

Volunteers Bring Changes to Peers Recreation

Over the past year there's been plenty of activity in and around Peers, from the new recreation facility in the works to the efforts of the many community volunteers at the McLeod Valley Recreation Grounds.

Various projects range from county-led initiatives such as the soon-to-be-constructed Peers Recreation Facility (PRF) to the community-driven renovations at the baseball diamonds.

Peers-area resident Therese Thompkins is the face of the many volunteers who've been working tirelessly to keep their hamlet and area a vibrant, community-minded place to live in. Her face and name began reoccurring as the PRF started taking shape. She attended council meetings and public input sessions as decisions were made on what to incorporate into the new facility. The PRF will serve to enhance the community and provide a space to be utilized by the many residents and community groups in the hamlet and surrounding areas.

of funding for the baseball diamonds was the Gold Dust Daze baseball tournament, which includes just under 20 participating teams.

At this year's tournament, about half of the teams donated their prize money straight back towards the work being done to renovate the ball diamonds. This included the winning team donating their prize money, which increased the renovation funds by another \$2,200. Thompkins points out that this was self-initiated by each team. "We don't ask. It's just something they do."

In addition to the prize money and funding from Yellowhead County and a CFEP (Community Facility Enhancement Program), several local businesses have taken this opportunity to contribute to their community. Thompkins says there's a big



Local Peers Area Volunteer
Therese Thompkins

in the spring, and they'll be looking for volunteers again. Thompkins points out that people can help out in many ways. "One lady just cooked us lunches. All of it helps."

Bus to Swim Program

The Bus to Swim program has been offered to residents of Peers, Fulham, Rosevear, Pioneer, Pinedale and Wolf Creek since 1974. This program provides free bussing to youth and children who want to enhance their swimming skills. The program takes place over the summer months and provides free transportation to the Green Grove Pool for anyone wanting to take swimming lessons. Participants only need to cover the cost of the lessons.

Thompkins says this program, managed by Betty-Lou Gray, is a "good partnership between parents, the county and the community group." The Peers & District Curling & Recreation Club received \$2,000 from Yellowhead County in Program & Event Grant funding to assist with this program.

Hitting the Broom

Although a long time in the works, the efforts put in by community members for a new Peers curling rink and community facility are that much closer to bearing fruit. Earlier this year, council approved hiring a contractor for the construction of the PRF, but prior to that step there was a lot of background work that had been done, including building plans and public input sessions with the community.

R.C. Strategies, the company hired for the development of the building, has done projects in the area before, so they had a prior appreciation for recreation in the area as well as throughout the county. The company's preliminary plans took into

account not only the curling rinks for the new building, but also additional functions to keep the building relevant to the needs of this active community now and into the future, with a design flexible enough that additions can be made if needed. These considerations were based on numerous factors, including a Peers Community Facility Feasibility Study, direction from the Yellowhead County Recreation Board, a Recreation Review conducted by the



county in 2006, overall regional priorities and public input from the community. Initial construction work has started on the new site, located in the centre of Peers, with completion scheduled for July 2014.

The facility will be able to host community events and meetings, and will be a central area where Peers and area residents can take part in curling on a regular basis. "The new building will be open and bright," says Thompkins. "It'll be a lot more room than we've ever had."



Hitting a Home Run

Besides all the volunteer work done by community members, there's been significant support from the community in financial contributions, as well. One source

display board in the works that will highlight all the contributors that have helped renovate the McLeod Valley Recreation Grounds.

The work being done will continue again

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NEW FOUR YEAR TERM 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 Soroka is returning for his third term as Mayor and previous to that he was councillor of Division 1 for one term.

Besides being Mayor he is an agricultural producer in the northeast corner of the County. Along with his brother Pat, they operate a grain farm that their grandparents established in May of 1930.



Sandra Cherniawsky
Div.1 - Evansburg & Area

Sandra has lived north of Evansburg for 9 years helping operate two family-owned oilfield businesses.

She has served as a 2-term Vegreville Library board member, volunteered for Santa's Anonymous, and as a Evansburg Girl Guide Leader for 2 years.

She majored in business communications and has worked in the media; as a business manager; and in administration with Alberta Children Services.



Anthony Giezen
Div.2 - Wildwood & Area

Anthony Giezen, a life-long resident of the County, lives with his family on the farm his parents homesteaded in 1967. Giezen is involved in forestry and farming and served on a local advisory committee building communications between forestry, individuals, industry, and government.

He is a member of the Cold Creek Sawmillers and Loggers Association and Ravine Community Association and enjoys fishing, hunting, the outdoors, and slo-pitch.



Fred Priestley-Wright
Div.3 - Niton Junction, Carrot Creek and Area

Fred Priestley-Wright is returning for a second term as his division representative, but had also served as a county councillor for 12 years previously.

He has been involved in numerous agriculture organizations, as well as having worked with the oil and gas industry and forestry industry.

Priestley-Wright has owned businesses in both cattle operations and the oil and gas industry.



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

Russell has diverse experience in oil and gas, agriculture and forestry. He and his wife have a small farm at Shiningbank Lake where they raised their family of four children and now enjoy visits from their grandchildren.

Returning for a second term, Russell previously sat on the Edson & District Recycle Society, Notice Appeal Board, and the Yellowhead Recreation Board representing Yellowhead County.



Shawn Berry
Div.5 - Wolf Creek/Pindale Area

Living in the County for 14 years, Berry is returning for a 2nd term on Council where he sat on the Heritage Advisory Board, Edson & District Historical Society, Community Futures West Yellowhead, as well as numerous boards and committees in the region over many years.

Married for 44 years, he is the father of two married sons and grandfather of 4, and has been self-employed for the last 34 years.

DUTIES OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL

HEARING AND UNDERSTANDING THE PUBLIC

Each and every council is expected to reflect the will of its public in its decisions. While it is not possible to be absolutely certain that every decision made by a council is a reflection of the public will, it is hoped that if the council is a reasonable representation of a broad cross-section of public opinion, its decisions will similarly reflect those same people.

As the new Council steps into its role to represent the residents of Yellowhead County, its service to the community Council has many challenges; including a commitment to transparent government, respecting opposing views, having a clear and understanding of their new role, and hearing and understanding the public they represent.

Regular Council Meetings are regularly scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.*
Committee of the whole meetings are the third Monday of each month.*
Meetings are at the yellowhead county administration office in Edson and begin at 9:30 AM.*

*UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

Council Responsibilities

The general duties of Councillors and the Mayor are stated in the Municipal Government Act (sections 153, 154) as follows:

- To consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality;
- To participate generally in developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality;
- To participate in council meetings and council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed by the council;
- To obtain information about the operation or administration of the municipality from the chief administrative officer or a person designated by the chief administrative officer;
- To keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a council or council committee meeting until discussed at a meeting held in public;
- To perform any other duty or function imposed on councillors by this or any other enactment or by the council.

Snow removal on sidewalks

Residents are reminded to remove and clear away all snow and ice from their sidewalks.

Everyone needs to do their part to keep neighbourhood sidewalks clear.

