

Yellowheadlines

The latest news, information, and more for the Yellowhead.

NOT THEIR FIRST RODEO...

SEVERAL YELLOWHEAD COUNTY RODEO RIDERS HAVE HAD A GREAT RUN THIS YEAR IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL RODEO CAREERS... AND SOME OF THEM ARE A LOT YOUNGER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK!

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NOT THEIR FIRST RODEO.

AFTER ALL THE DUST SETTLES IN THE RODEO GROUNDS ACROSS ALBERTA THIS FALL, HALF A DOZEN YELLOWHEAD COUNTY RESIDENTS WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO BE QUITE PROUD OF FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION THIS PAST YEAR.

Several local rodeo participants from Yellowhead County and one county employee have been busy making the rounds and doing quite well in a range of events in numerous rodeos in Alberta and several other provinces and U.S. states in events ranging from barrel racing and bronc riding to team cattle penning.

Included in this group are two sibling duos who have had quite a prolific year in 2018; twins Taylor and Tristen Manning and brothers Logan and Dawson Hay. And all been quite successful in their careers to date.

Fourteen year old Taylor Manning and her twin brother Tristen have been riding since they were quite young. Taylor has been barrel riding since she was four and Tristen has been competing specifically in steer riding for over four years and the Hay boys have grown up in the rodeo world with riding being second nature to them.



Both the Mannings and the Hays come from established rodeo blood, with the fathers of both sets of siblings having competed in the professional rodeo circuit themselves. Taylor and Tristen's dad, Jay Manning, won the Bull Riding Championship in the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) in 1996 and Logan and Dawson's dad, Rod Hay, is an eight-time Canadian saddle bronc riding champion. With growing up with such strong rodeo DNA in their jeans and with the great hands-on coaching they've received it's hard to imagine them not having such a great start at such young ages, but it's really the hard work and dedication of these young rodeo riders that has helped them have such a successful year in the rodeo circuit.

All four of them have been putting in the hours and miles across Alberta and into other other

parts of Canada, as well as competing in the states for the Hay boys. Although they compete in different types of riding and levels, there have been a few events where they were able to compete in several of the same rodeos - and win first in their events.

While the CPRA circuit allows riders under 18 to compete, participants in the U.S.'s

Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) must be at least 18 to compete, meaning that although the Mannings have been



overwhelmingly successful this past year, it won't be another four years until they can compete in any PRCA sanctioned events, including the Calgary Stampede; which Taylor qualified for but couldn't compete due to her age.

Dawson and his brother, along with Cooper Thatcher originally from Australia but trains with the Hays in Wildwood, have been criss-crossing paths across Canada and the U.S. this past year, with Dawson having gone to over ninety-five rodeos this past year; "Twice

deo is used for driving to the next event. It won't be until after the finals that there'll be time for resting and training.

Not only have these county residents done extremely well this year, but Yellowhead County agricultural services summer-staff employee Justin Seely, along with his aunt, was part of the team that took home first place at the Calgary Stampede's 2018 Team Cattle Penning - 10 Class this past July. While all three members of the team had the skills needed to clinch the win, they didn't have the history of working together as a team that most other groups competing would have; this was only the second time Seely and his other two team members had worked together as a group in a competition and the first time Seely and his aunt competed in the Calgary Stampede.



Photo of Justin Seely at the Calgary Stampede.



Cooper Thatcher. Photo by Billie-Jean Duff, courtesy of CPRA.

as many as last year," mentions Hays, where he 'competes with the top guys.' Of those rodeos, twenty were in Canada with the rest in the states, making for a lot of travel time. Sometimes Hays had two to three rodeos in one weekend, and there has been times where there has been more than one in the same day. Because his brother Logan is under permit and not full card, they haven't been able to travel together too much this year, but next year they'll be travelling together more often as Logan will have a full card.

All this competing and travel makes for very little down time - when asked about resting and training, Hays points out that any time not at the ro-

With the young age of these and the other riders from across the County competing in rodeos, we will likely see more news about them as the years go on.



Taylor Manning at the Strathmore Stampede.

OPEN FARM DAYS

AFTER MUCH PLANNING ON THE PART OF OPEN FARM DAYS ORGANIZERS AND MUCH GROWING ON THE PART OF OUR LOCAL FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND HERBS—THE CELEBRATION OF THE FARMING LEGACY FINALLY CAME, AND WILL COME AGAIN NEXT YEAR, REST ASSURED!

This past August, Open Farm Days leant townies, city-folk, and other rural-ites a (literal) taste of variety and treated visitors to different schemes of food production! Yellowhead County, in partnership with Community Futures West Yellowhead organized a bus tour of 5 local producers. Over 30 participants signed up for the full-day tour.

The first stop saw tour-goers stretch their legs out among four-leggers at the Ophus Guest Ranch. Ophus owners and ranch hands alike have a passion for horsemanship and are ever-eager to share that passion with folks of all ages in their workshops, private lessons, and wagon/sleigh rides. Tour-goers got to learn about the temperament, habits, and beauty of horses, and got to appreciate the effort and knowledge needed to run the ranch. Check out this active and welcoming ranch on Facebook, @OphusGuestRanch.

Next up, tour-goers sampled locally-grown berries at Cold Creek Farms & Campground. Just like the name says, this farm offers a rustic campground near a modern farming operation. When the berry bushes are blossoming, you're bound to find something that will excite your taste-buds and tickle your inner horticulturalist; after all, some of these berries (we're looking at you, Honeyberries) are making a name for themselves courtesy of their quick ripening times and other kindly growing characteristics. This farm is no slouch in experimenting with growing varieties, and Open Farm Days tour-goers undoubtedly appreciated the insight into next-generation berry crops—and walked away with their own assortment of jams and other locally-grown products from the on-farm store. Find Cold Creek Farms on Facebook, @mary.thiessen1.

Onto meatier things! The tour bus careened into the open arms of a larger, more meat-eater friendly

farming operation. Stonepost Farms sees chickens, turkeys, and cows roam to their hearts content, until they're ready to be processed and brought to various local farmers' markets, and to your table! The Doherty's, farm owners, pride themselves on maintaining a farm that goes beyond sustainability—tour-goers were offered a demonstration of the Doherty's holistic approach to farming and learned about their philosophy of healthy and natural farming. Many a visitor came away with armfuls of meat. Find Stonepost on Facebook at @stonepostfarms.

Undoubtedly, this engaging tour required energy, and tour-goers were all too happy to indulge in the next tour offering. Wild Country Gardens hosted lunch, and lunch was an assorted glut of hours-roasted pork, freshly tossed salad and sauerkraut, beer sampling, and pie—all locally sourced by food blogger extraordinaire, Jaqueline Delisle (@CookingWithJax on Facebook). Tour-goers had a chance to fill their bellies, unwind, and socialize, before touring the herbs and berries that make up the products of Wild Country Gardens. Needless to say, this local producer's shop was full. Find more on Facebook, @wildcountrygardens.

Our tour wrapped-up with a relaxing saunter through a "U-Pick It" just on the edge of Evansburg. This U-Pick boasts a variety of veggies, berries, and herbs, and though the day was getting long, our tour-goers weren't slouching—rather bending—to get at the fresh, locally-grown offerings of this you-pick. Check out more about this U-Pick It on Facebook, including photos of their vibrant veggies, @UPickItEvansburg.

