

County Resident Receives Honorary Life Membership Award

THE ALBERTA LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED THE HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD TO RECOGNIZE ALBERTANS WHO HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY TRUSTEESHIP.

A member of the Yellowhead County Library Board (YCLB) received a prestigious provincial award this April.

At the 2014 Alberta Library Conference, held in Jasper, the Alberta Library Trustee's Association (ALTA) presented Nina Kencis with an Honorary Life Membership Award.

The award recognizes Nina's extensive contributions to libraries in Yellowhead County, including promoting literacy, participating in major innovations and providing leadership. For more than 20 years she has actively contributed to libraries and the community.

The YCLB was also honoured with ALTA's Award of Excellence.

This fall, Nina finished her maximum nine years of service to the YCLB. She was the vice-chair from 2006 to 2009 and then the chairperson from 2009 till 2014. She has also served on the Wildwood Public Library board and has been a member of the Friends of Wildwood Library Society

vamp and expand the YCLB's policy manual and helped develop a comprehensive plan of service. She also supported the Peers community in its desire to have some library service at its new community centre. Most significantly, Nina strongly advocated for free library memberships. She sees the introduction of free memberships in the three County public libraries in 2009 as her most satisfying accomplishment.

During Nina's many years of volunteering with FOWLS, the Wildwood library went through numerous renovations and changes. Over the course



of many years, Nina helped advocate for, plan and fundraise for a new library building. She saw the Wildwood

uphold the underlying values of our society," she says. That's why she so strongly supports free library memberships.

She is confident that YCLB will continue to pursue its strong vision of providing the best library service possible to its residents. "The YCLB is very mindful of its position of trust from the County Council," she says, "and the patrons know that the board will work to reach its goals to keep library service growing and improving.

"Free public lending libraries were and are, for me, one of the best ideas

Ann Myrholm, YCLB's director of Library Services, commends Nina for exemplary work. "For nine years," Ann says, "YCLB has benefited from Nina's driving vision, devoted leadership and strong sense of right and wrong."

For Nina, volunteering is about building a personal connection to the community by giving back to it. "It's about learning from others," she says, "and sharing a common interest and goal with your neighbours, both near to home and across the county."

"Access to information is so important to uphold the underlying values of our society." - Nina Kencis

(FOWLS) for 17 years, currently acting as its chairperson.

During her tenure with the YCLB, Nina advocated for free children's programming, wheelchair accessibility to all libraries and better wages and benefits for staff. She helped re-

community's vision finally fulfilled in 2012 when the library moved to a larger, newly renovated facility.

Nina sees libraries as an essential service that encourages literacy, education and informed choices. "Access to information is so important to

ever!" Nina adds. She would take her daughter to the library all the time, and now she enjoys visiting the library with her grandchildren.



NINA WAS PRESENTED THE HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD AT ALTA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE ALBERTA LIBRARY CONFERENCE IN JASPER.

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WHEN I GOT MY LIBRARY CARD, THAT'S WHEN MY LIFE BEGAN.
-RITA MAE BROWN (AUTHOR)



RURAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY MOVES FORWARD

Communications connectivity viewed as a fourth utility for communities

Yellowhead County has launched a rural communications network strategy to help bring high-speed internet and other modes of communications technology to more County residents. It's currently building two communications towers and working at developing more throughout the region.

Communications as a Utility

The utility communications strategy is similar to constructing a roadway or a water line. The strategy recognizes that communications is a "Utility", a critical component of the municipality's infrastructure.

The most recent Municipal Development Plan survey showed that an important priority for County residents is having reliable access to reasonable-speed Internet.

In January 2014, Council and senior administration held a priority-setting workshop. One of the outcomes was Council's decision to work towards better Internet and cell services in underserved areas of the County.

Since that time the County has begun its rural communications strategy with the goal of increasing coverage to areas that currently have limited Internet, cell and public safety (fire, ambulance, police and municipal law enforcement) communication coverage.

The County entered into an agreement with Vitel Consulting to develop a plan for constructing communications towers that will be operated and maintained by the County.

The contract includes three phases:

- 1. Planning** – Site selection, community consultation, marketing and scheduling
- 2. Building** – Tower construction
- 3. Operations** – Transition regular operations and maintenance to the County

Council award a contract to Advantage Tower for the construction of two communications towers in the amount of approximately \$238,000 each. These towers, to be located in Wildwood and Obed, are the first of several proposed towers that will improve communications in the County.

This strategy is sustained by collecting collocation revenue from multiple wireless providers that collocate on the utility-grade towers.

Yellowhead joined with Brazeau County for the contract to maximize the towers' economy. "It's great we're working with other communities so we can help deliver better com-

munications access to our residents," says Deputy Mayor Fred Priestley-Wright

Policy for all Providers

The County recently adopted Communications Tower Policy 6100.04, which requires companies to use pre-existing communications resources when available. This policy addresses location and public consultation requirements needed before a communication towers can be constructed. The aim of the new policy is to reduce a proliferation and redundancy of communications towers in Yellowhead County, and it will ensure that companies wanting to build new towers will first have to look at those already operating in the area.

Regional Group

Yellowhead County is applying for an Alberta Community Partnership grant for the purpose of supporting a body known as the Alberta Rural Communications Alliance. As part of Yellowhead County's rural communication initiative, a number of municipalities whom are pursuing similar interests have gotten together and are in the process of forming an entity to be known as Alberta Rural Communications Alliance (ARCA).

The \$347,000 grant will assist in the County's rural communications initiative. Yellowhead will partner with the counties of Parkland, Brazeau, Saddle Hills and Woodlands for this application, and will also look for opportunities to share space on towers that already exist in underserved areas.



SNOW REMOVAL ON COUNTY ROADS

WE'RE WORKING TO KEEP YOUR ROADS SAFE - BUT EVERYONE NEEDS TO DO THEIR PART!

Everyone who lives in a northern climate knows that winter driving can bring challenges to getting around, and that is amplified even more in rural areas.