Residents are responsible for clearing any snow and ice that falls on a sidewalk adjacent to their residence within 24 hours after the snow or ice has accumulated.



SNOW CLEARING OFF ROADWAYS

Snow piles can freeze and cause damage and injury to passing vehicles and snowplows and graders.

When clearing snow off your driveway please make sure that snow being moved is not left on any roadways. The snow piles must be moved all the way off the road and into ditches and right of ways.

Snow Removal Policy for County Roads

Yellowhead County's Snow Removal policy specifies expectations and requirement for snow and ice removal on Yellowhead County roads and access routes. The policy was created to better manage Yellowhead County snow removal resources in order to have all snow removed from County roads within 4 days after the end of any significant snowstorm.

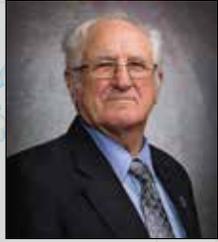
Road priorities for snow and ice removal by graders and snowplows. Snow and ice clearing will be carried out based on the following order of priorities:

Graders

1. Gravel collector roads
2. Gravel local roads
3. Hamlets
4. Fire hall accesses
5. Approaches to private driveways
6. Community facilities (halls/arenas)

Plow Trucks:

1. Paved collector roads
2. Paved local roads & subdivisions
3. Hamlets



Bill Velichko
Div.6 - Edson Area

Bill Velichko, who has lived in the area since 1946, has been a Yellowhead County and I.D. councillor previously, as well as a member of the Pioneer Community Association, where he has served as president.

Having been a truck and school bus owner and operator, he has used his bus to drive community groups to functions locally and throughout western Canada on a volunteer basis. He also has farmed and operated road building equipment.



Dawn Mitchell
Div.7 - Edson West

Mitchell, who is serving her first term representing Edson West, 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 Edson, the West Yellowhead Regional Waste Management Authority, the Edson and District Recreation Society, and the Edson and District Recycling Society.

Her background is in accounting and correctional services.



Jack Williams
Div.8 - Robb, Cadomin, Brule, and Hinton Area

Jack Williams, who has lived in the county about 36 years, has served on boards including health, recreation, tourism, development, and media, where he was on the executive committee for the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

Employment for Williams has always focused on working with people; HR manager, Marketing manager, and Constituency manager. His photography, graphic arts and cartoons have been published in various media.

MANAGER OF TRANSPORTATION

Earlier this year the county welcomed Len Racher as the new Manager of Transportation. The new position was created as a result of a transportation audit that was conducted for the County in 2012. The independent study took a critical look at policies, practices, and planning for the county's transportation department. The department manages the county's 2,300 kilometres of paved and gravel roads.

ranged from Wembley to the B.C. border. Before working in municipal government, Racher owned and operated a construction company for grader and backhoe operations.



The Manager of Transportation is responsible for managing, directing, coordinating and supervising the delivery of operational services for Yellowhead County transportation infrastructure. These services include roadways (gravel, oiled & paved), bridge structures and drainage systems. This position oversees a staff of over 30 full-time, part-time, and contract staff, and an operational budget of \$6 million.

The report looked at current practices, interviewed staff and council, and looked at municipalities of similar sizes for comparison. The new position was a specific recommendation that the county adopted from the report.

Racher comes to the County from the Municipal District of Big Lakes in northern Alberta where he was the Superintendent of Public Works. Prior to that, Racher worked for the County of Grande Prairie as the county's West Side Public Works supervisor - an area that

ROAD MAINTENANCE

GENERAL SUMMARY OF ROAD MAINTENANCE – STANDARDS, POLICIES, AND OPERATIONS:

One of the main infrastructure priorities is the maintenance of the County's approximately 2,300 km of roads, which range from gravel to pavement. The County maintains major arterial roads, collector roads, local roads, hall parking lots, approaches, and hamlet roads.

Vegetation Management Plan

Road maintenance in Yellowhead County happens continuously throughout the year, and includes more than snowplowing and grading as it begins to get colder. The best time for getting the county's brushing program into full swing is when everything starts to freeze.

Brushing Program

The county started its Roadside Vegetation Management Plan in 2012, beginning a three-year intensive roadside brushing program. The program lays the foundation for more effective management of county roads, resulting in better road drainage, increased public safety and reduced costs for road maintenance and roadside vegetation control. Newly mulched areas are sprayed the following year to limit regrowth. After the initial phases of the project, all roadsides will then be mowed each year and right-of-ways will be mowed every three years.

According to Len Racher, Yellowhead County's new manager of Transportation, two factors make it easier to get the brushing of roadside growth done when temperatures start dipping below the freezing mark: "The ditches are frozen; materials [brush, small trees, and undergrowth] break easier and are easier to manage at this time of the year. It's more efficient to brush in freezing conditions."

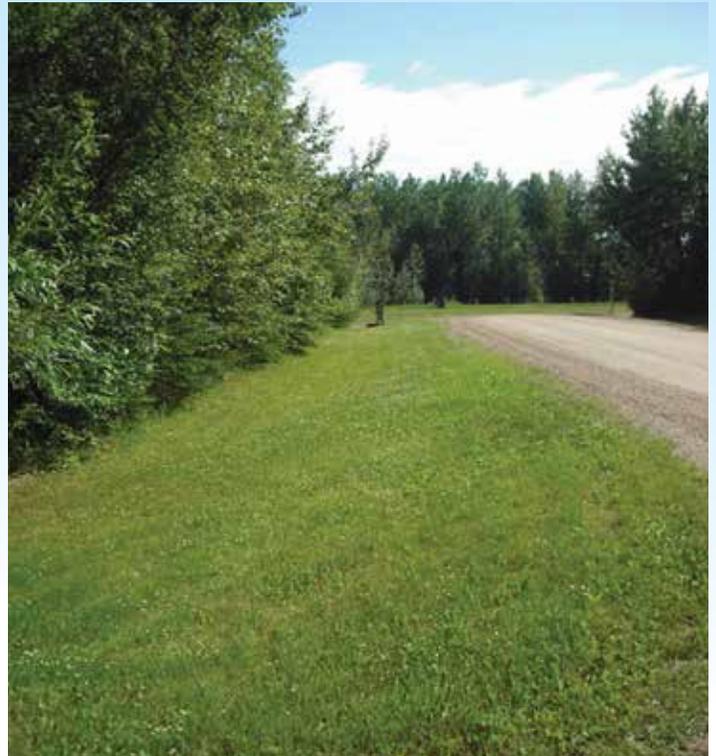
Working in wet shoulders and ditches can really slow down work, and there's more likely to be damage to the ditches from the brushing equipment before freeze-up when the ground is still muddy and soft. When it's frozen, the brush can also be knocked down, broken into manageable sizes and removed more easily. According to Racher, the process of getting ditches and shoulders that are easier to maintain is pretty straightforward and efficient if done properly. "We knock down the big stuff. Burn it in the winter. Ag [Agricultural Services] comes in to spray it. And mowers take over to control the growth."

Although the initial costs for the brushing program are significant, the long-term maintenance is relatively low, and costs for road maintenance are greatly reduced. The program reduces daily operations and cuts down on regular operational costs for both gravel and staff hours.