We hope to see some familiar faces at next year's Open Farm Days tour—you can start getting excited now, after all, the organizers are going to have to top a tour of 5 awesome producers and freshly roasted pork for lunch!



BRULE BIKE PARK: A HIT WITH THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART!

Attendance was high at the Grand Opening of the new bike park in Brule when dozens of locals and bike enthusiasts from the surrounding area and Hinton came out to take part in some fun outdoor activities.

While horses, voyageur canoes, hiking and history buffs have long been associated with exploring and recreation in the Brule area, there is a new breed of recreational transport gaining traction in the woods and trails of the hamlet.

On June 12, 2018, approximately 120 excited residents and visitors attended the grand opening of the newly finished Brule Bike Park in Yellowhead County. Attendees at the event got a chance to ride the new trails and bike park features and chow down on some burgers after building up an appetite from riding the newly completed park.

The Brule Bike Park is a new recreation facility for bike riders of all ages and skill levels. Based on the turn out and quality of trails and features (there were more attendees than the actual number of residents that live in the hamlet) there will likely be regular visitors coming from nearby areas, as well visitors coming to the area for camping, bike riding and the other regular recreational activities.

The cost of the new Yellowhead County bike park was \$100,000 for the concept, design, and building of the park.

While many Yellowhead County hamlets have had new asphalt pump tracks built over the last two years, the community of Brule opted to go with a more traditional bike park featuring a dirt pump track, dirt jumps, drops, skinnies, suspension bridge, dragon's back - wooden track feature, return loops, other wood and rock obstacle/balance features.

Kelsi Wallace of the Brule Community Society worked closely with Yellowhead County in the planning, coordinating, and execution of the bike park with the actual park built by Creating Flow Trail Designs from Calgary, with contributions from local businesses and volunteers. Project development has been 6 months of work time during 2017 and 2018.

Future plans: Phase 2 expansion dependent on future funding

The event sponsors included Secure Energy who sponsored the barbecue and brought in their trailer BBQ, and Vicious Cycle who had demo bikes and gave bike repair assistance to any riders who needed a quick tune-up or repair.



CADOMIN CEMETERY

Located southwest of the Hamlet of Cadomin, at the foot of Leyland Mountain, lay the former Cadomin mine works. In 2016 Yellowhead County and the Galloway Station Museum ventured further into these mine works with a Cadomin resident, who described a cluster of graves on the hillside.

What was found in the first site visit was an overgrown area with three graves visible, one of which still had its marble tombstone. Closer inspection showed multiple indentations and possible markers, both inside and outside of the small fenced area. There were no records of a cemetery in Cadomin, but it seemed that this was quite possibly a site of historical significance.

Yellowhead County contacted the Coal Branch Club to discuss the findings. They recalled names of those possibly interred at the site, siblings and family friends who had been lost with time. No caretakers remained or could access the site due to age, and those that had

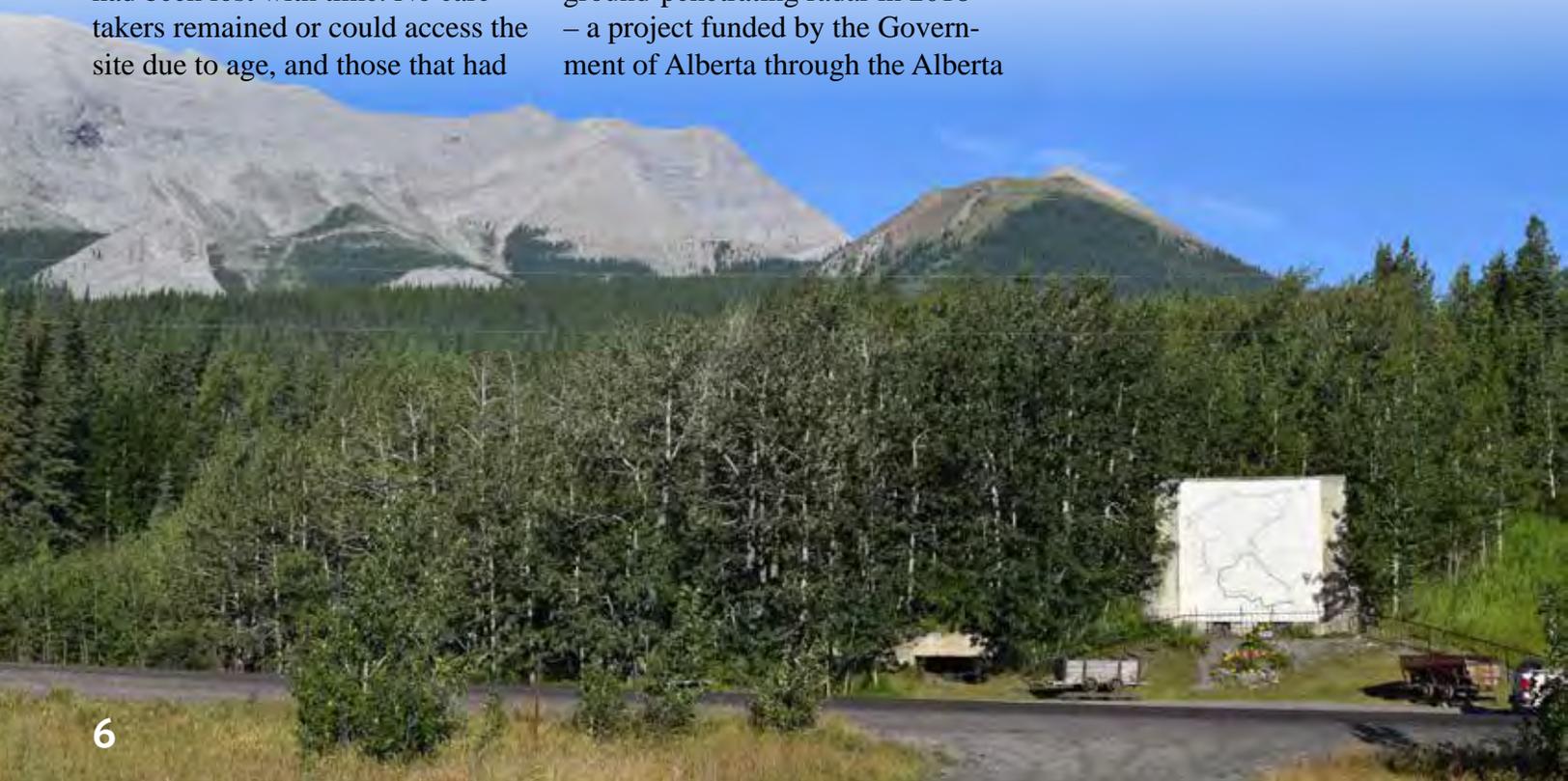
moved away were unable to find the site on subsequent visits. There was definite excitement in the potential of reclaiming these people they had lost.

Armed with this information, the group delved into obtaining the scope of the cemetery. By using the historic death register for the Town of Cadomin from the Provincial archives, they correlated people on the death register to other cemeteries nearby, eliminating those who were interred at Mountain Park, Edson, and Edmonton, as well as other burials across Canada. After narrowing down the list, the group was able to confirm forty-five burials in Cadomin, with the majority thought to be within this cemetery.

In the summer of 2017, the Alberta Junior Forest Rangers helped clear the site and trail area. This was the ground work for getting cemetery mapping completed followed by ground-penetrating radar in 2018 – a project funded by the Government of Alberta through the Alberta



Historical Resources Foundation. The survey revealed a total of twenty-five high and moderate potential targets associated with a burial and regions of interest. This correlates with the initial findings, giving those lost to time a place to be remembered.!



