure. Expect to see smaller towers cropping up near densely populated subdivisions and larger towers rising up in more remote areas. Our primary goal is to provide our residents with access to what are increasingly

considered staple utilities that benefit and shape the future of our communities. We want you to have reliable access to a variety of services, such as:

- Emergency updates
- Social networks and news
- Online banking
- Distance learning
- Online library access
- Online health applications

And naturally, we want our local businesses to benefit from increased communication and networking. Public institutions, too, such as schools, hospitals, colleges, universities, libraries, and community groups ought to have reliable ways of communicating and managing digital media. We also want to better serve our industry: providing extended communications services to our industry

sector means more development and more opportunities for the County to put industry

ratepayer fees back into our

communities. Crucially, our emergency infrastructure will expand—meaning residents can access 911 services from remote areas, and emergency service providers can operate in remote areas with greater confidence.

Yellowhead County's utility towers will have the potential to connect communities across Canada and around the world. We'll continue to develop our communications infrastructure, and we hope that internet and cellphone service providers will increasingly see the value of improving our communities. We certainly do.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Rosevear Bridge – 9 Mile Hill Wolf Lake Road – Tom Hill Tower Road – River Ridge & Carldale Rd

As winter is in full swing, construction in Yellowhead County is winding down. Here are some county construction updates for 2017:

Rosevear Bridge

Construction for the county's new Rosevear Bridge will be suspended during winter, but remains on track and will continue in the Spring of 2018. The contractor had to suspend the project in September due to concerns that the Highway 748 road tie-in would not be completed before winter. The Rosevear Bridge will provide residents with 24 hour access between Rosevear Road and North of McLeod River, and phase-out reliance on the seasonal ferry.

9 Mile Hill Wolf Lake Road

The Wolf Lake Road construction project was completed in mid-November. The construction project is located on Township Road 52 and Range Road 14, West of the Fifth Meridian, (approximately 2.4 km). Wolf Lake Road provides all-weather access to the area for public and commercial users. The project is of particular benefit to commercial users whose will have upgraded access to oil and gas sites adjacent to Wolf Lake Road.



Tom Hill Tower Road

Construction on Tom Hill Tower Road will not be complete in 2017. Grading and base paving will continue into 2018. Tom Hill Tower Road construction runs from North of Township Road 544A to North of Township Road 560 (approximately 12.7 km).



River Ridge & Carldale Road

Construction (resurfacing) of River Ridge and Carldale Road has been completed.

Yellowhead County appreciates your patience during the maintenance, construction, and infrastructure improvement season. Thank you for taking caution around our hard working construction crews! If you have any questions or concerns about the county's construction projects, please contact our Infrastructure Department at 780 723 4800.

A New Local's Perspective on the County

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY'S NEW COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, DAN IVANOV, GETS A WARM WELCOME AND EMBRACES A NEW REALITY MILES FROM HIS RURAL ROOTS.

Just like a farm boy takes the unkempt wild for granted, I take the city with all its manic energy for granted.

I work for Yellowhead County now and live in Edson, but I used to call Edmonton home. And I've learned a lot about what it means to live in a small town and serve the people of a rural municipality. I'm ashamed to say that for me, the County was just an assortment of rural scenery along Highway 16—a through-route to the mountains. But I always wondered, are people here content? Are their lives significantly different than the lives of city folk?

I'm starting to find out. My sorest memories of Edmonton paint the obvious city life: Winter cold gnawing at the ankles, late transit, unexpected construction, crowded venues full of competing conversations, no peace for yourself and your company. Of course the city offers a great deal in return, but these memories of city life make me cringe. How many hours are wasted in traffic? How little serenity is found going out in the city?

Here in the County, things are different. Yes, the arterial highways are bursting with traffic, but the surrounding area can be placidly still. Sometimes you feel fortunately

alone. Your thoughts are accessible, not competing with the immutable bustle of nearly a million other people. The air is fresh, rolling off mountains and combing through forests. Here, the night stars give you pause. Grazing elk fill you with wonder.

And quickly you come to realize that there is a community here, and one that's very much ready to welcome you. The cordiality extends past handshakes—it's refreshing to let your guard down in a rural setting. In the city, you're always networking. Here, you're mostly socializing. Time itself seems to ease off, and you feel couched in soulful conversations. I've learned much about the people here, and they are always willing to share more—to offer themselves up honestly. Small exchanges feel like words between neighbours. In the city, indifferent glances set the tone.