"The purpose is to get sunlight in and dry the roads. Roads heal quicker in the spring, and gravelling lasts longer on roads that are drier," points out Racher. "We don't have to gravel as much."

There's also an enhanced safety factor that comes from the county's brushing program. Roads that have been brushed properly are considerably safer: in addition to being better-maintained, which helps with vehicle traction and braking efficiency, there is more visibility and open area between the road and treed areas, allowing drivers to more easily spot wildlife that may be crossing the road.

This year's brushing program will last for a couple of months or until the snow gets too deep to properly work in.



BRUSH LEFT TO GROW ALONG ROADSIDES POSES VARIOUS PROBLEMS:

1. The obstruction of visibility along roadsides and intersections creating a situation which allows wildlife to jump onto the roadway unseen.
2. Roads tend to retain moisture longer requiring more maintenance.
3. Brush can pose a serious fire hazard and it creates snow removal and dust trap problems.

Roadside Vegetation Control

Yellowhead County's Agricultural Service Department is committed to cleaning up the various species of weeds and encroaching brush on their municipal road right-of-ways and lands. Over the past three years the Yellowhead County Roadside Vegetation Control team has adopted a three year rotation throughout the County. They have treated in excess of 1000 kilometers of roadsides per season with two injection spray trucks, a Kabota UTV and Honda ATV. All spray applications are GPS tracked so that staff can monitor progress, avoid sensitive areas and minimize misapplications.

Each year the team starts in a new area, working east to west or west to east, to target the invasive species and encroaching brush at a different time of each year to maximize the programs efficacy.

Roadside Vegetation Management Program

County Agriculture Department will be spraying roadsides in the county starting early May and will continue until mid/late September, depending on weather conditions and length of growing season. Spot herbicide applications and other integrated management practices will be used throughout the County to control weeds and brush species. Basal bark treatments are used throughout October and November specific to brush control.

Spraying of roadsides is done to control the spread of prohibited noxious and noxious weeds and re-growth of small brush. Most weed species are very prolific seed producers and can produce as many as 300,000 seeds per plant. These seeds can then germinate the following growing season or lay dormant in the soil for a number of years until growing conditions are favorable for germination. Many deep rooted perennials spread via the root system, therefore a single plant left alone can result in a heavy infestation in a relatively short period of time.

Landowners and residents who do not want herbicide sprayed adjacent to their property have the option to sign a no-spray agreement with the county. Yellowhead County requires each landowner/occupant who has signed the agreement to fulfill their obligations before the July 15 deadline. After the July 15 deadline, Yellowhead County re-assumes responsibility for weed/brush control on Yellowhead County roadsides.

Residents who have any concerns or questions with respect to the spraying of roadsides in their area are urged to contact the Agricultural Department at 1-800-814-3935 or (780) 325-3782.

The herbicides used include (Lontrel – PCP # 23545, Garlon XRT – PCP # 28945, Garlon RTU- PCP # 29334, ClearView- PCP # 29752, Escort – PCP #23005, Tordon 101 – PCP #9007, 2,4-D Amine - PCP# 14726 and Milestone – PCP # 28137) as these products are best suited for Yellowhead County's Management Plan. Some of these herbicides have residual characteristics so ratepayers should not be using roadside soil in their gardens.

WEED INFESTATIONS CAN INVADE AND BECOME THE DOMINANT PLANT SPECIES ON ANY GIVEN PARCEL OF LAND CAUSING A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS SUCH AS:

- Limiting light and moisture availability to cereal and hay crops thus reducing yields and resulting in dockage.
- Posing a serious environmental threat to native vegetation and habitats in sensitive areas because of their competitive nature.
- They are expensive to control for adjacent land owners who are subject to their spread.
- They are responsible for livestock poisoning.
- They obstruct visibility along roadsides and intersections.

Current Road Projects

Niton North Road

The Niton North Road is currently being upgraded to allow for future paving. This stretch of road, that includes sections of Township Road 551 and Range Road 130, will remain a gravel surface until future budgets allow for paving.

The re-construction will provide increased safety, and future paving through the current road widening, grading and alignment upgrades.

Niton North Road was not scheduled to begin this year, but because of other road projects not going forward as originally scheduled, the funds from those projects have been transferred to the Niton North Road, allowing the County's road network program to continue and not be held up.

Construction is being put on hold over the winter due to lower temperatures that limit what work can be done on site. Currently 9 kilometres of the 14 kilometres of re-construction have been completed.

This project is scheduled to be completed mid-summer 2014. The county will continue regular maintenance on the road during this time, with the contractor responsible for any non-regular maintenance or repairs until the work is fully completed.



Future Highway 947

While some of the work for the paving of Highway 947 will be put on hold until the spring when conditions are more favourable for road construction, the colder winter weather will be more conducive for building a proper base over a section of the new road that goes over a muskeg area that would be difficult to build during warmer weather.

This new paved section of Range Road 183 is being constructed to connect Highway 16 to the Grande Prairie Trail (Range Road 540) and is anticipated to be the first part of a paved provincial highway (Highway 947) that would run north to Highway 43 near Fox Creek. Currently 2.3 of the 6.4 km for the County's portion of this project has been done with the remaining 4.1 km scheduled to be completed in 2014.

School Bus Routes

During construction of new road projects, contractors work closely with the school division to alleviate any bussing issues that could occur due to the construction. Residents are encouraged to contact the school division and Yellowhead County with any bussing issues or concerns that stem from any road projects.

Robb

Yellowhead County has eight fantastic hamlets to explore, each with its own unique attributes. In our newsletters we're featuring each hamlet and showcasing all the great things to see and do there.



How to get there:

Robb is located in the heart of the "Coal Branch", approximately 60 km southwest of Edson and 52 km south-east of Hinton along the Embarras River. Highway No. 47 runs along the west boundary of the Hamlet and is accessed at two locations in Upper Robb and at one location in Mile 34.



This beautiful little hamlet is settled comfortably among the hills and trees along the Embarras River in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Robb is one of two remaining communities in the Coal Branch and is associated with forestry and coal mining. Over time, Robb has become home to those who remain working in the Coal Branch and those who wish to enjoy the rustic environment of the hamlet, either seasonally or throughout the year.

In Robb you can access food and lodging. There is a hotel, restaurant, and bed and breakfast. The hotel has some full service RV hook-ups. There is also plenty of basic camping in the surrounding area.

As an old mining town in the Coal Branch, many of the old mine buildings from the town of Robb and other communities along the coal branch, are still located in Robb. There are over 100 dwellings in Robb, with three quarters occupied by permanent residents and one quarter owned by seasonal residents.

History

The area in which Robb is located has had a long and colourful history. One of the remaining communities of the area known as the Coal Branch, Robb is associated with a unique history where extensive mining occurred from the 1900's to the 1950's.

Robb is home to the Bryan Hotel, the only business that started in the Coal Branch's 'early days' and is still running today. The Bryan Hotel was established in the 1940s as a boarding house of the local Bryan Mountain Mine. The Bryan Hotel is a three storey commercial building and hotel with a restaurant, liquor store and two upper floors consisting of nine hotel rooms.