BEAR LAKE TRIATHLON

This past July, over 110 young (and some older!) athletes took to Bear Lake Park to participate in the annual Bear Chase Triathlon.

Held annually, the triathlon sees five age categories participate in a friendly competition of swimming, running, and biking in our very own Bear Lake Park.

Parents had a hard time keeping up with their tireless tykes and teens, and even the ever-curious Sasyk Da Sasquatch came out to see what all the fuss was about!

Congratulations to all of our participants for another celebration of athletics in our beautiful outdoors. And Sasyk wanted to pass along some grumbles and grunts that amount to "Thanks for keeping my backyard clean!"

Following the event, athletes and their families munched on some hearty (and free) BBQ, sponsored in part by Advantage Towing. Bouncy castles were ripe for raiding soon after, and at dusk, an outdoor movie wrapped-up the event gracefully. Thanks to all of our competitors and parents who took part in a fun and rewarding day of athletics.

Keep on training, as we hope to see you all back next year! Remember to take some garbage out with you when you're in the bush. We don't want to scare our resident Sasquatch away with litter!



FCSS SUCCESS STORIES

Shining a Light: Mental Health in your Community

This past spring and summer, our Family and Community Support Services Coordinator helped a local resident with mental health troubles get the help he needed.

“Fred’s” real name isn’t key to understanding an issue as universal as mental health, but his all-too-common struggle is. Fred was an elderly resident of our county who was in a bad way, and his health and living conditions were only getting worse with time. Fred was angry. Fred was lonely. Fred was abandoned.

Fred suffered from mental health issues. And his issues took a toll on his relationships. After a time of trying to help him, Fred’s family finally cut ties. Likewise, friends and members of the community who noticed that Fred’s situation was out of the norm found themselves clueless—how do you help someone who doesn’t want help? And all the more challenging, Fred was a difficult man to relate to—even speak to.

And that was because Fred’s mental health challenges had gone unchecked for years, and began to exacerbate his overall health as he grew older. Now Fred’s situation was getting dire. Though he had enjoyed running errands and going for walks in his hamlet for years, he was now becoming taxing to the public.

His increasingly irritable personality led him to be shunned by local vendors, and he was even banned from his long-time bank. He was wary of people—and would needlessly rush to angry words and accusations directed at both strangers and those who offered to lend a hand. It was as if a black cloud was hanging over Fred, thundering all community support away.

Fred became an outcast. He no longer had anyone to rely on. What’s more: Fred’s health began to take a turn for the worse. Fortunately for Fred, a local coordinator from Yellowhead County’s Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) wanted to help.

Karen Schatz had learned about Fred from county Peace Officer Scott Meadwell. Officer Meadwell had been

called upon by residents to speak to Fred about his behavior on many occasions, and even offered to help Fred himself as much as he could.

Karen could tell that Fred suffered from mental health problems—but he also needed more immediate help. Whenever Fred would feel ill, he would ask a neighbour to call an ambulance to drive him to the local hospital (because others no longer wanted to deal with his temperament). Eventually, a doctor discovered that Fred was in need of a surgery consultation due to his degrading health.

Karen wondered how Fred would get there. That would be her first goal: To help Fred get the transportation for his appointment. This proved to be difficult. At first, Karen couldn’t find local transportation for Fred for the particular day of his appointment. She instead requested a closer referral from the consulting doctor so that Fred could get a surgery consultation at a local hospital. Though this proved fruitful, Fred’s long-time demeanor was a challenge.

Karen had managed to secure local drivers to take Fred to his now-closer appointment, but Fred found excuses and created difficulties numerous times during his drives, delaying the appointment date further. Karen saw why those around him were struggling to help. The help Fred needed was beyond the ability of one person.

But what could she do? She decided to help Fred in a more holistic way; he needed foundational mental health support, without which Karen believed his quality of life would be in drastic decline. But problematically, getting professional mental health help for others is tricky, as Karen puts it: “That’s the toughest part; for mental health services, people must refer themselves.”

Although Karen managed to get a referral for Fred at a geriatric psychiatry clinic based on his perceived mental health and other health issues, Fred refused to be admitted. He also missed another surgery consultation. Finally, Karen referred Fred to the Public Guardian and

Trustee program. After Fred was visited by a representative of the Public Guardian/Trustee office, Karen had found her avenue for help.

The Public Guardian found Fred’s home to be uninhabitable and immediately found a temporary place for Fred to live. As his health was also in decline, the Public Guardian found seniors’ housing at a nearby rural town (which also offered more resources for Fred).

At this point, Karen had done all she could for Fred, and his situation was finally improving. After a few months of no contact, Karen followed up with Fred. She recalls a happier, more active Fred: “He’s connected; he’s in group living, in a lodge-style home, has friends, and goes out on bus outings. And he’ll be getting his surgery done, too!”

Karen’s knowledge and experience may have allowed her to find a way to help Fred, but the most critical action she took was to speak with Fred and understand his troubles. And she understands that this can be intimidating: “People are scared to get involved. But I also see that people want to reach out, they just don’t know how to reach out and get that help for themselves or others. As a community, we should be more connected.”

Although we can rely on FCSS to offer a great deal of resources and information, FCSS coordinators are not social workers. Sometimes, community members must step up to help others. In Fred’s case, his quality of life may have been much better earlier on in his life if an acquaintance stepped in to see what his troubles were and called on friends, relatives, neighbours, or specialized resources to help.

Karen hopes that offers a solution: “We have to come together as a community. We have to meet with our neighbours and figure out what we can do to help a person dealing with mental health issues.” And if you’re still looking for help and answers, then it’s time to reach out to the resources available—something FCSS is always coordinator.

So how do you speak with someone you think may be struggling with mental health issues?

Firstly, make sure you're recognizing that a mental illness may be present. Many people have mental health concerns from time to time. But a mental health concern becomes a mental illness when ongoing signs and symptoms cause frequent stress and affect one's ability to function.

Mental illness refers to a wide range of mental health conditions—disorders that affect one's mood, thinking and behavior. Signs and symptoms of mental illness can vary, depending on the disorder, circumstances and other factors, but symptoms generally affect emotions, thoughts and behaviors.

Examples of signs and symptoms include:

- Feeling sad or down
- Confused thinking or reduced ability to concentrate
- Excessive fears or worries, or extreme feelings of guilt

- Extreme mood changes of highs and lows
- Withdrawal from friends and activities
- Significant tiredness, low energy or problems sleeping
- Detachment from reality (delusions), paranoia or hallucinations
- Inability to cope with daily problems or stress
- Trouble understanding and relating to situations and to people
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Major changes in eating habits
- Sex drive changes
- Excessive anger, hostility or violence
- Suicidal thinking

If someone you know shows symptoms of failing mental health, you can do something about it. It takes asking a simple question, such as "How have you been feeling lately?" and letting the person unpack. Sometimes listening is

the best thing that can help, and only through listening, and asking direct, encouraging questions can you gauge what your friend or family member is experiencing.

You should remember that there's no shame in poking into someone's business, nor is it a sign of weakness on your part—in fact, this is something that takes a great deal of courage for both parties. Just remember to never approach helping a person in a careless or discourteous manner.