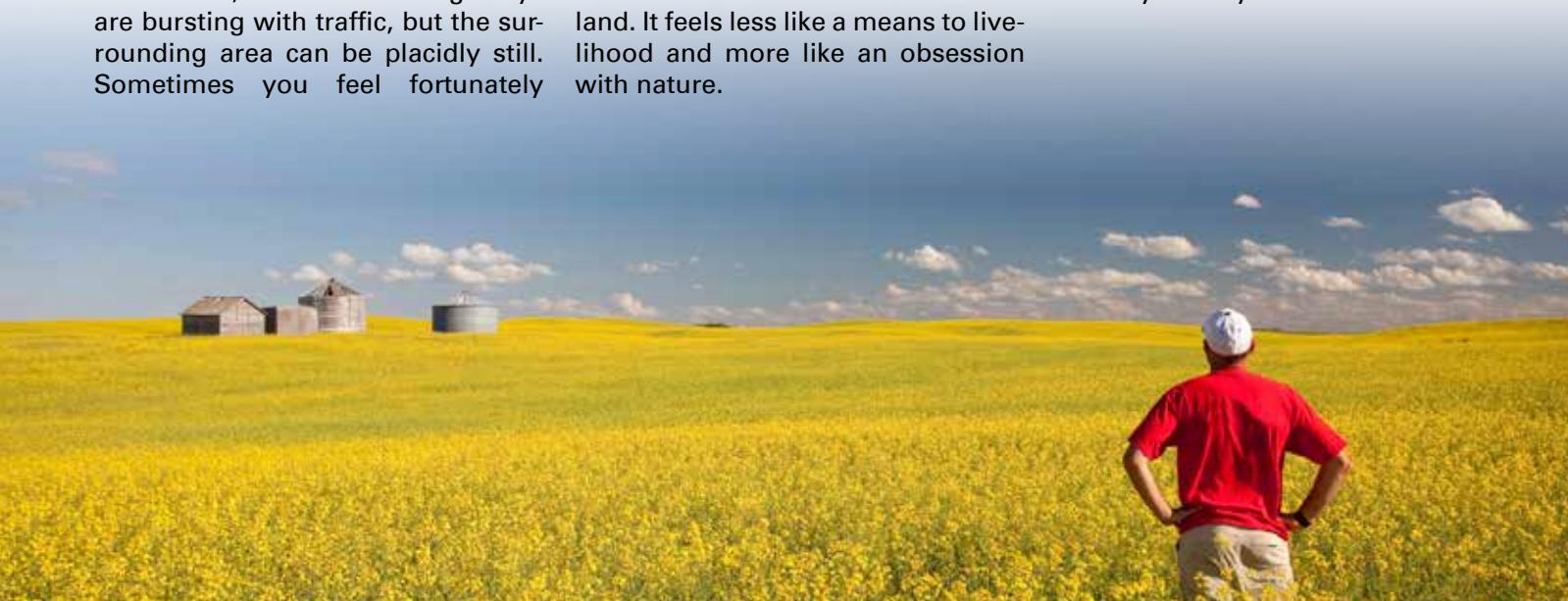
What's more, County residents respect their surroundings. Here lies a bounty that steals the eye: a landscape of looming mountains one way and lazy, endless fields the other. Who wouldn't revere the beauty of the County's backyard? And there's a sense of pride evident in the way farmers, ranchers, gardeners—all ruralites—maintain their land. It feels less like a means to livelihood and more like an obsession with nature.

For me, an outsider, it all looked like one big back-breaking chore. Why not kick your feet up, sip your Starbucks, and delve into the lives of fellow Facebookers?

Because you'd forget what fresh, unprocessed air feels like. You'd forget the pleasure of toil—the reward of being challenged by nature, by the wild. You'd forget the peace—the hum of swaying trees, mute rustling, and the mystery of the Milky Way. It really is beautiful, and you feel like a part of nature here.

And when that beauty gets tiring, you can quicken your pulse or find your peace with some hunting or fishing. Or blaze through the trails on a mountain bike, take to the bush on OHVs, or go for a calf-trying mountain hike. Canoeing, camping, sightseeing—it's all here too. The County has made an effort to provide its residents with numerous fun things to do, and I am all the more impressed by the stream of community events that helps us all grow closer and appreciate the rural lifestyle. I'm proud to call the County my home, and I promise to treat it with as much respect as our longtime residents do.

Thank you for your warm welcome.



Heritage Coal Branch Tour

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY'S POPULAR HERITAGE COAL BRANCH TOUR WAS MET BY SNOW BUT PARTICIPANTS ON THE SOLD-OUT TOUR EXPERIENCED A MEMORABLE TRIP.

This year's Heritage Bus Tour took place in September to sudden (and unwelcome) snows. Tour-goers learned about the historic mining towns that surfaced in the County in the early 1900s. The weather on display was a rich reminder of how difficult and unpredictable living in the region could be—especially without modern luxuries.

Local County resident Jack Williams and summer resident George Spanach reminisced about their upbringing and gave insight into the lives of early miners and residents alike. Their tales covered local legends, landmark origins and names, and the character of the Robb and Mercoal areas. But chiefly the tour was a historical look at the coal towns that grew along a branch of railway tens of kilometres south of Bickerdike (now Edson and area).

At the time, the steam-powered railway relied exclusively on coal, and so it snaked southwest to find sustenance. But this coal-rich expanse was more than just feed for the hungry railway: numerous logging, mining, and railroad towns quickly cropped up, offering opportunities for entrepreneurs and unskilled workers alike. Notably, this boom of industry attracted immigrant workers from all over the European continent, each seeking fortune in what grew to be known as the Alberta Coal Branch.