Recreation

Future growth in Robb will likely be closely linked with the growth in tourism and recreation related activities possible in the Coal Branch area. Robb is strategically located to serve as a staging area for the various recreational activities for which the Coal



Branch is well suited and becoming very well known. Whether it be summer or winter, the beauty of the trail is always there and ready for use.

Robb is an excellent spot for snowmobiling in the winter and quadding during the rest of the year. This is the back country of Alberta. You can camp in lots of areas and then just explore from there. South of Robb is the Forestry Truck Road by which you can access more of the back country, rivers and lakes. The best thing to do is pick up the Forest Management Area Recreation and Activities Map that provides a detailed introduction to the area.

Snowmobiling

With the hilly slopes and dense forest in Yellowhead County, snowmobiling is truly at its best. The Lovett River Snowmobile Staging Area south of Robb on Highway 40 is the start of more than 1000 km of ungraded trails.

Quadding

Yellowhead County boasts some of the best off road trails in the province. Robb hosts the annual ATV Poker Rally on a Saturday in mid-May with over 400 machines participating. At the Gregg Cabin site there is plenty of access to ATV trails.

Community Services/Facilities, Trails, Open Space and Recreation

There are ball diamonds, the Robb Multiplex community hall and curling rink, children's playground, outdoor skating rink, fire hall and elaborate informal trail system that are well used by the residents of Robb.

Industry

Located near Robb are the Hanlan Robb Gas Plant and the Sherritt Coal Valley mine that both employ residents from the nearby area and Edson. Coal Valley mine is located approximately 20 km south-east of the hamlet. In operation since 1978, the mine sells the majority of its production on the world export market. The Hanlan Robb Gas Plant, situated about 12 kms east of the hamlet, is one of Suncor's larger company-operated sour gas processing facilities.

Agricultural Services 2014 Programs & Events

January

Property Leasing Agreement and Clubroot Workshop - This workshop will inform landowners of the importance on writing a lease agreement and the types of things that should be covered in an agreement. An expert on Clubroot will also be in to talk about what it is and how to prevent its spread.

February

Working Well - A free water well management workshop "Find out what you can do to protect your well"

Farm Safety and First aid (Green Certificate) - This workshop will provide High School students with Level A CPR & AED training and the potential for an introduction to the Green Certificate Program and High School credits.

March

Green Acreages - A free workshop that will provide information to acreage owners who want to manage their property in a way that protects their investment and protects the environment.

Composting Workshop - Composting is a fun and easy way to recycle your household waste. Agricultural Services is offering a workshop on Backyard Composting that will be geared towards landowners and residents who have an interest in starting their own compost, or would like more information or a refresher on composting in general.

* Exact dates, times, and locations for these workshops will be advertised one month in advance to when the workshop will be held.

April

Invasive weed and Herbicide Information - This will be a free workshop that will focus on Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds of concern in Yellowhead County. Different options for controlling these weeds will also be discussed including different types of herbicides available for purchase by both farmers and land owners. Those who attend will also receive a coupon for the Clean an Acre program which entitles you to a Backpack mixed with free herbicide.

May

Gardening Workshop / Plant Exchange- Gardening tips and techniques will be discussed, along with greenhouse construction. An informal plant exchange will also occur, "If you have a plant you would like to bring in and trade for something new here is your opportunity!"

June

Pond Days - A whole day dedicated to Grade 4 and 5 students in Yellowhead County. Students will learn about a wide variety of things from water quality and aquatic insects to Plant ID and Wildlife Habitats. This all day event is held at Chip Lake Park.

July

County Pride Garden Tour - Yellowhead County has many beautiful farms, acreages and hamlet yards. This contest was started in 2004 to showcase these properties and recognize the hard work many people do to make their space a more beautiful place to live. Nominate someone you know with a beautiful yard that deserves to be showcased.

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

COUNTY FENCE LINE PROGRAM

Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Board has approved a Fence Line Program 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.

The Fence Line Program will allow Yellowhead County owned vehicles and equipment to enter the private land and apply herbicide from the fence line to the County Right of Way. This programs will help Yellowhead County control weeds and brush without the chances of an over spray onto private land where sensitive crops or trees may be. Herbicide will only be applied to County owned land and not onto the private land; exceptions are made for fields used for agricultural purposes where landowners may choose to have the four foot strip from the fence line to their crop sprayed that larger spray equipment or cultivators tends to miss.

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.

This program will be completed on a first come first served basis and at no charge to landowners. Yellowhead County has added the Fence Line Program to enhance services to the residents of Yellowhead County in addition to the existing Roadside Vegetation Management Plan.

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



CLEAN AN ACRE PROGRAM

Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Board has approved "Clean an Acre" Program to control Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds on private properties that have been inspected by Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Weed Inspection staff.

This program will give Yellowhead County residents who have received a Weed Inspection this year the opportunity to become familiar with selected herbicides and the use of backpack sprayers. Landowners will be given a coupon for a pre mixed backpack of herbicide with their weed information package and compliance letter. All inspected landowners will be given one coupon regardless of the amount of land owned. Herbicide will be selected based on the weed inspection report. The landowner can make an appointment with the Agricultural Services staff in Wildwood and after a short demon-

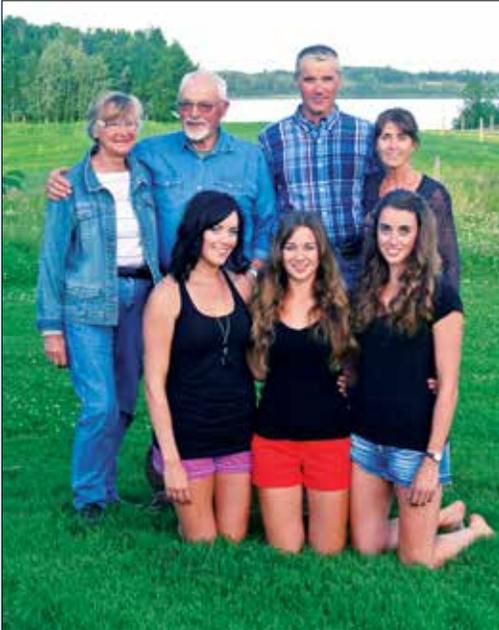
stration on calibration, product information and herbicide safety will receive a backpack sprayer with the mixed product and safety equipment to take home. The landowner will be asked to sign a release acknowledging the training they have received and will be asked to return the backpack upon completion of application. This program will be offered on a first come first served basis to landowners who have had weed inspections done on their property in the 2014 season at no charge.

The County has added the "Clean an Acre" Program to enhance services to the residents of Yellowhead County in addition to the existing Weed Inspection Program. Agricultural Services staff hopes that this program will offer residents the opportunity to learn more about herbicides, application methods and safe use of herbicides.* Due to land size and usage some restrictions may apply.

Please contact Yellowhead County Agriculture Services in Wildwood to register for the "Clean an Acre" Program 1800-814-3935.

FARM FAMILY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BREMMEKAMP FAMILY OF SHININGBANK ON THEIR ATB AGRICULTURE FARM FAMILY AWARD!