Yellowhead County, as the local road authority, is responsible for maintaining the roads in its jurisdiction and has developed a Snow Removal Policy with an aim to better manage the removal of snow on roads following a heavy snowfall. The policy takes into consideration that there will be times when the immediate demand for snow and ice control services will exceed the county's regular available resources for this type of work.

How does the County get this job done?

The aim of the policy is to remove all snow from County roads within four days after a major snowfall has happened. The snow and ice removal is done with both graders and snowplows, depending on the situation. Snow removal and ice control operations are different throughout the County. This is due to the influences of terrain, precipitation, temperature, wind and Chinooks. Regardless of these influences, the County will work to maintain roads in a safe and passable condition.

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY'S BORDERS.

What Are the Priorities?

Road priorities for both grader and snowplow operations are covered in the policy. Clearing of snow from County roadways will take place in the following priority:

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

Locations where snow removal will not be done by the County are:

- a) Private Driveways
- b) Schools
- c) Recreation areas or parking lots
- d) Roads to or within parks or campsites operated by other municipalities or Provincial Government.

Will the County always wait until the Storm is done?

Grader snow removal will occur at the end of a snow storm, or sooner if snow accumulation reaches 10-15 cm (4-6 in) on roadways, or if drifting conditions prevail.

Plow truck snow removal operations should commence before snow becomes packed by traffic, or when snow accumulations exceed 3 cm.

Grader snow removal operations will occur at the conclusion of a storm event or sooner if snow accumulations reach 10-15 cm on the roadway, or if drifting conditions prevail.

Drive Safe

Snow and ice removal services are not intended to eliminate all hazardous conditions at all times, but are intended to assist vehicles that are properly equipped for winter driving and where drivers are operating their vehicles by using good winter driving practices.

Remember to follow the rules of the road in school zones, around emergency response vehicles, school buses, and road maintenance vehicles such as snowplows and graders.

Driving to the current road conditions and giving yourself plenty of time to get to where you need to go will greatly help reduce the chance of a driving accident.

Yellowhead County would like to remind residents that when clearing snow off your driveway to please make sure that any snow being moved is not left on any roadways. Snow piles can freeze and cause damage and injury to passing vehicles and snowplows and graders. The snow piles must be moved all the way off the road and into ditches and right-of-ways or onto your property.

And remember that it's the landowner's responsibility to clear brush and snow from their rural addressing sign to ensure that it can be clearly seen from the road.



THE COMMUNITY CONNECTOR BUS

- AN EXCELLENT COMMUNITY RESOURCE FOR SENIORS

"My recent excursion on the Community Connector bus to Drayton Valley was a great experience," says Valerie Smith, Community Outreach Coordinator for Yellowhead County.

"As I work primarily with seniors and seniors groups, I thought I should take a trip on the bus before recommending it," continues Smith. "I can now say firsthand that this service is a great, low-cost, personalized service

run by attentive staff. And it provides a great social outing as well".

The bus, which runs to Drayton Valley every Thursday and trips to Edmonton every first and fourth Monday if there are enough people registered, is to assist residents who need to get to larger centers for a variety of reasons - from medical and dental appointments to regular day-to-day type errands such as banking, shopping, and prescription drop off and pick up.

Stops can be tailored to individual's needs and there's the added bonus of a scheduled stop at a restaurant for lunch.

The Community Connector bus is owned by the Wildwood Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and funded through transportation grants from Yellowhead and Parkland counties, donations, fees and rentals.

The bus is managed by the Legion and a steering committee representing multiple communities. Suggestions for additional places residents would like to go are always welcome. The bus is also available for private bookings.

Smith points out that the more people that use the scheduled service the more frequently it will run. "Seniors that need to run errands and attend appointments should give the bus a try - I know I enjoyed having someone else do the driving," enthuses Smith.

Anyone in Yellowhead County wishing to find out more about ride costs, and where and when the bus goes can call the coordinator, Zenobia at 780-727-2207.



COMMUTER BUS FUNDING

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY APPROVED A \$27,000 CAPITAL FUNDING GRANT TO WILDWOOD'S ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH NO. 149 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY CONNECTOR BUS, WHICH THE LEGION HAS BEEN OPERATING SINCE 1992.

The total cost of a new connector bus is approximately \$90,000. The remainder of the funds comes from a New Horizons Seniors Grant (\$25,000), Legion's capital reserves (\$18,000) and \$20,000 for a trade-in from the current bus. Council requested that Parkland County participate in cost-sharing for this grant, as many of the riders who use the bus are Entwistle and area residents. Both

counties currently have several cost-sharing agreements for shared services and programs utilized by residents of both municipalities.

Usage rates from last year show that Yellowhead County residents use the bus about 50 per cent of the time, with Parkland County residents using it the other 50 per cent of the time.

YOUR COUNCIL



Mayor
Gerald Soroka



Councillor
Sandra
Cherniawsky
Division 1
Evansburg &
Area



Councillor
Anthony Giezen
Division 2
Wildwood &
Area



Councillor
Fred Priestley-
Wright
Division 3
Niton/Carrot
Creek Area



Councillor
David Russell
Division 4
Shiningbank/
Peers Area



Councillor
Shawn Berry
Division 5
Wolf Creek/
Pindale Area



Councillor
Bill Velichko
Division 6
Edson Area



Councillor
Dawn Mitchell
Division 7
Edson West



Councillor
Jack Williams
Division 8
Robb, Cadomin,
Brule & Hinton
Area

COUNTRY LIVING OPEN HOUSE

How do you get the entire County into a one place?

You hold a Open House and BBQ at the county office.

This past June Yellowhead County opened its doors to County residents at an open house in Wildwood at the County's East Services office. Council and staff met with the dozens of residents who attended to talk about all the projects, programs, and services that the County currently offers, is working on, or is planning for the future. There was also an opportunity to win various prizes using an event passport that received a stamp at each table attendees visited before they could enter the draw.

Participants at the event had the opportunity to talk with staff at the various booths that were set up in the building and in the rear parking lot.