In Coal Branch-living fashion, our tour-goers were unfazed by the snow and spent some time lunching and warming up at Cadomin's Legion hall. Lunch was provided by Cadomin's very own Chuck Jacoby, a third-generation Jacoby and



PHOTO BY: JACK WILLIAMS

owner of the long-standing Jacoby's Mountain Road General Store and Hole in the Wall Café. Though tour-goers couldn't access Cadomin's historic mine due to the road conditions, they were treated to details of Cadomin's recently re-discovered cemetery by the County's very own heritage coordinator, Jenny Seibel.



The bus tour also featured an informative documentary, composed of interviews with former Coal Branch residents. The hardy men and women spoke with candour about their early lives. Naturally, life was tougher and more demanding back then, but equally exciting and adventurous. The tour paid tribute to the hardy souls who took the unforgiving landscape to task and forged a way of life around a burgeoning industry.

En route out of the Coal Branch, tour-goers got an eye-full of the majestic big-horned sheep and elk that have

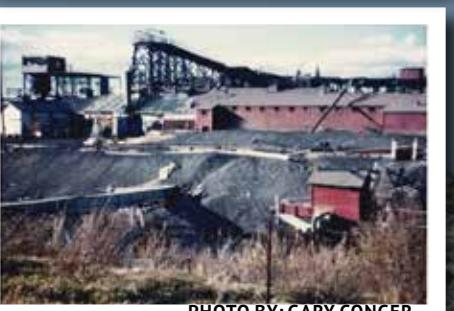


PHOTO BY: GARY CONGER



PHOTO BY: JACK WILLIAMS



COUNTY PRIDE GARDEN TOUR 2017

This year, County Pride Showcase Tour participants were introduced to some of the gorgeous gardens in Robb that were part of this year's County Pride Showcase contest. This is the first time the tour has visited this hamlet and its beautiful gardens.

The garden tour is a great opportunity to view many beautiful spots in the county, talk to gardeners and garden enthusiasts, and learn more about plants and plant care.

Gardening and food author Michael Pollan writes in his book Why We Garden: Cultivating a Sense of Place, "The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway." This sentiment seems to reflect how Christine and Rick Didier, winners of this year's honourable mention award, feel about gardening. Christine advises new gardeners to take small bites when starting out and to work with Mother Nature, not against her.



The Didier couple enjoys the whimsical look of their property in Robb, and their favourite part is sitting out on the front deck and soaking in the view. Part of the whimsical look includes wine bottle ornaments and their hand-crafted Hobbit Shed, which houses garden supplies in the back and is an amazing example of creative architecture.

This summer was the first time the tour visited Robb, and it didn't disappoint. The tour is in its 14th year, and this year it focused on a new area of Yellowhead County, broadening the perspective of tour participants. While many people may associate Robb more with the rugged outdoors, coal mining and dense forests, there is an active and creative gardening community in the small hamlet 65 kilometres southwest of Edson. And this year's County Pride Showcase Tour participants got a chance to visit some of these gardens.

The Robb growing season is short, with the last frost coming close to the third weekend in May and most flowers starting to wither in July, but in September, the area does enjoy nice weather that allows

for vegetable gardens to be harvested and enjoyed into the fall.

"This very popular tour looks at some outstanding examples of the beautiful landscaping that can be done with the plants that flourish in this climate," says Yellowhead County Agricultural Services supervisor Jennifer Benson. "Although our local climate presents some big challenges for gardeners, it's inspiring to see the clever and creative ways that gardens have been adapted to flourish here."

This sentiment was echoed by several of the nominated gardeners, who shared several tips with the tour participants. The Johansons, Janet and Eric, who won first place for a Hamlet Garden and have owned their property in Robb for 22 years, stressed that gardeners, especially new ones, should plant what grows in their region and get advice from neighbours. Janet has many native plants throughout the property: arnica and tiger lilies have made themselves comfortable in the bed behind the house, and many fireweeds can be found growing on the property.



Willie and Bill Kelly, the second-place winners in the hamlet category, have owned their property in Robb for five years and also stressed the importance of using what is "tried and true" in your area. "I enjoy trading plants," says Willie. She uses this as a way to meet neighbours and find out what works in the area. "You know they will do well here and it gives you a chance to meet all your neighbours."



Kerriann Desautels, the first-place winner for acreages, has owned her Tollerton Estates property for one year and has eight acres. Kerriann loves flowers and has travelled many kilometres to get that one plant or basket that she desires, even going as far as Peace River! Her hanging baskets are from Deb's Greenhouse, which meant driving to the greenhouse's new location in Morinville.

Through the trees are walking trails that she keeps mowed to allow her kids to play. Kerriann prefers a natural look, and her favourite spots in her garden offer her peace and tranquillity. Advice from Kerriann would be to keep your plants close to the house so the deer and elk don't eat them all. Secondly, don't be afraid to try anything and experiment.

The three garden categories are:

Farm – for those whose livelihood actively involves farming
Acreage – for those living on an acreage, up to a quarter section of land
Hamlet – for lots within hamlets, such as Brule, Robb, Cadomin, Peers, Wildwood, Evansburg

This year we had 11 nominees who agreed to participate in this year's contest.