The Bremmekamps were joined by Mayor Soroka and other recipients and dignitaries from around the province as they received the award and a customized farm sign.

This annual award recognizes outstanding families from northern and central

Alberta who best represent the values of the family farm within their rural communities and society in general.

The Bremmekamps won for their purebred cow and calf farm and their extensive participation in the community and agriculture. Their family

has been actively involved in numerous local agriculture and community groups over the years, including the Peers 4-H club, Peers Agricultural Society, the local Food Bank, the Yellowhead County Recreation Board and more.

For 45 years the AMA Farm Family Awards have been presented to Albertan farm families to formally recognize them for both their agricultural commitment and community involvement.

“We are very proud to have a Yellowhead County family receive the AMA Farm Family Award this year,” states Yellowhead County Mayor Gerald Soroka. “It’s great to see a family that is so active in not only the local farming and agricultural community but in so many aspects of community life. This recognition is something they should be really proud of.”

Since 1968, many well-deserving families in Yellowhead County have been nominated and recognized for their achievements by this highly regarded award. According to the Northlands website, the AMA Farm Family Awards are given to families that contribute to the further growth of the agricultural community. “It’s great to see this way of life passed on to future generations who are able to introduce new agricultural and technological practices to their family farms,” says Jennifer Benson, Yellowhead County Agricultural Services supervisor.

The winners of the annual AMA Farm Family Awards were nominated by the Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Board and selected by the Agricultural Service Boards north of Red Deer, based on a review of their farming expertise and community involvement.

“On behalf of the Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Board and Yellowhead County Council and staff,” says Soroka, “I would like to congratulate and thank the Bremmekamps for all they have contributed to both the agricultural community in Yellowhead County and to the community as a whole.”

The family representatives were presented with their award at Northlands in Edmonton on Nov. 6, 2013, at the ATB Agriculture Farm Family Awards ceremony.



LEADERS IN THE INDUSTRY.

The Farm Family should...

- Increase awareness of agriculture and maintain a high standard in their agriculture business.
- Promote the agricultural community through involvement and rural citizenship.
- Be proactive in new agricultural technologies.
- Act as a role model to the rural community.

Junior Forest Rangers Not Your Normal Summer Job!



With the short winter days now upon us there are numerous Alberta youth from around the province remembering the long, sun-soaked days they spent as Junior Forest Rangers this past summer.

With a busy schedule that started at 6:15 a.m. and had them doing forestry-related work and other activities throughout the day, not slowing down until 10 each night, the participants in the JFR program had a very busy and active summer.

The seven-week summer work experience program allows participants to explore career paths in forestry, natural resource management and earth sciences.

This year, several of the JFRs stationed in Hinton were busy at work helping to enhance several areas in Yellowhead County.

Some of the work they did included maintenance at Yellowhead County's Jerry Vanderwell Memorial Park north of Peers where the JFR crew spent a few days doing trail maintenance including mulching, rebuilding, and reinforcing the trails, and re-decking the foot bridge that crosses the creek.

At Mountain Park Cemetery near Cadomin they were busy doing general maintenance including brushing, painting, re-fencing, and trail repair.



JUNIOR FOREST RANGERS BULL OF THE WOODS

The Bull of the Woods two-day event at the Cold Creek Fire Base near MacKay, south of the Nojack Hotel is the culmination of the JFRs' summer experience. During these two days all the JFR and Aboriginal JFR crews from across the province get together to share in a unique event where they have the chance to show off the skills they've acquired from the program.

It's also an opportunity for these students to get together and share their stories and thoughts on the program. The Bull of the Woods competition, which has been running since 1985, has showcased over 2,000 crew members in various skill-testing events.

On the first day of the event, the JFRs set up camp and the Aboriginal crews share various parts of their culture with other crew members, visitors and guests. Activities typically include making bannock, building teepees, and traditional dancing and drumming. Day 2 includes the competition from which the event gets its name, involving forestry-related contests such as blindfolded tent setup, fire building, accuracy chopping, first aid, and plant identification and other wilderness trivia.

A special tree planting ceremony at this year's Bull of the Woods competition marked the United Nations International Year of the Forests, Parks Canada's Centennial celebration and the Alberta JFRs' 46th year of success.



X-COUNTRY SKIING IN THE COUNTY



THE MUSKEG FLYERS HAVE PURCHASED A NEW SNOWMOBILE FOR TRAIL GROOMING AT HORNBECK WITH YELLOWHEAD COUNTY'S OUTDOOR AMENITY CAPITAL ASSISTANCE GRANT COVERING HALF THE COST.

The 25 km of cross country ski trails in the Hornbeck Cross Country Skiing Forest Recreation Area are maintained by volunteers of the Muskeg Flyers Nordic Ski Club, and supported by donations from a group of stakeholders including Yellowhead County, the Town of Edson, Hinton Wood Products, Crocotta Energy, Talisman Energy, Edson Forest Products, Weyerhaeuser, TransCanada Pipelines and Suncor. The area is open to the public for non-motorized recreation free of charge.

Ski packages for youth are available for rent thanks to a Yellowhead County recreation grant. The Children's Ski Program will be offered in January and February. Contact Steve Bradbury or Lisa Wilkinson (780-712-6313) for information.

The annual Mooseheart Loppet will be held at the Hornbeck Trails on Saturday, March 1st. Registration opens at 9 am, with the mass start at 11 am. Contact Ralph Rix (780-723-5145) for information.

Members of the Muskeg Flyers will be offering free tea and cookies to all visitors to the Hornbeck Trails on Sunday afternoons in January and February.

For information about the Muskeg Flyers Nordic Ski Club, about the Hornbeck Trails or about cross country skiing in the area, contact Barbara Prescott or Marsh Hoke at 780-723-2460.



ICE FISHING IN THE COUNTY

Once you start getting in there exploring the area and talking to local fishermen you'll quickly learn there's a great range of types of fishing within Yellowhead County.

Please refer to Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations for information regarding catch limits, bait bans and, seasonal closures. This free publication can be obtained at numerous locations including your district Fish and Wildlife offices or online at www.albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs

• Gregg Lake	Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish	• Grande Cache Lake	Rainbow Trout
• Jarvis Lake	Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish	• Pit Lakes (24, 35, 45)*	Rainbow Trout
• Shiningbank Lake	Northern Pike, Walleye**, Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch	• Silkstone*	Rainbow Trout
• Fickle Lake	Northern Pike, Walleye**, Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch	• Lovett Lake*	Rainbow Trout
• Long Lake	Northern Pike, Yellow Perch	• Mary Gregg Lake*	Rainbow Trout
• Bear Lake	Northern Pike	• Kinky Lake	Brook Trout
• Wolf Lake	Northern Pike	• Dunn Lake	Brook Trout
• Minnow Lake	Northern Pike	• Muskiki Lake	Brook Trout, Cutthroat Trout
• Obed Lake	Yellow Perch, Brown Trout	• Thunder Lake	Brook Trout
• Millers Lake	Rainbow Trout	• Victor Lake	Brook Trout
• Wildhorse 1	Rainbow Trout	• Pierre Greys Lakes (1 of 3)	Brook Trout
• Fairfax Lake	Rainbow Trout	• Wildhorse Lake II*	Brook Trout
• Petite Lake	Rainbow Trout		
• Pierre Greys Lakes (2 of 3)	Rainbow Trout		

* walk in access only

** Walleye are Catch and Release Only



PLEASE USE CAUTION WHEN GOING ON ICE

The LIFESAVING SOCIETY recommends these Ice Smart Safety Tips:

1. Measure ice thickness in several locations.
2. Avoid traveling on ice at night.
3. Never go onto ice alone.
4. Wear a snowmobile flotation suit or a lifejacket.
5. Take safety equipment with you.
6. Avoid alcohol.
7. If you drive on ice, have an escape plan.
8. Open your windows, unlock your doors, and turn on your lights to allow you to quickly escape from your vehicle.
9. Always supervise children playing on or near ice.
10. Insist that they wear a lifejacket/PFD or thermal protection buoyant suit.