Infrastructure services were promoting the County's Shoulder Pull Program, Road Rebuild Program, and it's Road Connectivity Plan – a multi-year program that has been responsible for adding several dozen kilometres of paved roads to the County's road network.

Agricultural Services was on hand to educate residents about weed identification of noxious and restricted weeds, the County's spray trucks and Roadside Vegetation Program, the technologies they incorporate for their Summer Inspection Program using Weed Tablets and the County's extensive Geographic Information System mapping program. They were also sharing the work they've been doing with their various partners, such as the West Central Forage Association, who are doing crop and other agricultural based research.

The wide spectrum of Yellowhead County Emergency Services and partners were on hand to pro-

PARTICIPANTS AT THE EVENT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH COUNTY COUNCIL AND STAFF AT THE VARIOUS BOOTHS THAT WERE SET UP IN THE BUILDING AND REAR PARKING LOT.

mote safety awareness and prevention. In addition to the booths representing all the various County departments, the 911 Safe House was set up for children and their parents to explore as they learned about potential dangers



found in houses and how to be aware of them. Local Yellowhead County volunteer firefighters had

serviced locations throughout the County that are being implemented for better rural communication for residents and business.

Attendees also had opportunities to ask questions regarding the County's budget and taxes; Planning and Development requirements; find out about recreational activities such as the County campgrounds and swimming pool; recycling and waste options, and much more.

With the success of this event the County hopes to hold more open houses throughout the county in order to create a better opportunity for dialogue with its residents.

a fire extinguisher training set-up with live fire for everyone to practice on.

Residents were able to find out more about the County's new utility project - the County owned and managed communications towers to be put up in low-



Ground has been broken and construction has begun on the new Evansburg Museum and Community Centre.

The new building will function as both a museum and as the amenities building for Tipple Park's outdoor activities.

The budgeted amount of \$2,509,472 will cover construction (including geothermal heating), furniture and equipment, demolition of the existing station house and relocation of the railway caboose that will stay on site.

TIPPLE PARK MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

This new facility grew out of Pembina Lobstick Historical Society's request that the County support a new building to replace the station house. The old station house could no longer accommodate the space and year round needs of the Society and was not adequate for a museum and archives centre.

The Society and an ad hoc committee of community volunteers have

assisted the County over the last 2 years to develop a facility that will provide space for artifacts display and storage, travelling exhibits, community use space and bathrooms for the facility and the park.

Construction is scheduled to complete in early 2015.

FCSS UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

X-mas Break program on December 22

Evansburg Arena 10:00am-3:00pm

We will have tons of different activities for you and your family to take part in!

Winter Break Out Field Trip December 30

Visit Edmonton for a morning of rock climbing and an afternoon of swimming!

Babysitters Course Jan 5

Wildwood Yellowhead County Office 9:00am-4:00pm

Girls Night Out Jan 16th

Evansburg 3:30pm-8:00pm

Join us for a night of fun and pampering!

Kouty Kids Playschool

September-May

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-3:30 pm

Marlboro Hall.

Children must be potty trained.

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) has grants available to promote social projects that enhance the well-being of communities. Projects must do one of the following:

- Help people develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis, such as guest speakers, workshops or training for groups.
- Help people develop an awareness of social needs.
- Help people to develop interpersonal group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people, such as trainers for board development, mediation for groups, community planning or block party type activities.
- Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions that affect them.
- Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community.

Areas of specific focus for Family and Community Support Services include:

- Early Childhood Development
- Children and Youth programs and services.
- Senior Group Supports
- Community Building (social capital) projects.

In addition, Family and Community Support Services can provide your group or agency with support researching and accessing other funding, planning, identification of needs, and general board development.

Funding is available for not-for-profit agencies, community groups, associations or committees.

Family Outreach Coordinator

The Outreach Coordinator can work with families directly to link them to programs and services, provide family and parenting strategies and advice, coordinate and offer workshops on parenting and advocate on behalf of families.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

THE COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT UPDATE

THE EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT MAPPING INITIATIVE (ECD MAPPING) LAUNCHED IN ALBERTA IN 2009. THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF A CHILD'S LIFE ARE WHEN THEY DEVELOP THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THEIR PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND INTELLECTUAL HEALTH.

The purpose of the project has been to engage communities in promoting positive early childhood development. Socio-economic information and data on community resources have been collected by kindergarten teachers over five years and organized by communities to help analyze the development of preschool children in the province, including those in Yellowhead County.

The data collected in Yellowhead County is organized into three geographic areas (which include larger urban centres such as Edson and Hinton). This data, representing the development of kindergarten

	Physical Health and Well-being			Social Competence	
	Developing Appropriately	Difficulty	Great Difficulty	Developing Appropriately	Difficulty
Edson & Area	69.8%	12.3%	17.9%	71.9%	18.5%
Hinton & Area	73.3%	11.6%	15.1%	73.3%	17.5%
Wildwood and Area	62.0%	17.4%	20.7%	59.8%	19.6%
Alberta	75.9%	10.8%	13.3%	75.2%	15.1%

Also, information on the socio-economic development and resources for each area

RECREATION GRANTS

A GREAT RESOURCE FOR COMMUNITY FUNDING

2014 was a very busy year for local community groups throughout Yellowhead County. To date, just over \$174,000 in grant funding was awarded for numerous capital projects, programs and events. Thank you to everyone who submitted applications this year and to those who continue to work hard at maintaining and improving their indoor and outdoor facilities. Yellowhead County has an incredibly dedicated group of volunteers who are committed to providing recreational and cultural opportunities to our residents!

The Yellowhead County Recreation Board's next meeting will be held on January 26, 2014 with the grant applications deadline being December 31, 2014. If you have any questions or are in need of any 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.

students, assesses five recognized areas (domains) of early childhood development: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and thinking skills, and communication skills and general knowledge. In Yellowhead County, groups have gathered in the three geographic areas to study, share, promote and advocate in regards to the community profiles and results.