Here are the winners:

Hamlet

1ST PLACE - Janet & Eric Johanson

Robb

2ND PLACE - Willie & Bill Kelly

Robb

Acreage

1ST PLACE - Kerriann Desautels

Tollerton Estates

2ND PLACE - Linda & Trevor Rudd

North of Edson

Farm

1ST PLACE - Kelson & Karen Quarrie

Evansburg

Honourable Mention:

Christine & Rick Didier

Robb

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees!





BEAR CHASE 2017 NEW COUNTY TRIATHLON MAKES A BIG SPLASH!

Over 70 kids took part in the first ever Bear Chase Youth Triathlon on July 13, 2017, at Bear Lake in Yellowhead County, despite inclement weather.

The air at Bear Lake was filled with excitement and energy as participants prepared to take off from the starting line in the lake. Although thunder could be heard in the background, any sign of rain or lightning held off as the athletes put all their focus into the swimming, biking, and running event they were about to take part in.

The triathlon consisted of five heats broken up into different age groups, with age-appropriate distances for each group, the participants



ranged in age from five to 13. More photos from the event can be found on the Yellowhead County Facebook page. Participating athletes and their parents can see their time results on the Yellowhead County Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

Although the triathlon was a non-competitive event, the participants were noticeably serious about it. A few of the runners, not wanting to waste precious seconds fiddling with their gear, decided to not take off their bike helmets until the final leg of the running event.

The event was a great success and could not have happened without the numerous volunteers and parents who came out to support



PEERS ASP & EDSON IDP

PUBLIC INPUT HELPS STEER LONG-TERM VISIONS FOR EDSON AND PEERS

Public engagement was a big part of the Edson Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) and the Peers Area Structure Plan (ASP) updates. The process offered a number of ways for the public and stakeholders to participate, including open houses, surveys, and a steering committee for the Peers ASP.

These bylaws include input gained from the general public that was gathered during the updating of these plans. This valuable knowledge contributes to more successful decisions, which ultimately affect County residents who live and work in these areas.

PEERS ASP

The ASP public meetings were well attended by residents of the hamlet itself, as well as nearby farmsteads and the surrounding area.

According to a report done for the ASP, the existing municipal water and sewer systems should be able to accommodate most growth over the next 20 years, given past growth rate patterns.

Workshop attendees generally expressed satisfaction with the direction of the policy and reinforced preferred policy priorities in the following order of importance:

1. Improving internet and cell phone communications, which would bring new and existing residents into the mainstream of social and economic activity (see the article Cell Towers and Internet Expansion)
2. Creating seniors housing for independent living
3. Providing more variety of housing types and rental units within the hamlet, including mixed-use buildings and the introduction of park models with shared gardens, green spaces, and other communal areas
4. Constructing recreational trails as identified in the County Outdoor Master Plan

Other highlights and suggestions included the following:

The ASP would need to identify places for expansion for new residential and commercial development within the hamlet.

Residents would like the County to defer local improvement charges to the development permit stage instead of the subdivision approval stage. Creating more open spaces would alleviate potential conflict issues between future residential developments and industrial or commercial developments.

Flood assessments are not an issue with current residential or commercial areas, but new developments would need to address potential issues. Implementing the proposed trails in the January Creek valley would provide better community walking connections.

Residents would like more facilities for year-round youth activities such as an outdoor skating rink, multipurpose outdoor courts and an indoor gymnasium.

There was discussion about enhancing the appearance of some houses, an initiative that would need to be introduced by the community.

EDSON IDP

The updated Edson IDP (Bylaw 3.17) is an agreement between Yellowhead County and the Town of Edson and represents the region known as the Edson Fringe Area. This plan defines future development opportunities and restrictions where the borders of the two municipalities meet.

Some of the IDP considerations are long-term water supply sources, logical annexation areas, the potential for extending municipal services to allow for new growth, the impact of the many sour gas lines in the region on development, and a closer look at a highway development beautification strategy. The public meetings were well attended by landowners from the Town and the County. A total of 100 landowners attended the two public meetings.

The updated IDP recognizes the new Modernized Municipal Government Act and adds policy sections specific to Infrastructure and social programs. The new IDP also reduces the number of policies and updates out-of-date texts and maps.

The major highlights and ideas include the following:

- The updated IDP eliminated Policy Areas and a Policy Area map, since approved Area Structure Plans are currently in place to regulate development in these areas.
- The updated IDP changed a Rural Area designation and a Small Holdings Area designation on two properties to County Residential.
- Provisions will be made for the health and well-being of residents through coordinated planning of recreation programs, services, and infrastructure between the two municipalities.
- The Town and County will work together to secure a sustainable water supply that will meet the future needs of both municipalities.

ASB PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR 2018

EXACT DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS FOR ALL OF OUR UPCOMING WORKSHOPS WILL BE ADVERTISED ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE TO WHEN THE WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD. THE INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON YELLOWHEAD COUNTY'S WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE, AND IN THE LOCAL PAPER.

January

- **Water Well Workshop** – A free water well management workshop “Find out what you can do to protect your well” (Hinton area)
- On Farm Euthanasia & Carcass Disposal – A workshop designed to give you the knowledge you’ll need when it comes to deciding when to euthanize an animal, euthanasia options, and what to do with the carcass afterwards (Niton Area)

February

- **Crafting Beers, Wines, and Spirits** – Interested in making your own alcohol? Learn the steps, and where to get supplies, as well as some extra information on what it takes to start up your own brewery, distillery, or winery (Peers area)

If you would like more information on these workshops or would like to register, please contact the county office in Wildwood at 1-800-814-3935 or (780)325-3782



Call 211
24 Hours a Day.
7 Days a Week.