More detailed information on Ice Safety can be found at www.lifesaving.org.



SNOWMOBILING: CADOMIN & SILVER SUMMIT AWARD WINNING RIDING RIGHT IN YOUR BACKYARD

T rue to his surname, retired Edson resident and Sno-Seekers club member Calvin Hill is a mountain rider with an interest in all things steep and deep. But he praises the trail riding in his home county for its tour-style trip potential and interconnected, family-friendly points of interest along the way.

Yellowhead County is a municipal district in west-central Alberta which includes the towns of Edson and Hinton, as well as a dozen or so snowmobile-friendly hamlets.

“The nicest rides in the area are the rides on our groomed trails from Edson up to Silver Summit, up to the ski hill,” said Hill, adding that there is a warm-up cabin on the way—as well as places to eat, hotel rooms and fuel. “From there you can carry on... and go up to Whitecourt, and from there you can go up to Swan Hill. You can also go south from Edson all the way to Robb, and you can continue on riding down through the Cadomin area.

“People come from all over because of that, because they can go to the ski hill, or they can go to Robb. It makes it so that you can go farther and have a lot more fun, I think,” he said.

Sno-Seekers club president Brant Rolling echoed Hill’s praise of the groomed trail from Edson north to Silver Summit, saying that one of his best memories from last season was leading a media ride up to the ski hill.

“Last year we had a media ride with the MLA, the mayor from the county, the mayor of the town and the people from the radio station and that was a really good day,” he said. “We showed them what we do, how we maintain the trails and make it a family-oriented trail system for people of all ages, and took them up to Silver Summit. Some people rode back and some people had vehicles there that they drove back.

“A lot of people will also drive up to the ski hill and then just snowmobile around there for the day.”

Rolling added that for those who are looking for more technical riding, “anywhere along the snowmobile trail you can shoot off on cut-lines.”

“You can make a loop from the ski hill and come back down the powerline, and then just before Edson you get on the trail,” he said.

“It’s wide; there’s lots of room,” Hill said. “You can go four, five or six guys riding side by side down a powerline.”

Hill and Rolling both said that the Sno-Seekers have various maps of their groomed trails available for visitors.

-article from Snoriders Magazine (Fall 2013) by Karissa Gall and Keith Powell



CADOMIN - WINNER OF 4 RIDER'S CHOICE AWARDS FROM SNORIDERS MAGAZINE

GOLD:

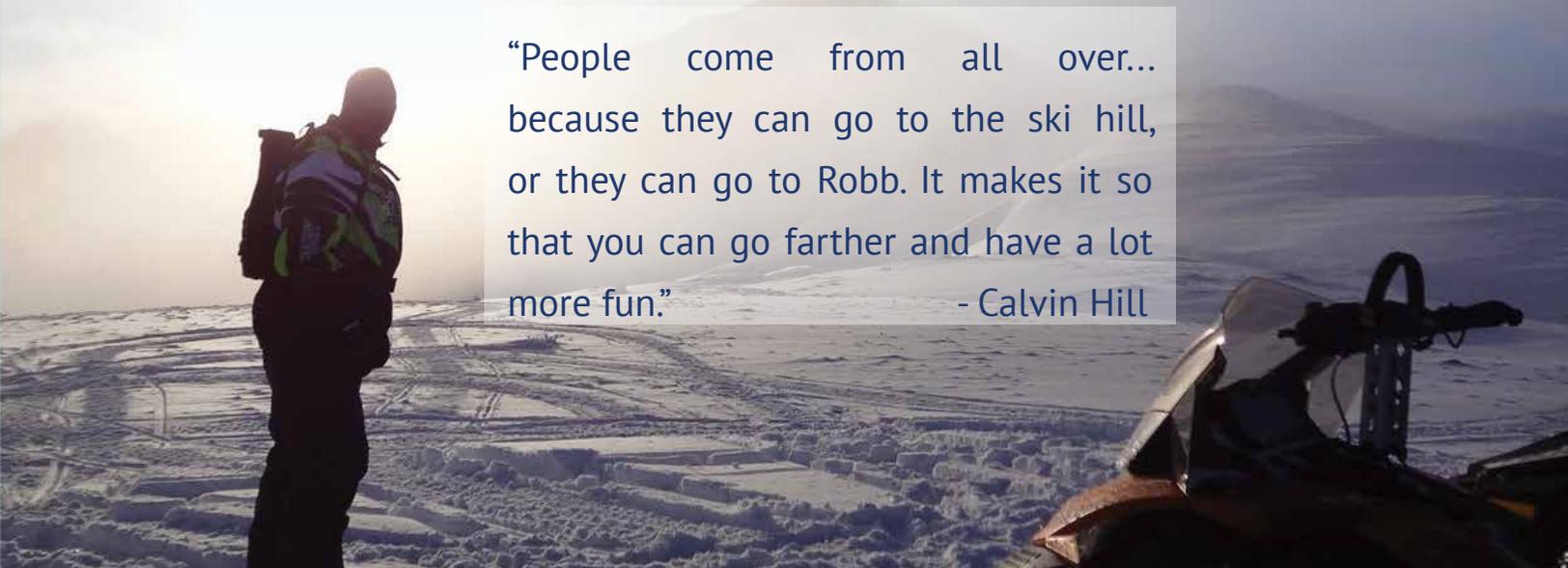
- Favourite Scenic Snowmobiling Area in Alberta
- Favourite Mountain Riding Area in Alberta
- Most Challenging Riding Area in Alberta

BRONZE:

- Favourite Powder Riding in Alberta

For information on snowmobiling in Yellowhead County contact the Edson Sno-Seekers club.

“People come from all over... because they can go to the ski hill, or they can go to Robb. It makes it so that you can go farther and have a lot more fun.”
- Calvin Hill



PLANNING FOR DISASTERS

HOW THE COUNTY PREPARES FOR A VARIETY OF LARGE SCALE POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES

Yellowhead County has protocols in place for dealing with larger incidents that could cause risk to health or property within the County. We also work with our municipal neighbours and other agencies and have plans in place to manage a variety of disasters.

Preventative Measures

There are several ways that the county works to prevent major emergencies within our borders.