Have an open and honest discussion with the person about your concerns. You may not be able to force someone to get professional care, but you can offer encouragement and support. You can also help your friend or family member find a qualified mental health provider and make an appointment. You may even be able to go along to the appointment.

And if they have self-harmed or are considering doing so, take the person to the hospital or call for emergency help.



FCSS GRANTS

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY'S FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES HAS A NUMBER OF GRANTS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU REACH YOUR GOAL.

Neighbourlink Grant

This grant provides funds to individuals (up to \$200/reimbursement) for a neighbourhood social event. Meet your neighbours and form a bond of community upkeep and security. Intended for small geographic areas that encompass a maximum of 25 households. Special consideration will be given to subdivisions and urbanized areas.

Abundantly Yellowhead

This is a community building initiative for Yellowhead County's communities. How well do you know your neighbours?

Does your community know what special skills you have to contribute to a friendlier, more connected neighbourhood? Abundantly Yellowhead is a process to connect neighbours, agencies and the municipality, to make everyone's community a better place to live. Up to \$10,000 is available, along with in-kind mentorship, to complete an "Abundant Communities" process of learning, connecting and sharing.

Board Coaching

Funds are available to non-profit community groups to access professional

help in improving meetings, bylaws and policies, and overall organizational funding.

Special Projects Grant

This grant provides funds to groups that are providing a community service that enhances the social well-being of children and youth, families, and the community. The proposed initiative must be preventive in nature.

Got more questions about these grants? Don't hesitate to call and speak to one of our FCSS coordinators at 780-325-3782.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR SNOW SHOVELLING PROGRAM

Winter in Alberta can be a difficult time of the year for seniors or people with physical disabilities. This is your chance to help out!

Clearing snow from steps, sidewalks and driveways can be difficult or impossible for seniors or people with physical disabilities, endangering the safety of the homeowner or passerby. Keeping access points clear and safe is also important for emergency responders and people that are supporting more housebound individuals. Because of this, Yellowhead County Family and Community Support Services is encouraging people to "Be a Good Neighbour" as well as giving people the opportunity to recognize the good Samaritans in their community!

The "Be a Good Neighbour" Program initiative encourages community members, Junior and Senior High School Students, Cadets, Junior Forest Wardens, Girl Guides, 4H Clubs, church groups, youth groups, friends and neighbours to shovel the personal walks and driveways of seniors in need and those who are not physically capable of shovelling their sidewalks. This program is intended for seniors/community members on limited fixed incomes with no

or limited human resources available to them. The purpose of this program is to serve those who have no other options, providing them a better quality of life and helping them remain in their homes longer. The volunteers get the satisfaction of knowing that they have made a difference in the life of someone in their community.

Homeowners/renters would recognize their "Good Neighbour" by submitting a nomination form. They would also receive an "I Have a Good Neighbour" sign that can be placed on their property. The "Good Neighbour's" name would be placed into draws for prizes on April 2, 2019.

The application/nomination forms and signs can be picked up from the Entwistle Library, the Evansburg Library, the Wildwood Library, the Yellowhead County Wildwood Office, the Niton Library, the Food Mart in Peers, and the Yellowhead County Edson Office. This initiative runs from November 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

Yellowhead County Family and Community Support Services encourages all those able bodied community members to get out there to take some time this winter and help a neighbour in need.



Your First Call for Help!



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

Three Ways to Connect



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



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



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



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

We Listen. We Connect.

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

GOOD NEIGHBOUR Snow Shoveling Program

Do you know of anyone that needs help clearing their sidewalk of snow in your community? Reach out to someone in your neighbourhood who may need help and you could be nominated as a good neighbour! Nominated volunteers will be entered into a prize draw in April!

To recognize and nominate a helping volunteer, visit either county office or any of the following libraries: Entwistle, Evansburg, Wildwood, or Niton.

If you have any questions about this program, call us at 780-325-3782.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Meals on Wheels program provides much-needed relief to those who are discharged from the hospital and are on their own, single residents (or single residents with small children), and single seniors. This service is heavily sought in rural areas, and Yellowhead County's own residents have shared their interests in the program.

Coordinator phone numbers, names, and the full menu of frozen meals can be found at all local county libraries (Niton, Wildwood, Evansburg, Entwistle, Seba Beach), and at the Yellowhead County Wildwood Office.

When placing an order, please have your method of payment ready as orders will have to be prepaid. Our coordinators will be accepting the first round of meal orders before July 4th, for pick up on the following week.

These frozen meals are locally made by the Edmonton Meals on Wheels program and range in cost from \$4.50 to \$7.00 per meal.

The coordinating Meals on Wheels group would like to thank Lobstick River Foods for their gracious donation of an upright freezer, which will be used to store frozen meals in the Wildwood Library. A huge thank you to the Mackay Community Association for allowing the coordinating group to store additional frozen meals! Watch for Meals on Wheels posters in your communities—and if you need more information, please call the Yellowhead County office at 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935.

NEIGHBOUR LINK

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS, BUILD COMMUNITY BONDS

Did you know that your neighbourhood can play a greater impact on your health than you'd think? Believe it! According to the World Health Organization, increased social networks are linked to better health.

For example, close ties to your family, friends, and community as a whole leads to increased social supports and coping skills. Just think about it: When we're all looking out for one another's health and wellbeing, we're all benefiting.

That's why Yellowhead County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) has increasingly focused on supporting and encouraging strong, healthy, and resilient communities, and hence, improving the wellbeing of residents.

And guess what? We can all have fun getting to know our neighbours! There's no better way to strengthen your community ties than by hosting a block party. FCSS wants to help you do just that with the Neighbourlink Program.

Neighbourlink is a means to cover some of the costs of a block party in your neighbourhood. The grant allows you to cover expenses—you just have to do some planning, some inviting, and lots of socializing! Then, report your event to FCSS, and we'll figure out which of the related costs (minus alcohol) will be covered by the grant. Call your local FCSS coordinator to find out just how much is eligible for coverage

Think all the planning is a hassle? How

about the proof in the pudding: Just this past September, a community in Wolf Creek hosted a social gathering and barbecue potluck. Though the weather was less than obliging, neighbours made the best of it! They even set up a cozy yurt to escape the rain and snow and had 30 some people take share in the meal and friendly conversation.

The event led to a lot of socializing and some important sentiments. For instance, community members reiterated the value of watching over one another's property, and looking out for one another in light of an emergency. Naturally, the event even led to plans for future activities!

GOING BEYOND NEIGHBOURLINK FCSS ABUNDANTLY YELLOWHEAD

If you liked the idea of the Neighbourlink grant and it's got your mind jogging on the topic of community networks, then read on!

The Abundantly Yellowhead program is similar to Neighbourlink, but it's meant to get the community together on a grander scale, with concrete goals in mind. It's a way for community members to start a project with a long-term community development goal in mind.

Here's how it would work:

You, a designated person, or group would survey your community to see what avenues of common interest are available among neighbours. Next, with a better picture of what's going on in the community, an inventory of skills, interests, or ideas can be created.

The rationale here is to find common strengths or simply avenues of collaboration—and to find patterns that, when

acted on, can improve or contribute to the community. For example, if a member of the community has experience in managing a small business, another member runs a dairy farm, and yet another member has a passion for making ice cream—you've got a bona-fide, local ice cream business opportunity brewing!