We Listen. We Connect.



Hinton, Edson and
Yellowhead County
We Listen. We Connect.

Your First Call for Help!

Three Ways to Connect



Call 211 on your mobile or landline
Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Online chat on our website
Live chat at www.ab.211.ca available.



Online search on our website
At www.ab.211.ca search services.

211 is your primary source of information on government and community based health and social services.

NEW HERBICIDE PROGRAM INTRODUCED

Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Board has approved a Custom Herbicide Application Program (CHAP) to control Noxious and/or Prohibited Noxious weeds on private property.

This program will help Yellowhead County residents control weeds where the options of hiring a contractor and renting or purchasing spray equipment is not feasible. The program will be run on a first come, first serve basis during the spraying season and as weather permits.

Herbicide will be applied onto the private land, not exceeding 20 acres. Sites will be pre-inspected to determine if the property qualifies for the program and what equipment and herbicide will be necessary.

The landowner will be asked to sign a release allowing the County access to the property and permission to use herbicide as agreed upon by the landowner and Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Staff. Pricing will depend on the area sprayed and the herbicide used. Upon completion landowners will receive an invoice for the work performed.

Yellowhead County has added CHAP to enhance services to the residents of Yellowhead County in addition to the existing Roadside Vegetation Management Plan and Weed Inspection Program.

If you would like more information on this or any Agricultural Services Programs or to register for CHAP please contact the Agricultural Services Department in Wildwood at 1-800-814-3935.

Custom Herbicide Application Program (CHAP)

- Designed to control Noxious and/or Prohibited Noxious weeds on private property.
- After an agreement is signed an inspection will be conducted to determine what equipment and herbicide will be necessary, at which point an estimate for the work will be provided.
- Staff will enter property with application equipment and spray the infested areas, not exceeding 20 acres.
- First come, first serve basis and there is a cost to residents
- *Herbicide chosen for the job will be discussed at the time of inspection by Certified Applicator and landowner.

2018 FENCELINE PROGRAM

- Designed to control Noxious and/or Prohibited Noxious weeds and encroaching brush along fence lines on private property adjacent to Yellowhead County roads and right-of-ways.
- After an agreement is signed an inspection will be conducted to determine what equipment and herbicide will be necessary
- Staff will enter property with application equipment and spray along the fenceline towards the County right-of-way
- First come, first serve basis and there is no cost to residents



SENIOR BENEFITS WORKSHOPS WARMLY RECEIVED

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) has focused heavily on supporting seniors in the County. An important issue facing seniors is a lack of information about what services are available to them. FCSS strives to bring educational workshops for seniors—and the latest such workshop involved information regarding senior benefits.

This past September, Senior Benefits Workshops were offered in Marlboro, Peers, Carrot Creek, and Evansburg. Elderly County residents were encouraged learned about the various financial support programs available to them through the federal and provincial governments.

The two-day, four-community workshops included presentations from Isabelle Fleury-Hache and Nancy Kelly of Service Canada and Laura Pawlechko from Alberta Seniors and Housing. Topics covered included: Old Age Security, the Canada Pension Plan, Guaranteed

Income Supplement, Allowance for the Survivor, Seniors Financial Assistance, Special Needs Assistance, the Seniors Home Adaptation Repair Program (SHARP), at the Carrot Creek Hall.

The facilitators also offered information about seniors' coverage with Blue Cross, seniors' Dental and Optical assistance programs, the Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program, as well as information regarding the Alberta Seniors Benefit program. Ample time was given for the facilitators to answer questions.

The goal of the Seniors Benefits Workshops was to inform seniors on how to access community and government resources they need. The abundance of information on offer was warmly received by the community, and feedback from seniors was overwhelmingly positive. A total of 85 people attended the four workshops.



Parentlink Launches in Yellowhead County!

The ParentLink initiative serves 200 communities across Alberta, providing low- to no-cost support services to parents and their children and is now available in Yellowhead County.

The brand new program launched this past October and is offered primarily in three Yellowhead County communities. It goes from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM and runs Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in Marlboro, Niton Junction, and Peers, respectively.

With ParentLink, parents and caregivers can strengthen their skills and confidence in providing child care, and learn to deal positively with

development and behavioural concerns. Parents can also get answers to their questions and glean information about programs and services available to them—including speech and language resources, community kitchens, resource libraries, and toy lending.

Kids can enjoy a wide variety stimulating activities, such as programs that feature music and movement and drop-in playgroups. Educational programming focused on literacy and numeracy is also available. Parents can learn about their child's growth through a development check-up and query staff for practical tips on what to expect from

their child, and if need be, when and where to get help specific to their situation.

"It has been amazing to be able to bring ParentLink programs and services that are so close to my heart to families in Yellowhead County. I raised my kids packing them up and heading to town to attend ParentLink programs, so I am thrilled to be able to offer these programs closer to home for our residents." -Nicole Connolly, resident and ParentLink Coordinator

Stop by and see what ParentLink can do for you and your family!