One of these ways is assessing potential risks and working to mitigate potential disasters that they could cause. These types of preventative measures include working to reduce potential wildfires using vegetation management for areas such as hamlets and campgrounds that border forested areas. This would include brush clearing through thinning, pruning and mulching.

Planning

While Yellowhead County takes steps to prevent or lessen large scale emergency and disaster situations, the county does have emergency plans in place for various types of incidents that could occur within our boundaries.

Our responsibility is to be prepared as possible for any type of emergency or disaster that could happen in

our communities.

Practice

Members of the Yellowhead County Fire Department and other County emergency responders receive training that covers how to deal with different types of incidents that could occur in our municipality. There is also training that County non-emergency staff members receive for the roles that they would perform in a disaster situation. This training is done to make sure that County staff are as prepared as possible for any sort of disaster. In addition to the training our regular emergency crews receive, any County staff who would be involved with a large scale disaster or local state of emergency are also trained for their role in these types of scenarios. This would include setting up reception centres for displaced residents during an evacuation, dealing with on-scene transportation and infrastructure issues, emergency operations centres, technical communications issues, public information communications, and working with various outside agencies who may be involved.

Training and large-scale exercises are often done with neighbouring municipalities and other outside agencies.

Joint training, such as the wildfire training scenario that was done with the Town of Edson and Alberta Sustainable Resource Department earlier this year, helps County staff who would have a role in a disaster situation to be more effective should an incident of this type occur. While every single possible scenario cannot be done as an exercise, the skills, experience and knowledge gained from these exercises and continued training and education can be transferred over to other emergency situations.

There are also numerous external training opportunities that can be utilized to make sure the County is better prepared

for potential disasters, whether they are emergency responders such as firefighters, part of the emergency communications team, the team that helps set up the reception centres that would be required for any sort of evacuation, or any of the other numerous roles that County staff would undertake in an emergency situation.

Education & Awareness, Your Part

In addition to the work being done by those trying to reduce the impact from the emergency, residents can help alleviate issues that come from a large scale emergency or disaster by knowing some of the potential risks and how they can be better prepared to deal with them.

Residents can take measures to be prepared for various types of emergencies that could directly impact them. There are numerous resources available to assist them in how to prepare or reduce danger from a disaster:

Yellowhead County's **Quick Reference Emergency Booklet** has information on evacuations, sheltering in place, preparing emergency kits, and lots of other information designed to help anyone in an emergency situation.

All Albertans can sign up for the **Alberta Emergency Alert** program (www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca) that will send them rss email alerts, or social media notifications if there is a situation that may impact them locally.

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development has a **FireSmart** manual (srd.alberta.ca/Wildfire/FireSmart) that has valuable information on how to lower risks to your home for wildfires.

There is also a **Government of Canada 72 Hour Emergency Preparedness Guide** (www.getprepared.gc.ca) that has very thorough information on how to be prepared for a disaster.

All these items are available in hard copies through the County office and can also be found at (www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca/departments/emergency-services/fire-department/preparedness)

Response

The effectiveness in the response to an emergency is crucial to how quickly the first responders can react and gain control and minimize the effects of an incident.

Depending on the incident there are many different variables that could come into play and emergency responders and supporting staff and outside agencies will have to use their training to reduce the impact caused by the incident in the most effective way possible to provide aid and emergency assistance to help protect the health and property of our residents.

An evacuation may be a very likely scenario that the County would have to deal with depending on the type of emergency. There are two types of evacuations that could be put into effect - an evacuation advisory or a mandatory evacuation. Both have different protocols under the specific situation; and both have specific requirements that would need to be undertaken by both County staff and external agencies such as the RCMP. It is important for both members of the public and those trained for working in disaster situations know the difference.



WINTER BURNING

November 1 marked the official end of the 2013 wildfire season. Yellowhead County Fire Services would like to remind everyone to take extra precaution with any winter burning. Dead and dry debris combined with windy conditions can support fast-moving wildfires.

Please be advised that fire permits are no longer required in Yellowhead County for the winter season. With the permit requirement lifted, landowners may have fires as long as the fire does not endanger anything and it is maintained in a safe and controlled manner as many areas can experience dry conditions.

Residents are responsible for taking all necessary precautions prior to, and during, any type of burn on their property. Keep winter burns small and always have fire fighting equipment on hand.

Fires that are not completely extinguished can continue to smolder underground during the winter months and re-surface in the spring.

Fire Permit requirements will resume in the spring. When fire permit season begins again for the Yellowhead County controlled area will be dependent on weather conditions.

More information on Yellowhead County Fire Services, such as Fire Department Bylaws, policies and more can be found at www.yhcfirefighters.com or by calling (780) 723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030.

ALBERTA SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDS THESE TIPS TO HELP PREVENT WINTER BURNING SITES FROM BECOMING WILDFIRES IN THE SPRING:

- Walk the burn area.
- Roll the debris over to check for hot spots.
- Probe the burned area to ensure there are no hotspots.
- Stir the debris.
- Water down and extinguish hot spots.
- Check on your winter burning sites throughout the winter.
- And especially in the spring before the snow melts.

NEW HINTON & YELLOWHEAD COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES AGREEMENT

On September 10, 2013, in an effort to enhance emergency services for Yellowhead County residents, Council approved the new Hinton and Yellowhead County Emergency Services Agreement. This agreement is a cost effective way to deliver emergency services to County residents and industry within the Hinton area by cost-sharing emergency services within that region.

Although the previous agreement didn't expire until 2016, the newly revised long-term agreement brings with it new terms that are more reflective of a true partnership between the two fire departments. The components of the new agreement better define accountability, expectations, and deliverables.

The amount that the county pays towards operating costs will be

based on the number of responses within the county compared to the total calls for the area. Although based on the amount of calls received, the county's contribution will never exceed 50% of the total budget, but will never be less than 30% of the total operating budget.

Any new capital investments, such as response trucks or other equipment, will be a 50% cost to each partner and will be part of a capital asset plan that must be developed and approved by both the Yellowhead County and Hinton municipal councils prior to moving forward.

The new agreement was considered the best option for fire and emergency services for county residents and it was considered a more cost effective option than developing a stand alone fire service for county residents residing near Hinton.



COUNTY FIRE FIGHTERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS HONOURED FOR DEDICATION

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AWARDED SERVICE MEDALS



Several Yellowhead County firefighters and their family members were honoured with federal and provincial service medals at the Yellowhead County Administration Building in Edson last June. Members from Wildwood, Niton, Robb, and Brule were on hand to accept the awards.

The medals for Fire Services Exemplary Service awards were presented by MP Rob Merrifield and the Alberta Emergency Services Award were presented by Yellowhead County Mayor Gerald Soroka.

The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal is given to Canadian Fire Service members that have completed 20 years of service, where at least ten of those years included potential risks while performing their duties.

Recipients of the Alberta Emergency Services Medal have completed all the training and duty required by the county and ministry, and have been certified by their administrative authority as efficient and in every way deserving of the award. The Alberta Emergency Services Medal is based on twelve years of service.