Where does Abundantly Yellowhead fit in? Well someone's got to rationalize a community's common strengths, and then get these members of the community together! The program will cover costs related to creating a community inventory—including hosting key events, interviewing locals, and compiling a list of common interests. Next, it's a matter of getting the community together to do an inventory of members and interests, and to start off the discussion with a, "What do you want to see in your community, and how can we work together to make it happen?"

And what comes of this process doesn't necessarily need to fit an economic goal. With an inventory of similar interests, one could see the development of a hobby group, and then work on further goals for that group. For example, a group of hobbyist bakers is only one contact away from becoming a non-profit group that serves fresh baked goods to local seniors!

Understand that with Abundantly Yellowhead, working towards a change in your community is as simple as getting everyone together for a chat! If you'd like more details, don't hesitate to call us to chat about Abundantly Yellowhead at 780-325-3782 or visit the county Wildwood office.

PARENT LINK

HAVING PARENTLINK AVAILABLE DIRECTLY IN THE COUNTY MAKES OUR COMMUNITIES BETTER PLACES TO MOVE TO AND GROW FAMILIES. IT PROVIDES AN AVENUE FOR FAMILIES TO LEARN, SHARE AND GROW TOGETHER.

Did you know that local resources and programs are available for parents and children through ParentLink? The first year of ParentLink programming has concluded successfully, and we're back for more!

ParentLink programs are meant to help families in their parenting journey—services include parent education, early childhood development and care, information and referrals, and the Ages and Stages Development Questionnaire, which is meant to gauge your child's de-

"It has been an honour and a pleasure to bring ParentLink family programming to our Yellowhead County communities. Having raised my children in similar programs, I understand firsthand the value of local and meaningful connection in family involved programming.

I have loved getting to know so many amazing families, and watching parents and children grow and connect with each other in positive and meaningful relationships."

**Nicole Connolly, Yellowhead County
FCSS Early Childhood Coordinator**

velopment relative to their age.

Our most popular program, ParentLink Playtime, is on offer in three county communities. It's a chance for you to drop-in and join other families in a fun, interactive environment for both parents and children. Coffee, snacks, fun activities, and family bonding—what more could you ask for?

To date, ParentLink programs have been overwhelmingly successful; ParentLink coordinators have co-hosted two Winter Fun Days in Peers, with over 140 people impacted between the two events. The exciting year-end party in Niton Junction saw a turnout of over 100 people—luckily, not everyone took to the bouncy-castle all at once!

The community has been very responsive to this past year's ParentLink programming, which included ParentLink Play Time, ParentLink Park n' Play, and Family Fit time. Yellowhead County's Family and Community Support Services Department is happy to announce that over 40 regularly-attending families were positively affected by these programs.

"Providing services within communities ensures that rural areas of the province do not become "have nots" and people do not have a two tiered system of supports, one for urban, and one for rural.

ParentLink programming is universal, in that everyone has something to teach and share, as well as learn."

**Wendy Robinson, Yellowhead County
FCSS Supervisor**

For more information, please contact Nicole Connolly, Early Childhood Coordinator, at (780) 325-3782. ParentLink funding is made available through the Alberta Government ParentLink Centre initiative.

Parents will also be able to learn about additional programs and services that they may not have known about before and access the Ages and Stages Developmental Screening questionnaire.



PEACE OFFICERS

BUILDING A PAVED TRANSPORTATION NETWORK ACROSS YELLOWHEAD COUNTY MEANS HAVING TO PROTECT AND ENFORCE THESE AREAS AS WELL

When building a paved transportation network across Yellowhead County, a lot of work goes into the management of the construction and subsequent maintenance, of these roads and the other local roads, but our responsibility doesn't stop there. To maintain protective services for vehicle traffic and community safety throughout the County, Yellowhead County peace officers patrol over 2,400 km of our road network for community policing within Yellowhead County.

Earlier this year, Council decided to add two new Yellowhead County Peace Officers bringing the total to eight. This decision came about because the Edson and Hinton RCMP detachment not being able to fill the two RCMP positions that Yellowhead County had been paying for enhanced policing within Yellowhead County.

In addition to these general road enforcement issues, County peace officers also deal with off-highway vehicle enforcement, noise bylaw issues, untidy & unsightly concerns, land use bylaw infractions, animal control and numerous other issues that fall under Yellowhead County bylaws, provincial appointments, and other enforcement issues such as environmental protection and enhancement concerns.

As County peace officers are often on patrol in various areas across the county, they are often the first on scene for emergency calls. They play a significant role in responding to emergency calls, often in coordination with YCFD (Yellowhead County Fire Department) and other emergency services, and evacuation in disaster situations, and will work on traffic control for roadside incidents. They also participate in community engagement such as bike rodeos, and other local community events.

While enforcement is a part of what their role is, Yellowhead County peace officers put a large emphasis on education as well – with a focus on education and awareness as opposed to ticketing and enforcement.

Several of the members also contribute to the community on an individual level as they are also paid-on-call volunteer YCFD firefighters in their personal time where they take part in regular firefighting training and emergency calls.

Yellowhead County peace officers come from a variety of different backgrounds; some are former police officers and paramedics; while others have worked for Alberta Transportation, enforcing com-

mercial vehicle transportation legislation. This wide range of experience and expertise adds to their ability to address the many different issues that they come across while on duty.

If you have any questions about the duties of the County peace officers or need their services you can contact their department at the Yellowhead County offices.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first Yellowhead County Bylaw Enforcement Officer position was created in October 2003. In May, 2005 Yellowhead County Council approved the Municipal Enforcement Proposal.

In the summer of 2006 Yellowhead County expanded the department to three officers.

In addition to having the authority to enforce all Yellowhead County by-laws, the Community Peace Officers also enforce traffic legislation such as speeding, stop sign violations and seatbelt use.

During road bans, enforcement officers focus on protecting the infrastructure of the County to prevent road damage from overweight loads.



DOGS AT LARGE

You can also do your part to ensure that our Peace Officers are able to keep our roads and hamlets safe! And it's a simple ask; our Peace Officers have been dealing with numerous complaints regarding animal control, especially at-large dogs. To help prevent your animals being injured or locked-up, please ensure that your animals are confined to your property, and if they are to leave your property, ensure that they are controlled and leashed up.

Dog complaints pull our officers away from serving our communities effectively, though this concern is an easy one to curtail. Remember to take care of your animals, because sadly, our officers have had to impound many dogs, and issue fines as well.

Thank you for doing your part to ensure our officers are making the best use of their resources! We expect the increased number of county Peace Officers to improve our protective services impact for all in the county.



November is Crime Prevention Month.

Yellowhead County Council and Enforcement Services support
Crime Prevention Month.

You can help keep your property safe by being pro-active:

Report concerns, talk to your neighbours about what they're seeing and experiencing in the community. Take measures to protect yourself. Having adequate lighting and locking up your valuables is a good place to start.

Yellowhead County, building a better community for
present and future generations.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Rosevear Bridge & Highway 748 – Carrot Creek Tower Road – Tom Hill Tower Road

Paving is complete for the following projects:

- Maskuta subdivision
- Seabolt Access
- Pinedale Transfer Station
- Niton Junction
- Pinedale Transfer Station
- Peers Sani-dump
- Wolf Lake Road and Carrot Creek Loop
- Hwy 947 (repairs)

Paving and inspection has been completed for the above as of mid-October. Any found deficiencies will be addressed in the near future.