For the Wildwood area (Mackay to Seba Beach), the First Five Coalition is working to bring in speakers and share information on the importance of children's first five years. For the Edson area, the Early Childhood Matters Coalition is sharing information, supporting early childhood development programming and encouraging increased consideration of child and family needs in all areas of community life. Hinton is working through the Growing Great Kids Coalition to encourage family-friendly workplaces and promote the importance of early childhood development in family, community and society.

Each community is different, and the results are different. Methods of addressing early childhood development needs must be different as well. If you're interested in these projects, please contact the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) office to learn more or become involved.



	Emotional Maturity			Language and Thinking Skills			Communication and Gen. Knowledge		
Great Difficulty	Developing Appropriately	Difficulty	Great Difficulty	Developing Appropriately	Difficulty	Great Difficulty	Developing Appropriately	Difficulty	Great Difficulty
9.6%	71.9%	17.9%	10.2%	77.8%	14.8%	7.4%	63.3%	23.8%	13.0%
9.2%	70.9%	17.1%	12.0%	85.7%	9.6%	4.8%	70.5%	17.5%	12.0%
20.7%	65.2%	22.8%	12.0%	72.8%	13.0%	14.1%	60.9%	20.7%	18.5%
9.7%	73.9%	15.0%	10.8%	76.8%	13.5%	9.6%	68.6%	16.8%	14.6%

is compiled into community profiles available online at www.ecmap.ca/Pages/default.aspx.

COUNTY HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Next phase brings in opportunities for landowners to receive official heritage designation on property

With Phase II of Yellowhead County's Municipal Heritage Inventory Project complete, the County is moving ahead with the third phase – the County Heritage Management Plan. This lays the framework for landowners to request and receive designation for the various historical sites identified in the County's Heritage program.

The county has applied for an additional \$20,000 grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation in addition to the three \$30,000 grants that have already been received by the County towards the Municipal Heritage Program.

There are already some land owners waiting for the designation process to be established as they wish to apply for designation for their property as a municipal historic resource.



OVERHANGING BRANCHES & SNOW REMOVAL ON SIDEWALKS

Hamlet residents are reminded to trim trees and shrubs that are hanging over alleyways and sidewalks for safety for vehicle clearance and for pedestrian traffic including the elderly and those with access issues.

Residents are responsible for clearing any snow and ice that falls on a sidewalk adjacent to their residence within 24 hours of the snow or ice being accumulated. Do not push snow from sidewalks onto freshly plowed roadways, as this clogs up hamlet roads and may not be removed for some time from the roadway.

Everyone needs to do their part to keep neighbourhoods clear and roads and sidewalks safe.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS SNOW REMOVAL CAMPAIGN

Do you know anyone on your block that is physically unable to clear their sidewalk of snow?

Yellowhead County is encouraging people to “Be A Good Neighbour”. The goal is to motivate and inspire people in the community to volunteer to clear snow for residents that are not able to shovel their sidewalks.

Get active, step out and volunteer! This is an opportunity to engage with one another and help people in need - remember to have some fun in the process.

Good Neighbour volunteers can be recognized. Recipients will be able to nominate their volunteer by filling out a nomination form available at the county office in Edson or Wildwood; they will also be available by mail. Your story of

how your volunteer helped you may be randomly chosen to be submitted to the paper for publication.

Nominees will also be entered to win a prize at the end of the season on March 16, 2015.

For more information or questions call the Yellowhead County office in Wildwood@ 780-325-3782 or toll free @ 1-800-814-3935



LOBSTICK RIVER STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

West Central Forage & Yellowhead County, as partners with Stewardship Alliance for Conservation Agriculture, have secured funding with the Alberta Conservation Association to initiate a Lobstick River Project. The project focuses on concerns brought forward regarding the environmental conditions of the riparian area along the river.

3 GOALS OF THE PROJECT :

- 1. Carry out riparian assessments along the river to measure the health.**
- 2. Conduct water quality sampling to establish benchmarks.**
- 3. Initiate, form and maintain a group of stakeholders around the river to create awareness and gain feedback in regards to the river, ecosystem and management practices to maintain and improve the environmental health.**

The primary disturbances along the river are unrestricted cattle grazing, invasive weeds, soil compaction, bank stability and degenerated woody vegetation. SACA sees the opportunity for a stewardship group that will address the environmental health of the Lobstick River.

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY



There's no doubt that Yellowhead County residents love to get out into our backyards and take in the beauty of this area – and there's not enough snow on any given day during our six months of winter to slow us down. One of the main activities done during the winter months is snowmobiling and with such an abundance of trails – ranging from the popular trails that go up to Silver Summit, the numerous trails on crown land throughout the county that go down into Robb and the Little Sundance Staging Area, and the award winning foothills and mountain riding that borders Jasper National Park in the west.

Like any type of trail usage, whether its hiking, quadding, horseback riding, or mountain biking, there are a few rules and tips that will help reduce the environmental impact on the surrounding natural playground and keep it pristine for years to come.

Here is a list from Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development on 10 ways to stay safe and protect your riding areas this winter.

Be prepared

1. Before you leave, decide on your route and check public land closures to make sure it's open. Alberta's parks and recreation areas have their own snowmobiling rules – check them here at www.albertaparks.ca.
2. Check local weather conditions before you head out. Confirm ice conditions with your local authority, and avoid unfamiliar bodies of water when you're out (they may not be able to support your weight).
3. There's safety in numbers: if you can, ride with a friend or a group – don't go alone. And make sure you tell someone where you are going, your route, and when you plan on returning.