Mayor Soroka also presented pins to several spouses of the county's firefighters in acknowledgement of their commitment to their family and community. Alberta's Fire Service Exemplary Services Commemorative Pin for Spouses is awarded to the spouses of firefighters who are awarded the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal. It honours and recognizes the dedication and commitment from the families of our communities' firefighters.

"We truly appreciate all the dedication from our volunteer firefighters and their families", recognizes Yellowhead County Fire Chief Cory Chegwyn. "Their sacrifice helps ensure that everyone in our communities is that much safer and we are very thankful for their service."

Yellowhead County proudly thanks all Yellowhead County Firefighters, their families, and employers for their commitment to help keep our residents and businesses protected and safe.

Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal

The Fire Services Exemplary Services Medal, created on August 29, 1985, honours members of a recognized Canadian Fire Service who have completed 20 years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks, and were employed on or after the date of creation of the medal.

Alberta Emergency Services Medal

The award is based on twelve years of service. To be eligible, personnel must have undertaken all required phases of training and duty prescribed by the municipality and ministry, and must be certified by their administrative authority as efficient and in every way deserving of the award. The medal is inscribed on one side with the words "In Service to Albertans" and on the other side the medal has an Alberta shield and is circumscribed with the words "Emergency Services Alberta".

Award Recipients

- Gary B. Conger - Second Award of the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal
- Kerry Parnall - Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal
- Patricia Parnall - Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal
- William Parnall - Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal and Alberta Emergency Services Medal
- Rita Winfield - Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal
- Dean Woods - Alberta Emergency Services Medal
- Peter Semeniuk - Alberta Emergency Services Medal
- Michelle Parnall - Alberta Emergency Services Medal
- Jay Lowe - Alberta Emergency Services Medal
- Brian Howe - Alberta Emergency Services Medal
- Bruce Dungey - Alberta Emergency Services Medal
- Jeff Bruner - Alberta Emergency Services Medal
- Lynda Akers - Alberta Emergency Services Medal
- Cody Armstrong - Alberta Emergency Services Medal
- Amber Hayward - Alberta Emergency Services Medal

LOCAL FIRE FIGHTERS ATTEND WORLD FINALS

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS REPRESENT CANADA AT WORLD FINALS



Two Yellowhead County firefighters competed in Las Vegas this October in the Scott World Firefighter Combat Challenge. Captain Frank Block and Captain Andrew Kencis competed in the World Challenge XXII in the two-man tandem race for firefighters over 50.

They went to Vegas after winning gold at both the regional contest in Edson and the Canadian National Championship in Edmonton.

The regional contest, held in Edson on Aug. 24–25, was the largest since 1995, with a total of 180 firefighters competing.

Eight Yellowhead County firefighters participated in the event, with two teams in the regular relay race and two teams in the two-man relay for firefighters over 50. Block and Kencis competed in the NxG2 relay race under the team name “2 Old Guys.” They also competed in the individual races, placing No. 7 and No. 2 in the over 50 category, respectively.

The other Yellowhead County participants were Bruce Dungey (No. 3 for over 50), Joshua Dungey, Allan MacDonald, Colin Truman, Warren Dauble and James Akers. Father-son team Bruce and Joshua Dungey placed in the top 12 for the men’s NxG2 relay race.

“Having some of our senior members place so well really shows the quality of Yellowhead County’s volunteer firefighters,” Yellowhead County Fire Chief Cory Chegwyn said after the regional event. “It’s inspiring to our younger and newer members to see what can be achieved with dedication, practice and teamwork.”

Block and Kencis went on to win gold in the National Championship, held Sept. 5–8 in Edmonton. The national competition is broadcast on TSN and billed as “the toughest two minutes in sports.”

From there they travelled to the World Challenge in Vegas on Oct. 21–27. They matched the time of their national run, even though the course was unfamiliar and more challenging. Kencis competed individually in both Edmonton and Vegas.

“Frank and I were given the honour to carry in the Canadian flag at the beginning of the official opening ceremonies on Saturday,” Kencis says. “There were many Canadians who won the events, and they really impressed everyone as strong competitors.”

To Kencis, the Firefit challenge is not just a competition. “It promotes dedication to health and fitness, and inspires firefighters to raise their fitness levels.” It also encourages camaraderie. “The feeling of brotherhood is very strong at these events. Everyone helps everyone else.”

The Firefit competitions are relay events that involve firefighters performing numerous tasks designed to replicate some of the challenges they may encounter during an actual emergency, wearing full protective equipment. Some of the relay activities include carrying a 175-pound dummy for 100 feet, ascending six flights of stairs while carrying a 42-pound fire hose and a forced entry simulation.

Block says that Vegas was a real eye-opener and a great learning experience. “I really enjoyed it. It was great meeting all these new people.” The competition was tougher, though. “We’re just volunteers,” he points out. All the more reason their hard work is impressive.

The competition “is a good challenge,” Block adds. It’s a chance “to see how good you can do, and it makes you feel good, too.”

Kencis concludes that these events inspire people. “If two old guys like Frank and me can do it, anyone can.”



County Volunteer Fire Fighters
Andrew Kencis and Frank Block

RECREATION GRANTS

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

On Monday, October 28, 2013 the Yellowhead County Recreation Board held their Regular Meeting and administration is happy to announce that the following funding requests were approved by the Board:

Drostan Community Association: received \$8,175.91 in Capital Assistance Funding for the purchase and installation of a composite play structure for their community hall. The playground will provide an opportunity for exercise and recreation for hall events and everyday usage by the community.

Pembina Valley Golf Club: received \$7,500.00 in Capital Assistance Funding to assist with the purchase of new, fully accessible, washroom facilities for their golf course.

Trail Social Society: received \$2,099.00 in Capital Assistance Funding to assist with the purchase of a new propane furnace and fencing for their community hall. Presently, the community hall is using a 30 year old wood stove and there are concerns over its potential fire hazard.

Wildwood Community Association: received \$2,651.00 in Capital Assistance Funding to assist with the replacement of a new grease trap in the kitchen as well as re-finishing of the hardwood floors in their community hall.

MacKay Community Association: received \$1,849.92 in Capital Assistance Funding to assist with the completion of their skate shack. The Association recently received a skate shack as a donation to their skating rink and they are now in the process of adding heat and electrical as well as some interior finishes to the structure.

The Yellowhead County Recreation Board's next meeting will be held on January 27th, 2014 with the grant applications deadline being December 31st, 2013.

If you have any questions or need help with filling out and completing your application, contact Yellowhead County Recreation/Parks Supervisor, Crystal McNernie at (780) 723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030.

Jack Ramme

– Chief Administrative Officer

Barb Lyons

– Director of Corporate and Planning Services

Don O'Quinn

– Director of Infrastructure Services

Debbie Charest

– Director of Community and Protective Services

Yellowhead County

780-723-4800

1-800-665-6030

Fax: 780-723-5066

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday

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

Office Locations

Edson Office (Main)

2716 - 1st Avenue

Edson, AB T7E 1N9

Wildwood Office

53404 Rge Rd 92A

Wildwood, AB

After Hours Utilities Emergency Number: 780-723-3221

Visit the Yellowhead County website – it's a quick and effective way to get the information you need on municipal programs and services.

Visit www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