Notable projects:

Hwy 748, Rosevear Bridge – Hwy 748 and Rosevear Bridge construction continues. Originally, this project was slated for completion on October 31, 2018—however, the project has experienced numerous delays due to weather and construction issues.

Currently, the road surface is being paved but it is uncertain whether paving will be completed and the bridge ready for traffic this year. The county and the contractor intend to complete paving and allow full access by end of month, dependent on weather.

Should the conditions remain less than optimal, paving will be

postponed until the summer of 2019. This will ensure a quality highway surface for travelling. Nevertheless, Highway 748 will be open for both lanes of traffic by the end of the month, either with a paved or gravel surface (with the temporary detour removed and traffic unimpeded in both directions). Please remember this remains a construction zone and requires reduced speed.

Carrot Creek Tower Road – Work continues, with a substantial portion of this road expected to be completed this year, but work will remain for 2019.

Tom Hill Tower Road – Paving is complete and the road has been open to the public as of October 2018.



DECLARATION OF AGRICULTURAL DISASTER

Yellowhead County's council issued a declaration of Agricultural Disaster hoping to encourage the Provincial and Federal Governments to offer relief to local producers struggling through a poor, inclement-weather harvest.

Unfavourable weather conditions throughout the growing season, coupled with snow in September, have flattened standing crops and impacted yield potential. Freezing temperatures during harvest have also caused severe damage to the quality of the crops. Those producers who have managed to reap some harvest are finding low-yields of poor-quality product.

In previous years of poor harvests, producers have received relief ranging from tax-deferral programs to disaster assistance

programs. County council also acknowledges the stress this situation forces upon our producers, and hopes to encourage those experiencing such stresses to contact Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) for support during these difficult times.

The most recent Alberta Crop Report and options for un-harvested acres can be found on the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry website at <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca>. Information pertaining to crop insurance is available at www.afsc.ca.

For any additional information please contact Yellowhead County's Agricultural Services at 780-325-3782.

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

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.

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.

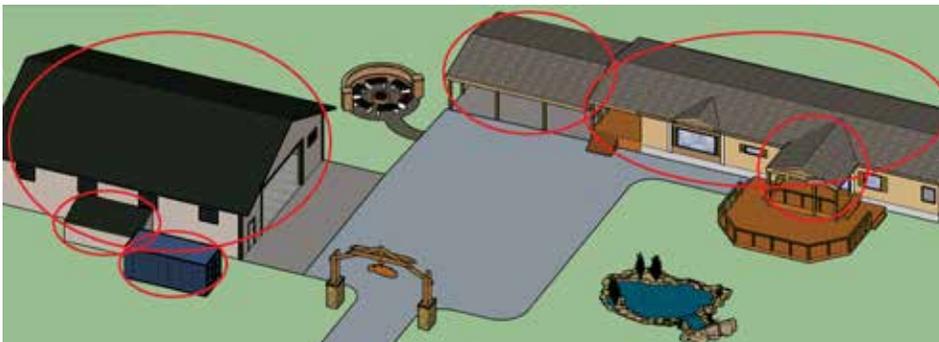
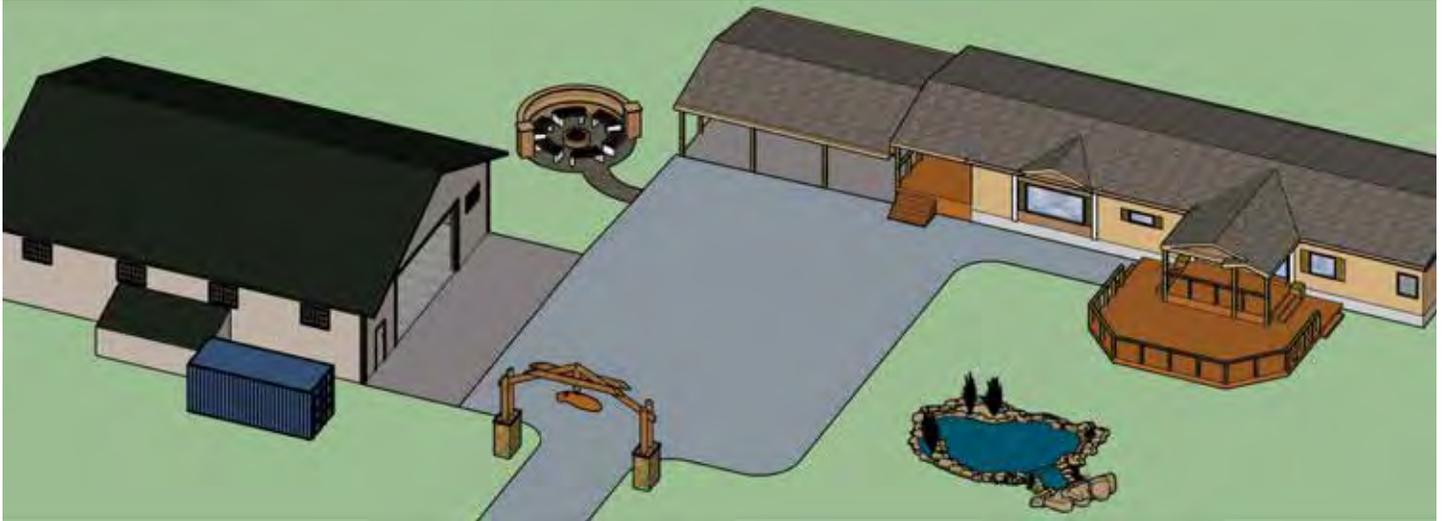
Driving to the current road conditions and giving yourself plenty of time to get to where you need to go will greatly help reduce the chance of a driving accident.



ILLEGAL DEVELOPMENTS BYLAWS

Did you know that numerous developments to your property require Development Permits issued by Yellowhead County? And have you ever wondered if a completed development on your property may actually require a permit after the fact? If so, we understand and we want to help! You may not know about the nuances of development requirements in Yellowhead County, that's why we've created this handy guide.

Can you spot the developments that need a Development Permit?



Several developments in Yellowhead County are regulated under a Development Permit. These can include:

- Houses and some cabins
- Accessory buildings on skids or a permanent foundation (detached garage, shop, barn, shed, greenhouse, etc.)
- Lean-tos and other additions
- Shipping containers
- Carports attached or detached from another building
- Verandahs (covered deck)
- Moving on or replacing a manufactured home
- Home occupations (home based businesses)

Why does the County regulate what I do on my property?

Under Provincial legislation, the County undertakes land use planning. In its simplest terms, land use planning is a rational process of identifying the goals of a community and forming ways by which these can be met, through control over the use of land. The County uses the Land Use Bylaw (often referred to a "zoning"), with other tools, as the "rules of the game" by which private developers, public agencies, and individuals must follow when they develop land in the County.

What is a Development Permit? How is it different from a Building Permit?

A Development Permit is a document that is issued under the Land Use Bylaw and authorizes a development and/or use of land. A Development Permit is a "one time deal" and lasts for the lifetime of the development, even

if there is a change in ownership or tenancy of the land or building. It is common for a parcel of land to have more than one Development Permit associated with it.

A Building Permit is a document issued under the Alberta Building Code and is concerned mainly with the safety of the development. Note: a safe building doesn't mean it is a legal building!

How do I know if I need a Development Permit?

Several developments in Yellowhead County require a Development Permit. Planning and Development staff can help with information regarding applications and fees. County Administration can also let you know when you don't need a Development Permit. Give us a call today (780-723-4800) and ask to find out if your development needs a Development Permit!