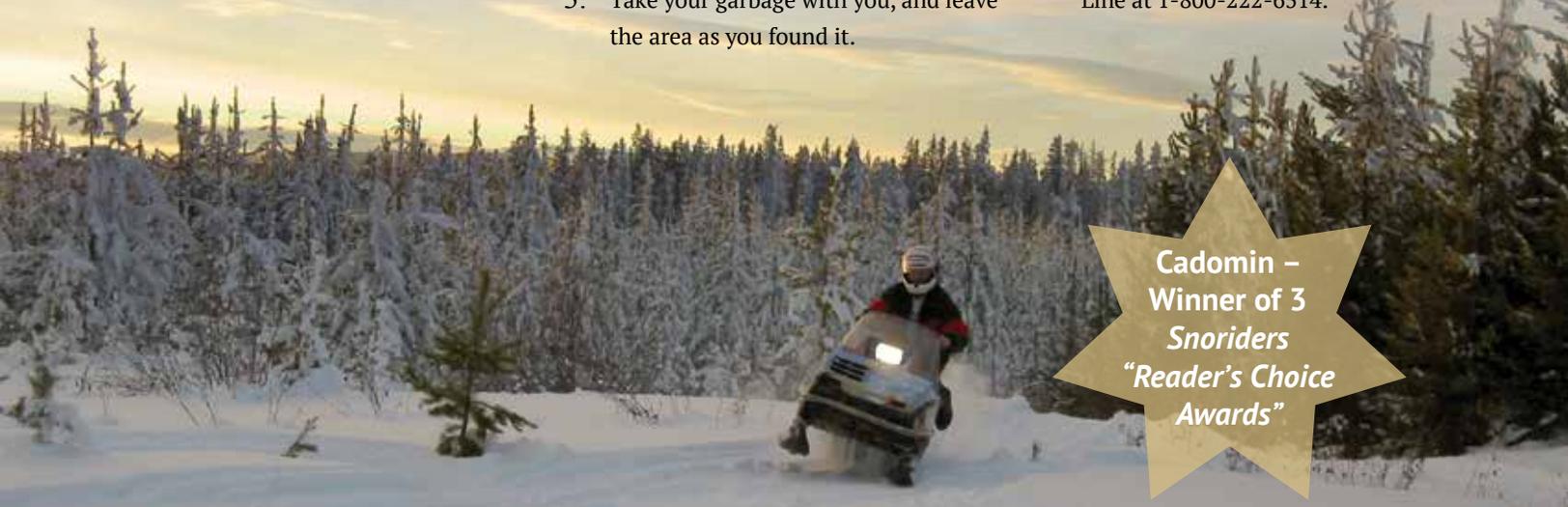
4. Carry emergency supplies with you, and learn survival skills. This downloadable pocket guide has great tips for getting prepared: www.bit.ly/SnowmobileSafetyPocketGuide.

Obey the law

1. Stay in areas where snowmobiling is permitted, and don't cross onto agricultural lease land without permission.
2. Ride only on approved trails. There's no central source for all trail maps (yet) – depending on your area, you can check maps for Public Land Use Zones at www.bit.ly/PLUZrecreation or check www.albertatrailnet.com
3. Take your garbage with you, and leave the area as you found it.

Ride responsibly – limit your impact

1. Share the trail and watch for other trail users. Learn proper hand signals (so that you can communicate with other riders) and obey all trail signs.
2. Keep your distance from wildlife.
3. Minimize your impact: ride only on solid, frozen ground; avoid environmentally sensitive areas; keep noise to a minimum; and never ride on shorelines that aren't frozen.
4. Remember: responsible riding goes beyond your actions – if you see an emergency or illegal activity on the land, we need you to report it. You can call this numbers 24/7: Energy and Environmental Emergency Response Line at 1-800-222-6514.



Cadomin –
Winner of 3
Snoriders
“Reader's Choice
Awards”

Tips courtesy of Government of Alberta.
More information at <http://aesrd.wordpress.com>

Gold – Favourite scenic snowmobiling area in Alberta.
Gold – Favourite mountain riding area in Alberta.
Silver – Most challenging riding area in Alberta.

Millers Lake

Yellowhead County has dozens of lakes and parks to explore, each with their own unique attributes. In our newsletters we're featuring several of them and showing all the great things to see and do there.



How to get there:

The Millers Lake west and east access roads are located 23 kilometres west of Edson along Highway 16 and 66 kilometres east of Hinton along Highway 16. The west access road provides access to the Marl Fen area, Emerson Lakes and Sundance Provincial Park further to the north.

Just east of Marlboro is the Millers Lake area – a popular day use area and fishing spot for both locals and visitors. It has a boat launch and provides good sport fishing opportunities. The east and west lakeside areas, managed by Yellowhead County's Parks and Recreation Department, provide great spots to enjoy a quiet day of fishing. A hand boat launch, a random use area and a fish cleaning station are located on the east side of the lake, and a small day-use area and playground are at the west side.

Fishers will find a variety of catch including several minnow species, rainbow trout, and brown trout, which seems to be partially responsible for bringing the more dedicated and patient anglers to this spot.

Fishers can use boats or canoes, hip waders or pontoon-style kick boats or they can just cast off from the shore. Gas-powered motors are prohibited on the lake.

The lake is stocked annually by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) and is aerated during the winter through the Alberta Conservation Association's Lake Aeration Program which is funded by local industry.

Both local and out-of-area anglers appreciate the work done by ESRD to maintain the trout population in Millers Lake. Ryan Cox, a fisheries biologist at ESRD, says the lake is stocked with



Lake or know someone who has – and that's one of the draws to fishing at Millers Lake."

Shallow pothole lakes like this one have low dissolved oxygen levels and high amounts of organic materials (eutrophic lakes) and are more susceptible to winterkills due to lack of oxygen available to fish while the lake is covered by ice and snow. Aerators keep the water open, circulating and bubbling, which increases oxygen in the lake and, according to Cox, gives the fish a better chance survive over multiple winters resulting in larger fish - which helps with the popularity of this fishing spot.

There are depth charts and additional information on the iFish Alberta app (www.ifishalberta.com). For official information, visit www.albertaregulations.ca or call the ESRD information centre at 780-944-0313.

rainbow trout and occasionally with brown trout "to increase opportunity for anglers."