Compass for the Caregivers

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY CARES FOR CAREGIVERS

Yellowhead County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) recognizes that often the well-being of caregivers can be overlooked. That's why FCSS has partnered with Caregivers Alberta to provide a workshop-based program that aims to improve or maintain the well-being of the caregivers. Caregivers are those who assist family members or friends with challenges resulting from illness, disability, or ageing.

Caregiving provides unique challenges and requires an aptitude for dealing with conflict and stress. As with any highly-demanding and often difficult profession, caregivers may find themselves discouraged and struggling with a number of issues. These include stress, anxiety, depression; difficult emotions such as grief, anger, frustration, and guilt; poorer physical health and lack of sleep; issues regarding employment and out-of-pocket costs; and lack of support and strained relationships—to name a few.

The Caregiver Orientation for Mobilizing Personal Assets and Strengths for Self-Care (COMPASS) workshop provides some modules meant to aid caregivers in their care journey and improve their wellbeing and mental health. COMPASS is developed and distributed by Caregivers Alberta, organizations dedicated to improving the well-being of caregivers across Alberta.

In the county, the workshop ran from this past September to mid-November. Though participants may feel hesi-

tant to speak at first, they are encouraged to open up in an empathetic environment of their peers.

"WHEN THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE COMPLETED THE NINE MODULES, YOU CAN TELL THAT A BURDEN—THE STRESS—HAS BEEN LIFTED. PARTICIPANTS BECOME MORE CONFIDENT AND ARE COMFORTABLE MAKING DECISIONS THAT THEY MAY HAVE AVOIDED BEFORE TAKING THE SESSIONS. ALL OF THESE SESSIONS ARE HELD IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT."

COMPASS FACILITATOR

Our COMPASS facilitator had this to say:

"When caregivers first come to the COMPASS sessions, participants face a lot of stress, guilt and fears, but as we go through the COMPASS modules, things seem to make sense and a lot of the participants say, 'Yes, that is so true!' This opens our group up to great conversations that every caregiver can learn from."

The workshop consists of 9 sessions that cover the caregiver's role, coping with guilt and emotion, balancing grief and hope, strengthening communication skills, supporting the self, managing stress, understanding services such as Caregivers Alberta, planning for the caregiving future, and a wrap-up overview of caregivers' successes and challenges. These sessions are designed to give caregivers the tools to cope with any variety of issues they may encounter in their

caregiving journey.

And the journey concludes to great effect, as our facilitator notes:

"When the participants have completed the nine modules, you can tell that a burden—the stress—has been lifted. Participants become more confident and are comfortable making decisions that they may have avoided before taking the sessions. All of these sessions are held in a safe environment, and a confidentiality agreement is signed. What is said in the room, stays in the room. These sessions are well worth taking, and we hope to run more COMPASS sessions in the spring of 2018."

These workshops empower caregivers by providing them with a non-judgmental space to discuss the challenges and concerns with other caregivers and an experienced workshop facilitator. The workshop facilitator is a trained volunteer with former caregiving experience who understands how stressful caregiving can be.



RELEARNING THE ABCS (AND DS) OF COMMUNITY

Yellowhead County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) department is increasingly focused on strengthening community ties within the County. FCSS knows the value of working together and lending a hand. Improving the community starts with cooperation—and cooperation can't be fostered if we don't know each other! That's why FCSS is introducing the Abundantly Yellowhead program.

Abundantly Yellowhead is a community-focused initiative that's meant to bring us closer together. To sustain and improve our communities, we have to build connections and create a shared vision. Those are all nice words, and most of us can agree to them, but how are we going to do that?

That's where we'll have to relearn our ABCDs. In a nutshell, Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is a decades-old method of figuring out a community's strengths and playing off of them to achieve community goals.

Abundantly Yellowhead will follow the ABCD method like this:

- 1. A group of individuals representing a community will come together to develop a community conversation to learn about residents' passions, skills, and vision for their community.**
- 2. Local connectors will have one-on-one conversations to learn residents' common strengths, values, and interests (known as assets).**
- 3. Relationships (including those with organizations or institutions) will flourish as community members find common ground and become aware of each other's strengths and skills.**
- 4. Those shared qualities will be directed towards goals that nurture the community or further improve solidarity among residents.**

With this rounded approach, a community's interests will be nurtured, relationships will develop, and local

businesses, organizations, and nonprofits will see increased opportunities to pursue their own interests.

It's a simple idea that goes a long way. When people learn about each other's strengths, interests, and capacities, it's easier for them to join together and form community relationships. The County's FCSS hopes that this organically fostered interest in community, combined with the interests of businesses and other organizations, will lead to strengthened community bonds. It's about putting the power to change communities in the hands of their residents.

So how does FCSS fit in? FCSS will provide grant funds for groups interested in developing their communities through the ABCD method. The grant funding will cover the cost of connectors, meetings and other activities that enhance learning about and sharing with your neighbours.

Stay tuned to Yellowhead County news to see if your community is taking part in the Abundantly Yellowhead initiative in the future!