How are concerns regarding Development Permits en-

forced and addressed?

Yellowhead County very rarely inspects residents' properties for illegal development. Usually, a complaint is filed by a third party regarding a perceived illegal development on a property. At this point, our Planning and Development staff are happy to cooperate with a resident to ensure that their developments are up to snuff by federal, provincial, and municipal standards. Our goal is to work with you to ensure your property is at a safe and legal standard.

Did you know...

Alberta has one of the longest traditions of planning in Canada. The first enactment of planning legislation occurred in the early 1900s during the period of rapid settlement that followed the expansion of the railway.

COUNTY PRIDE CONTEST WINNERS 2018

Creating a dream home doesn't always end at the house. Many property owners dream of a beautiful garden that will compliment their house, be a place to grow food, and somewhere to escape from when the house chores and renovations are calling.

Yellowhead County has many beautiful farms, acreages and hamlet yards from the east to west and the County Pride contest lets us get a glimpse into some of the beautiful and creative ways residents have used their green thumbs to create a little oasis of their own. 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. Creating a beautiful garden takes vision, dedication, and sometimes years and years of work, learning from mistakes, and embracing all kinds of weather and pests.

Many Yellowhead County residents have put in the work and dedication to fulfill these dreams

and create the property that they are proud to share with other garden aficionados on the showcase tour.

This year we had eighteen nominations agree

“A garden requires patient labour and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them.”

~ Liberty Hyde Bailey

to participate in the 2018 County Pride contest. Winners received gift certificates from various greenhouses in Yellowhead County. The following

is a list of this year's winners:

- Hamlet
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Irene and Bill Lawton | Evansburg |
| 2. Marian Madden | Wildwood |

- Acreage
- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Paulette and Rennie Sparks | Wildwood |
| 2. Jean and Doug Ahlf | Edson Area |

- Farm
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Kelson & Karen Quarrie | Evansburg |
| 2. Goldeen and Eli Wild | Carrot Creek |

- Honorable Mention:
- | | |
|---------|------|
| Kim Hay | Robb |
|---------|------|

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who submitted this year!



LAKE HEALTH DAY

This past August, Yellowhead County's Agricultural Service department partnered with the Stewardship Alliance for Conservation Agriculture to host a Lake Health Day at Shiningbank Lake.

Despite looming smoke and inclement weather, over 30 people attended the event—ranging from kids to older adults. All were enthusiastic about learning how lakes play an important role in the environment!

Topics covered included the curious origins and nature of blue-green algae, how to be wildlife smart near lakes, and responsible and respectful lake use, among others!

This event helped bring awareness of the riparian health, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, water quality, and shoreline health to landowners, producers and recreational users on the county's own Shiningbank Lake.

Several educational tables were set up that both kids and adults could enjoy at their leisure. The types of things participants could learn about were:

- Blue Green Algae – What it is and what causes it

- Wildlife – Learn about the types of wildlife that you may encounter around the lake and how to be wildlife smart if you do encounter them
- Responsible Lake Use – Get information on what it means to respect our lakes and how to be a responsible lake user.
- Water Quality – What it means and how to test it
- Invasive Species – Find out about what types of invasive species threaten our provinces water bodies and what you can do to help keep them out of the lake!
- Riparian Health and Agriculture – Find out how farming close to a lake can affect it and what should be done to protect it.

Missed the event and have lake health questions? Our Agricultural Services coordinators can help you find the answer – even winter related ones – reach out at 780-325-3782.



HUNTING & FIREARMS IN THE COUNTY HAMLETS AND SUBDIVISIONS



Yellowhead County would like to remind residents that the discharge of firearms within Hamlet boundaries and Country Residential districts (multi-lot areas such as subdivisions) is forbidden.

Safety has been a priority in Yellowhead County, that's why a corresponding bylaw was passed in 2012 to curtail the reckless use of firearms within residential areas. Currently, the county's bylaw prohibits any discharging of firearms near more heavily populated areas, and mandates that doing so would be a noise and

safety issue. In these instances, RCMP and Peace Officers are able to enforce the bylaw accordingly.

The destruction of coyotes and other animals (under the authority of the Stray Animals Act) is exempt from this bylaw. Please note, under the authority of the Wildlife Act, it is illegal for anyone to shoot within about 200 meters of a dwelling. Anyone who finds themselves in this situation should call AB Fish and Wildlife to deal with potentially dangerous wildlife in the proper manner under the Wildlife Act.

Please note that the bylaw does not restrict having firearms stored on these properties, but only deals with the discharge of them within the boundaries set by the bylaw. The restriction of discharging a firearm would include any barreled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious injury.

Persons who fail to comply with this bylaw are guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of \$250.00 for a first offence and \$500.00 for any second and subsequent offences.



WILDWOOD ANTIQUE TRUCK

YCFD continues to raise funds for its antique firetruck, currently on display in Station 9—and we need your help! Though this classic, grandfatherly Ford slumbers in a modern, recently developed fire station, it's not just eye-candy.

It's a frank reminder of the county's long tradition in maintaining fleets and crews to protect our massive land area. And YCFD hopes to uphold the symbol of this long-impactful tradition for years to come! Though our crews maintain the antique to ensure it's spry for public appearances, there's no denying it's looking rough around the edges.

The fundraiser, currently in its second year, is meant to gather funds for the piecemeal restoration of the antique apparatus. So far, YCFD has raised some \$10,000 to begin restoring of the antique. Our goal continues to be raising a sum of \$60,000—at which time the truck will be restored to its former glory and resemble the genuine '49 Fords of yore.

Currently, the truck makes its appearance frequently in local parades, weddings, funerals, and formal community events involving current and retired Yellowhead County Fire Department firefighters.

And its history it tied intimately to the Yellowhead region, especially the hamlet of Wildwood. Decades ago, as the county consolidated its resources, Wildwood's independent fire service became one of the last to fold. At this time, the Wildwood Association asked the county to maintain this antique service vehicle—and the county gladly obliged to keep this symbol of local protective services motoring.

Through the hard work of Wildwood Association members and the county's newer crews—and their desire to preserve history—this fire truck has been spared the shredder and has found a proud home in one of our newest stations.

If you'd like to kindly offer a donation to help with this antique truck's restoration, please reach out to our fire department at 780-723-4800.



YCFD F.F. CADET PROGRAM

This past September, Yellowhead County Fire Department (YCFD) offered local teens a chance to be a part of the brand new Fire Cadet program! The program is meant for high school aged teens who are looking for a fantastic learning, extracurricular, and public service opportunity. Though cadets must be aged 16 – 18, they don't have to be enrolled in school to participate in the program. We're happy to say that we've approved six applicants who are excited to be a part of the program! These cadets will be mentored by

the men and women who serve our county selflessly. As well, cadets will take share in their wisdom and experience and bond with other like-minded, driven individuals, and have fun doing it!

This unique initiative offers to guide teens towards a prospective career in the field of protective services; but more importantly, the program aims to teach teens crucial life and career skills. If cadets aren't interested in a protective services career, they still benefit from acquiring up to 9 credits toward their high school diploma!

The goal is to get local youth to value self-confidence, discipline, and teamwork. Moreover, cadets are expected to take on the role of community ambassadors, meaning they'll learn to take pride in serving their communities and will put in volunteer hours towards initiatives in their local communities.