"The brown trout are well-received," says Cox. "A lot of people you talk to there have either caught a good-sized brown trout at Millers



SPRING SEEDLING PROGRAM

THE NEW PROGRAM, INTRODUCED BY YELLOWHEAD COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HELPS TO REPLACE THE FEDERAL PFRA SHELTERBELT PROGRAM.

With the federal Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) Shelterbelt program having ended in 2013, Yellowhead County Agricultural Services has developed a Spring Seedling Program which will supply county residents with tree seedlings at a low cost.

The Spring Seedling program provides tree and shrub seedlings for the establishment of shelterbelts, shade screens, and privacy screens for farms, acreages, larger properties, and other forestry related projects within Yellowhead County.



Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*)

One of the 15 types of seedlings available through this program. Balsam poplars are a hardy and fast growing deciduous tree. This species is native to Canada.

Seedlings sold for this species are grown from cuttings and are a male clone so no fuzz is produced.

The definition of a shelterbelt, according to the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's Shelterbelts for Livestock Farms in Alberta booklet, is a "planned arrangement of trees and shrubs planted in rows" and that will "vary based on the benefit they are intended to provide."

The trees and shrubs available are typically grown as feature or shade trees on larger properties and acreages and work for developing shelterbelts used for farmstead and field windbreaks. Most of the species chosen are cold hardy and tolerant of a wide range of growing conditions.

The seedlings which are ordered in bulk by Yellowhead County allow for lower per seedling prices. These trees would normally cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00 a seedling when ordered individually, but if ordered through the Yellowhead County Spring Seedling Program the seedlings will only cost \$1.50 to \$2.80 per seedling.

There will be 15 species of trees available to choose from ranging from \$1.50 - \$2.80 per seedling. Order forms and species lists will be available at the beginning of January 2015 at both Yellowhead County offices (Wildwood and Edson) and online at www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca.

Payment is required in full upon submitting an order.

Field Shelterbelts:

- prevent soil erosion by wind,
- protect crops from wind damage,
- trap snow to increase soil moisture.

Farmstead Shelterbelts:

- are planted around farmsteads to protect buildings, people and animals from the cold effects of winter winds,
- conserve energy use on the farm,
- provide shade for animals in summer,
- improve feed conversion efficiency,
- control snowdrifts, etc.,
- can be planted around livestock farms to help manage the impact of farm odour.

CENTENNIAL FARM FAMILY

COUNTY AWARDS FIRST EVER FARM FAMILY CENTENNIAL AWARD

Yellowhead County Council recognizes the contribution that agriculture provides to the economy, the community and the County and wishes to recognize the families who have continued to farm on the same location in Yellowhead County over the generations.

On June 29, 2014, Gerald Soroka and Coun. Jack Williams presented David and Louise Baudin with Yellowhead County's first ever Farm Family Centennial Award and commemorative sign. This award recognizes that their property has been continually farmed by the Baudin family for at least 100 years.

In honour of the contribution that agriculture makes to the economy and the community, Yellowhead County Council established the Farm Family Centennial Award to recognize the families who have continued to farm on the same location in the region over the generations.

Council originally intended to present the award to its first recipient in 2015, but when the Baudins hit their centennial milestone in 2014, the date was moved up. "The Baudins have reached 100 years of living on their property this year," says Soroka. "We know they're not the first County family to reach this milestone, but we wanted to acknowledge this 100th anniversary at the same time we introduce this new award."

"It's no surprise that people have been here for 100 years when you have a farm so beautifully situated in the McLeod Valley," says Soroka about the Baudin farm. "It's kind of like a mini-campground."

A century ago David Baudin's grandfather, Leon, travelled from Paris, France, and in 1914 began to homestead the land that's still being farmed by his grandchildren today. According to the award application, he loved all the springs along the bank at the farm and David, Louise and their children still take water from the same spring he did. Louise's father was also a full-time farmer, so it's safe to say that this fourth generation now working on this land has farming in its blood.

"We're now looking forward to presenting this award to new families reaching this anniversary, as well as ones that have already reached it but haven't yet submitted for their Farm Family Centennial Award," continues Soroka. "As more families reach this milestone, we wish to acknowledge them for their last 100 years of farming in this region."

Farming families can apply and receive a Farm Family Centennial Award commemorative sign.

Applicants will need to provide evidence of the following:

1. The land has continuously been owned and actively farmed or ranched by the applicant's family for a minimum of 100 years.
2. There are ancestral ties between the applicant and the original founder of the farm, ranch or homestead.
3. The date and location of the original homestead establishment are verified by the Alberta Land Titles office's historic land title documents.
4. The original homestead land base was approximately 160 acres.

Award recipients will receive a commemorative sign and certificate of recognition.

A CENTURY AGO DAVID BAUDIN'S GRANDFATHER, LEON, TRAVELLED FROM PARIS, FRANCE AND ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN 1914 BEGAN TO HOMESTEAD THE FARM THAT IS STILL BEING FARMED BY HIS GRANDCHILDREN TODAY.

The deadline each year for applications is Aug. 31.

Applications can be found at both the Wildwood and Edson County offices or on the Yellowhead County website.

If you would like more details on this program, please call the East County office located in Wildwood at 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935.



UPCOMING AG WORKSHOPS

January

Working Well – A free water well management workshop “Find out what you can do to protect your well” Hinton Area

Pruning & General Tree Care – This free workshop will cover lots of tips on how to properly prune different species of trees and what time of year is best. How to prepare your shelterbelt and ornamentals for survival over winter, as well as mitigating insect pests and diseases will also be discussed.

February

Alternative Agriculture Seminar – A full day seminar dedicated to alternative farming. Topics could include things such as farming sheep, goats, bees, or growing alternative crops such as flax and canary seed.

High School Farm Safety – A one day Emergency First Aid Course offered to local High School Students that focuses around being safe on the farm. Participants receive a certificate after the course, certifying them in Emergency First Aid.

March

Predator Control – This workshop provides classroom instruction regarding coyote, cougar, and wolf identification, threats and impacts and how to control these threats.