GOOD NEIGHBOUR SNOW SHOVELLING PROGRAM

Clearing snow for those who cannot is a valued help; when access areas are kept clear, emergency responders and caregivers can have unimpeded access to those in need of aid. Moreover, it keeps all of us that much safer when there's no slippery ice or slush on our sidewalks, roads, and driveways.

Anyone can step-up and take part, including students, clubs, church and youth groups, and adults! Chances are, you have a neighbour that has difficulty with mobility. We encourage you to take part in the bond of community and to spread the spirit of goodwill that our communities were founded on.

And if you've known someone who's been an exceptionally gracious neigh-

bour, we encourage you to recognize them! You Good Neighbour can be recognized by filling out a Good Neighbour nomination form. The forms can be picked up from the Entwistle, Evansburg, Wildwood, and Niton Junction Libraries; the Yellowhead County Offices; and the grocery store in Peers.

When you nominate a neighbour, you'll get an "I Have a Good Neighbour!" sign, and your neighbour gets a chance to win prizes! After you fill out the form, your good neighbour will be eligible to win a backpack and two gift cards in our draw (held April 2, 2018). So please be kind to your neighbours this weekend—either by lending them a hand with clearing snow, or thanking them for their kindness with a nomination.

TEXT WITH 911

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY WANTS TO REMIND RESIDENTS OF THE TEXT WITH 911 PROGRAM, OR T911, AVAILABLE DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. T911 ALLOWS PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF, DEAFENED, HARD OF HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRED (DHH-SI) TO USE THEIR MOBILE PHONES FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION WITH 911 OPERATORS.

Importantly, before using this service, a DHH-SI person must register for T911 with their wireless carrier and may need to use an alternate device as not all devices currently support T911. You need to register for T911, or the service will not be available.

Users of T911 still must dial 9-1-1 to reach an operator; however, after dialing through, their mobile device will then prompt messages via text. Although the service is free to all County residents, it requires an active text messaging plan to work. As well, if a T911 user's cell phone number changes, they will have to re-register for T911. The service is also available to all users, not just DHH-SI persons, as a DHH-SI person may need to use a non-DHH-SI friend's or relative's phone during an emergency.

The T911 procedure is simple, though some key things are important to keep in mind. When making a T911 call, be sure to:

- 1. Have the cell phone unlocked (i.e. by entering your password or pressing the unlock button)**
- 2. Dial 9-1-1 and press CALL/SEND to place an emergency voice call.**

- 3. Watch your phone's display for confirmation that the call is connected.**
- 4. Monitor your text messages—at this point, you will receive a text from the 911 call centre. The text will belong to a 13-digit number, beginning with 5-5-5-9-1-1.**
- 5. Reply to the received text message, providing the operator with the requested information.**
- 6. Relay the nature of the emergency in a brief and concise text message.**
- 7. Avoid using slang or abbreviations to keep the dialogue clear.**
- 8. If you do not receive a reply to your text message, re-send the message.**
- 9. If possible, do not hang up the 911 voice call while texting. The audio can help the 911 operator assess the emergency situation better.**
- 10. T911 calls conclude with the message: "End of 9-1-1 Call."**

Users of T911 should keep in mind that the service will not work outside of their wireless carriers range. Although T911 users need to dial 9-1-1, they do not necessarily need to have a wireless calling plan. Dialing 9-1-1 in this instance is necessary because it establishes direct contact with the emergency call centre, provides the operator with the caller's phone number (to initiate texting) and location, and provides an audio channel to help the operator assess the emergency situation.

For more information, please visit www.textwith911.ca.



Focus on Fire

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY'S FIRE SERVICES IS EVER-EVOLVING TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. THE COUNTY'S FIRE DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING AHEAD: WE'RE CAMPAIGNING TO INCREASE OUR STAFF OF PAID-ON-CALL MEMBERS, RAISING SEVERAL NEW FIRE HALLS, AND EXPANDING THE CAPABILITIES OF OUR APPARATUS FLEET.

The goal of the Yellowhead County Fire Department (YCFD) is to serve you better—but this aim isn't without challenge. The YCFD is responding to an increasing number of calls. Before 2015, our departments responded to an average of around 300 calls yearly. In 2015, we responded to 520 incidents, and in 2016, our response jumped to 611 incidents.

As of October this year, the YCFD has responded to 570 incidents—and we're expecting our total number for the year to surpass the 2016 figure. As demand increases, the need for an improved, future-minded, and standardized fire service is imperative to making sure the County's residents are protected—after all, the County's nine fire halls are responsible for some 10,000 residents and 22,000 square kilometres of land.

And these numbers are telling—for one, our current members are stretched thin among their various duties. The job is rewarding, but equally challenging: paid-on-call members must juggle the maintenance, training, and response needs of their fire departments with the needs of their personal lives, including full-time jobs.

Paid-On-Call Volunteer Firefighters

This November, the County graduated nine paid-on-call recruits, and our total number of paid-on-call members continues to be over 100. Our members run the gamut in age, gender, and ethnic background, but each is passionate about their role in the fire department.

If you are interested in giving back to your community and being a part of a well-trained and highly motivated group of members, don't hesitate: call 780-723-4800, extension 8684, for more information or to put your application forward.