If your high school aged teen missed out on this awesome opportunity, there's always next year! Stay tuned to county news to find out more about our current cadet class—we hope to have updates soon.



FULHAM FIRE PROTECTION WATER TANK

Sometimes there's a considerable distance between some of the more populated subdivisions and a reliable water source that can be used for fire fighting in the rural areas of Yellowhead County, and that can result in there being a very real concern of not having enough water on-hand to combat a significant blaze effectively.

Yellowhead County has been busy upgrading and installing enhanced water suppression systems for several subdivisions located across the county with the most recent one located in Fulham. Firefighters arriving at a scene near any of the water supply tanks can now quickly resupply resulting in enhanced fire suppression capability, increased first responder safety, and a possibility of reduced insurance rates for nearby property owners.

The new tanks are strategically placed where there are significant fire risks and no tanks or nearby water supply. The tanks significantly improve access to current water supplies resulting in shorter fire suppression times and increasing the likelihood of saving more property and a reduction of risk of injury to county firefighters.

- The tanks are strategically placed to reduce travel distance and time for water access.
- The tanks have a capacity of 55000 litres.
- The installation has been engineered to ensure low maintenance and reliable function.

- The tanks are being installed on County and Provincial Road right of ways (with approval of Alberta Transportation)

Another issue with getting water from a nearby natural water source is that there is a good chance it will be frozen solid depending on the time of the year. The tanks will be frost protected and insulated – giving firefighters a nearby full season water source in these areas.

The inset photo show the massive size of the underground water tanks (55000 litres) and how they can be accessed and refilled with minimal maintenance. You'll also notice the build-up of the insulation protection in the photos.





FIRST CLASS ROPE RESCUE AND PARATECH HEAVY RESCUE TRAINING FOR YCFD FIREFIGHTERS

With such a large area that the Yellowhead County Fire Department covers for rescue situations, these new skills will prove to be an invaluable resource for YCFD firefighters.

There's more to Yellowhead County's Fire Department (YCFD) than just firefighting – both casual and paid-on-call firefighters are trained in vehicle extraction, heavy rescue training, first-aid, and embankment training.

Rope Rescue & Embankment Training

YCFD firefighters worked under various weather conditions during some hands-on training with Pro Rescue Services out of Edmonton. Instructor Bruce Dreany shared his experience and expertise in rope rescue training with the YCFD firefighters.

With an emphasis on safety for both the rescuers and the people being rescued, combined with learning from experience, the

group of trainees came away with a wealth of new skills that are an asset to both Yellowhead County residents as well people working or recreating in the region.

Dreany uses learning opportunities to teach the firefighters how to think on their feet and how to respond to situations that they may come up against that may not have been part of the plan.

While trying to place the firefighters in situations that they might find themselves in, Dreany emphasizes that the rescuers first priority is safety, whether they are in training or a real rescue.

Hikers, oil and gas workers, canoers, and other

recreational users and industry workers who find themselves stuck in a bad situation now have an extra lifeline to help get them out.

Heavy Rescue Training

YCFD hosted a paratech training session attended by fire fighters from over 20 municipalities!

Because modern fire fighters deal with complex and unpredictable situations, they need a host of tools and skills under their belt.

With paratech, YCFD and their colleagues got the best training for the best tools.

STRUCTURAL BURN TRAINING

YCFD Training Update

This past September, some 17 new recruits stepped up to take part in YCFD's rigorous and well-rounded training discipline.

YCFD proudly protects some 22,000 km² and relies on a chiefly volunteer force to do so--so this fire department is always training the best recruits for the toughest conditions. Here's a look at several months of YCFD's training.

Snow and sleet may keep away a lot of people and things, but it won't always keep away fires; and it won't keep away YCFD firefighters. Yellowhead County's full time, casual, and paid-on-call volunteer firefighters train and prepare themselves to come out to just about any type of fire, rescue, or other type of emergencies - and they don't work just nine to five if they're called out. Early morning, mid-day, or in the middle of the night - if the pager rings, they respond.

Training for all types of situations also means training in all types of weath-

er conditions, which, with five to six months of winter, means there's a good chance it might not be a nice warm sunny day. That being said, wearing all their protective gear while carrying hoses or using heavy equipment can quickly cause them to get past a comfortable core temperature. Throw in some heat from a fire while wearing a protective breathing device that covers their entire face and you have a formula for potential heat exhaustion. So, training in cooler weather isn't always the worst thing for the firefighters.

Recently a number of YCFD firefighters had an extra-ordinary opportunity when they had a week long training session with X? who was able to work with them on a range of exercises and skills. But the big highlight was for them to be able to do structural firefighting training with live fire in a real soon-to-be demolished house - giving them hands-on training that doesn't get any closer to the real thing.

The participants were able to spend a full day learning new skills, brush up on old ones, and train in a real world environment. The firefighters had to deal with blowing snow, real fires that needed to be extinguished, and smoke that could affect visibility and breathing without the right equipment.

By the time the training was over, the firefighters were tired, cold, and exhausted, but they were able to come away with new skills and confidence that will help them to fight fires in the County when they are called out in the middle of the night to help protect property and lives across the county.

This is just one facet of our firefighters' training regimen. Recently, YCFD's finest had an opportunity to literally learn the ropes in a first class rope rescue and embankment training course. Taught and run by Pro Rescue Services' Bruce Dreany, the course saw firefighters get hands-on training on the use of ropes for rescues below grade. Trainees learned how to





hoist one another using specialized and often technical rescue hardware, and learned standard practices going into these kinds of emergent situations.

Additionally, YCFD's firefighters got a unique opportunity to rub shoulders with neighbouring department members--as well as some of the industry's most innovative minds--in a recent Paratech training session. The demonstrations provided (and hosted at YCFD's local central station) offered our firefighters, and firefighters from nearly two dozen municipalities, a look at some of the best equipment available for stabilizing vehicles and compromised structures.

If you think you may be interested in

becoming a paid-on-call volunteer firefighter, give us a call and find out what it's all about. There are lots of different roles that are needed and suited to the various attributes and skill levels of our members.

The focus is on commitment to learning new skills and eagerness to participate. Our paid-on-call firefighters cover a range of fitness levels, age, and skill levels. If you give our office a call, our recruitment officer can give you more details and answer all your questions. Also go to www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca/departments/emergency-services/fire-department/join and there's even an application package there.



Meals on Wheels

Available in communities from Seba Beach to Peers.

Real food. Ready when you are.

How much does this cost?

Residents only pay the cost of the meals which are very affordable from **\$4.50 to \$7.00 per meal**. Orders to be paid upon ordering.

What day do I order by?

Order by the **first Wednesday of every month**.

Menus and ordering information at the libraries in: **Niton, Wildwood, Evansburg, Entwistle and Seba Beach; or the Yellowhead County Wildwood Office.**

Thank you to the Lobstick River Foods for donating an upright freezer to be placed in the Wildwood Library for storage of frozen meals for pick up.

Thank you to the Mackay Community Association for using their freezer for storage of the frozen meals for pick up.

Call the Yellowhead County Wildwood office at **780-325-3782** or **1-800-814-3935** for more information 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

Christopher Read

– Director of Community Services

Don O'Quinn

– Director of Infrastructure Services

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

Office Locations
Edson Office (Main)
2716 - 1st Avenue
Edson, AB T7E 1N9

Hours of Operation
Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wildwood Office
53404 Rge Rd 92A
Wildwood, AB

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

Visit www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