Surface Land Rights and the Landowner – This workshop will provide a broad overview of the life cycle of an energy development and answer any questions residents may have regarding the oil field industry.

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.

June

Gardening Seminar & 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!”

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.

Family Pond Days – Yellowhead County and Stewardship Alliance for Conservation Agriculture welcomes residents to the 2nd annual Family Pond Days where the whole family can come out to Chip Lake Park to learn about Wetland ecosystems and how they play an important role in our environment and everyday lives.

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.

BOAR BOUNTY CONTINUES

Yellowhead County is continuing to partner with the Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Wild Boar Bounty Program in a joint effort to control the wild boar population in Alberta.

The Wild Boar at large Ear Bounty Program is to provide compensation to individuals who are controlling the spread of wild boar at large populations in the Province of Alberta and collecting data on the locations where wild boar are found and the severity of the infestation.

Over the past few years the Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) have been working cooperatively to control, with the hopes of eradicating, wild boars at large throughout the province. When running at large, these animals pose a threat to the safety of people and property and as such have declared a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act.

Hunters receive \$50 for each boar that is shot providing they have followed the specific guidelines required for the bounty.

To make an application, a person must:

- Present the wild boar ears to a person or organization approved by the Agricultural Service Board (ASB). The Program will only accept pairs of ears. Single ears, or partial ears, are not eligible;
- Give all mandatory submission information to the ASB i.e. location of where boar was killed.
- Submit a signed declaration.
- Individuals are not eligible for the Program if the animal was killed in a manner that contravened any laws (e.g. bylaws, trespass, firearms, animal welfare).

This program will run until March 31, 2017.

Individuals wishing to participate in this program should contact:
Jennifer Benson, Agricultural Services Supervisor Yellowhead County
1-800-814-3935



County Fire Services Opens New

Major renovations bring substantial changes to fire hall – Room now available for training, equipment storage, and more.



Yellowhead County Council and volunteer members from the Robb Fire Hall officially opened the newly renovated fire hall on Oct. 29 at a grand opening ceremony, held in tandem with a community open house.

The renovations were done to help to increase the safety for residents in the hamlet and surrounding area, as the fire hall has been in service for many years. The station was at a stage that upgrades were becoming necessary to make sure the building provides adequate space needed for training and is capable of housing existing and future equipment.

Robb Fire Hall Grand Opening Remarks

Yellowhead County Mayor Gerald Soroka and Council were pleased with the opportunity to present this new facility to the community. “You know that this county is very much willing to make sure that there are the services that are needed within this community,” Soroka says. “That’s why I’m very proud that, as we stand here today and honour the firefighters of this community, we are able to ensure that this building will meet your needs long into the future.”

Hall Handed Over to Station 4 Members

During the ceremony Soroka and District Chief Gary Conger uncoupled a fire hose to officially open the new fire hall. This is a tradition for fire departments and replaces the ribbon-cutting normally used to signify the opening of a new building.

While acknowledging that the fire hall is an important contribution to the community, Yellowhead County Fire Chief Cory Chegwyn pointed out that it’s the local volunteers who are the consistent foundation of the community.

“As important as the building is – and it’s a major improvement,” he says, “one thing in Robb hasn’t changed: The members that you see here, that are on your fire department, are very dedicated.”