Apparatus Fleet Right-Sizing

In addition to increasing our fire services staff, part of our initiative includes fleet right-sizing, or the acquiring of vehicles that can serve in multiple roles. In previous years, the lack of fleet standardization meant that the County's numerous fire halls set out to acquire equipment with different roles and uses—leading to too many role-specific pieces of apparatus.

Now, the County is focused on acquiring multi-role pieces of apparatus: vehicles that can fulfil situation-specific tasks. In this case, one vehicle can meet emergency needs that may have required three different ones previously. In fact, the County recently acquired three new wide-use vehicles to replace seven old ones. Currently, our fleet consists of 31 pieces of apparatus.

The benefit of right-sizing is clear: Fewer vehicles need to be purchased and maintained, and fewer training hours are expected of staff. As well, fewer vehicles means more storage space available to house bigger pieces of equipment.



New Fire Halls

In that vein, it is important to mention why the County is raising two new fire halls in Evansburg and Wildwood. Our old halls were decades-old and severely lacking in space and service. The new halls are constructed with the future in mind—both are expected to serve a minimum lifespan of 50 years and provide increased services for members. Evansburg's fire hall has already been proudly welcomed by the community and is a testament to the County's service for our residents—it's state-of-the-art to ensure that our members are capable in a variety of emergency situations. The Wildwood fire hall, which somewhat mirrors the Evansburg hall's design, is slated to open in the spring of 2018.

Designed with member safety in mind, the new halls contain several mechanisms that facilitate decontamination of member gear. The aim is to lessen, if not completely remove, dangerous particles that could impact our members' health.

Additionally, the new halls offer dedicated in-house laundry, as well as living, training, and eating quarters for members. The space can be used to house firefighters as well as peace officers and ambulance workers for an encompassing emergency service. The hall is also supported by a backup generator in case of power outage.

More bay space has been allocated for the new pieces of sizable apparatus, such as our modern ladder trucks (which the former Wildwood and Evansburg halls were incapable of housing). Wildwood's fire hall will also include a museum section, which will house an antique County fire truck alongside numerous other pieces of now-retired firefighting gear. The showcase of legacy fire equipment will be a tribute to Yellowhead County's remarkable fire services heritage.

Antique Restoration

The antique museum-piece fire truck to be housed in Wildwood's upcoming hall is in need of restoration. When all of Yellowhead County's fire halls were consolidated into the YCFD, this fire truck was slated for retirement. Wildwood's former members approached the County to purchase the truck so that its legacy could be preserved to showcase the County's proud fire services heritage.

Recently, the County's fire department had this antique showpiece assessed to better understand the cost of restoration. As the cost is significant, the antique fire truck will be restored section by section. We encourage the community to donate towards the vehicle's restoration, and we will continue to fundraise in the future. As donations come in, the truck will be restored piecemeal so that it can be returned to its former glory.



72 Hour Emergency Preparedness Kits Available Through the County

Are you prepared for an emergency? Something that might last more than a day and require you to evacuate or stay at home without power or water?

Families are advised to have in place an emergency kit that would allow your household to manage for up to 72 hours on their own. Many lists are available online detailing the best items to have in your kit, but Yellowhead County also has kits for 2 or 4 person households to purchase, simplifying the matter and providing an instant solution.

The kits contain:

- **emergency rations
(3 days worth for 2 or 4 people)**
- **first aid kit**
- **water purification tablets,**
- **10 liter water container**
- **flashlight with AM/FM radio
(solar powered or hand crank)**
- **ponchos**
- **reflective vests**
- **Mylar sleeping bags**
- **40 hour candle**
- **multi-function tool**
- **waterproof matches**
- **and more**

A limited number of kits have are being sold, available for pick up, at the County Community Services office in Wildwood, for \$160.00 for a two-person kit, or \$185 for a four-person kit. You can stop in at the office in Wildwood to purchase a kit, or arrange to pick one up from the County office in Edson after November 15, 2017.

For more information, details on specific items in the kit, or to pre-purchase one, please contact the FCSS department at 780-325-3782, or 1-800-814-3935.

THE PINE BEETLE APP

Mountain pine beetle (MPB) is spreading east, threatening vast areas of Canadian forests. Knowing where infestations are is key to managing the problem. This app was developed by fRI Research as a quick and simple way for people to report the presence of mountain pine beetle. The data collected will inform management actions and support

www.pinebeetleapp.ca

Feel free to contact Yellowhead County's Chief Administrative Officer or Directors with questions, concerns or comments.

Jack Ramme

– Chief Administrative Officer

Albert Bahri

– Director of Protective Services

Barb Lyons

– Director of Corporate and Planning Services

Christopher Read

– Director of Community Services

Don O'Quinn

– Director of Infrastructure Services

Yellowhead County

780-723-4800

1-800-665-6030

Fax: 780-723-5066

Office Locations

[Edson Office \(Main\)](#)

2716 - 1st Avenue

Edson, AB T7E 1N9

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wildwood Office

53404 Rge Rd 92A

Wildwood, AB

**After-Hours Emergency
Utilities, Bylaw, Transportation: 780-723-3221**

Visit www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