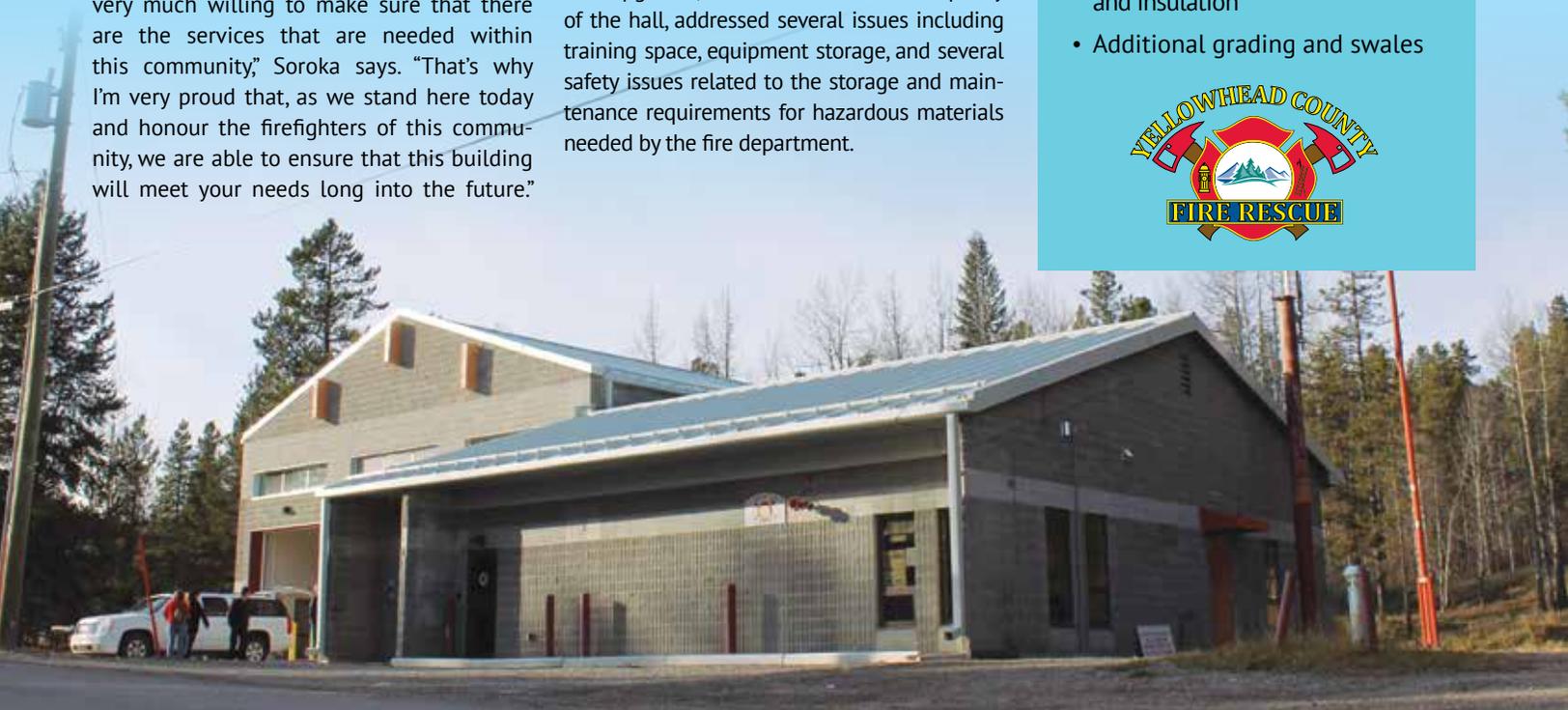
Wide Range of Upgrades & Renovations

The upgrades, done to increase the capacity of the hall, addressed several issues including training space, equipment storage, and several safety issues related to the storage and maintenance requirements for hazardous materials needed by the fire department.

The construction included renovating the existing structure to have three bays, as well as implementing a number of specialized features, such as an emergency generator that will allow the hall to be a focal point in a large-scale emergency. These features will enhance the fire and safety services of the area.

Upgrades include:

- Structural upgrades
- Re-roofing of the existing structure
- Additional concrete walls and concrete pad
- Addition of a mezzanine level
- Underground storage tank
- Upgraded foundation system
- Renovated exterior wall system and insulation
- Additional grading and swales



Robb Fire Hall

ment storage and vehicles

LOCAL MEMBERS RECEIVE MEDALS

Fire Medal Presentation. Fire Chief Cory Chegwyn and Mayor Gerald Soroka presented Robb firefighters Ian Woods and Fred Beier with their Federal medals for twenty years of exemplary service.

Both Tina Woods and Donna Beier, the wives of Ian and Fred, also received a pin to mark the occasion and recognize their dedication and support over the decades of their husbands' service to the community.

Country Living Open House

The Robb community open house, held in conjunction with the fire hall's grand opening, also provided an opportunity for residents to talk to Yellowhead County councillors and staff. Staff had booths set up and were on hand to talk about agricultural services, roads, Family and Community Support Services, planning and development, bylaw and enforcement, parks, recreation and more..



How will the new cellphone levy will benefit the Yellowhead 911 Centre?

The amount of money each call centre receives is based on population served. As Yellowhead Regional Emergency Communication Center serves the citizens of Edson, Hinton, Yellowhead County and Woodlands County, its population base is 33,061. The cellphone levy is \$0.44 per month, per cellphone that connects to 911. The levy is only charged on cellphones with Alberta numbers. Cellphone providers are entitled to keep 15.9 per cent of the 911 levy for their administrative costs. Government administrative costs will be approximately five per cent of the total funds raised by the levy in the 2014–15 fiscal year. This will go down to approximately three per cent in the future as the government administrative costs are reduced.

It's anticipated that approximately \$13.5 million will go to the 911 centres in the 2014–15 fiscal year and approximately \$14.8 million in the 2015–16 fiscal year. The total amount from the levy given out across Alberta to date is \$2,315,707.39. Yellowhead's grant was \$26,319.71 for the first installment of 2014.

How will the Yellowhead Regional Emergency Communication Centre use these funds?

The money will be used to upgrade the equipment in the call centre

How will the extra funding help?

As with any extra funding, the levy monies will help keep the call centre current in all areas, including training, technology, etc.

Has technology improved to the point where cellphone calls can be pinpointed to within close proximity of the incident?

Currently, in what is referred to as Phase II wireless, when a cellphone calls 911 85 per cent of the time the call centre will get a GPS location that can pinpoint the caller to within five to 10 metres of their location. This percentage will go up when the caller is in an area that has more cell towers that can provide further accuracy in locating the cellphone i.e. urban areas versus rural areas.

When will the centre see this money?

The first instalment of the levy monies has been received by the call centre.

What is the centre's coverage area?

The coverage area for Yellowhead Regional Emergency Communication Center is all of Yellowhead County (22,000 square kilometres) and all of Woodlands County (7,668 square kilometres), excluding the town of Whitecourt.

What is the most prevalent 911 call?

Currently we still see many "pocket" dials from cellphone carriers. These are calls made when a cellphone keypad hasn't been locked and can be activated inadvertently.

DID YOU KNOW?

Yellowhead County has hired Albert Bahri as Director of Protective Services. This position was created in order to enhance emergency and protective services within the county.

Bahri is responsible for directing, coordinating and supervising the various functions of the Protective Services Department. These responsibilities include the Community Peace Officers Program, the Enhanced Policing Program, Fire Services, 911 Dispatch Center, the Occupational Health and Safety Program and the Disaster Services Program. Bahri has worked for various municipal and first-response organizations across the country.



HEY STUDENTS!

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT NEXT SUMMER.

Are you or a family member currently enrolled in full-time post secondary education and seeking professional work experience this summer?

Yellowhead County provides post-secondary education students with the opportunity to gain career related experience that is both valuable and interesting. Summer students are hired to support various types of work in a variety of different fields such as lifeguarding, recreation & parks maintenance, agricultural services, youth workers and more.

We'll be posting Summer Student positions on our municipal website from December 15, 2014 until Sunday January 16, 2015.

Summer students typically begin work in May and the work term will be completed at the end of August.

Go to the employment section to see a full description of each position or go to www.yellowheadcounty.ab.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

Debbie Charest

– Director of Community Services

Don O'Quinn

– Director of Infrastructure Services

After-Hours Emergency

Utilities, Bylaw, Transportation: 780-723-3221

Yellowhead County

780-723-4800
1-800-665-6030
Fax: 780-723-5066

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.

Office Locations

Wildwood Office

53404 Rge Rd 92A
Wildwood, AB



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

