

Yellowhead County's Yellowheadlines

TRANS - CANA

Each year Yellowhead County firefighters work numerous hours doing training, fire-fighting and other emergency services, as well as educating their local communities in how to prevent fires and other tragedies that can easily occur, often with devastating effects.

Firefighters need a good mix of strength, focus, and adaptability. Gil Belcourt, one of Yellowhead County's volunteer firefighters at the Marlboro Fire Hall (Station No. 5), seems to have these traits in spades.

Gil is actively involved in many of the activities that the local firefighters participate in to promote the importance of having a well supported local volunteer fire fighting team.

Last Christmas the local fire hall held their first Santa Run for the hamlet of Marlboro and the nearby Millers Lake subdivision. Gil got to play Santa on this cold but well attended night. "The fire hall had a total of 110 can-

dy bags that they had prepared for handing out that night and by the end of the event we had handed out nearly all of the bags to local residents." says Gil.

Having unforeseen circumstances come up is one of the things you can expect when being a volunteer firefighter. This past winter firefighters from numerous halls were called out to a house fire in the Folding Mountain subdivision, located in Yellowhead County near Hinton. After a long night of battling the blaze, some

"We returned home at 7:00 a.m. from fighting the fire all night and we started the recruiting drive at 9:00 a.m."
- Cpt. Gil Belcourt
Marlboro Fire Hall



Gil Belcourt
Volunteer Firefighter and
Community Leader For
Yellowhead County

of the volunteer firefighters from Station No. 5 returned back home at 7:00 am in the morning to get ready for a fire awareness education and recruiting drive scheduled to start at 9:00 am that

morning. Participating members were able to re-organize themselves and get out into the Millers Lake and Bickerdike areas to talk to residents about carbon monoxide and smoke detection awareness.

Station No. 5 has seen a dramatic increase in volunteer numbers over the last while, a fact which Gil contributes to changes in the role that the County plays in leadership and involvement. There are currently 12 volunteer firefighters that are part of the areas fire hall, with Gil being promoted to Captain.

Not only is Gil a trained firefighter for his area, he is also heavily involved in many aspects of community life in the hamlet he lives in. Over the past year the Marlboro Hall, which is operated by the Mountainview Recreation Society has gone through significant interior renovation. Gil, who has been president of the organization for the last seven years, accepted a cheque for \$50,000 from the Alberta Lotteries Community Facility Enhancement Program with an additional \$50,000 from Yellowhead County to cover the other half of the renovations of this vital community gathering place.

Every May the community does a hamlet clean-up and community barbecue for the participants. Gil proudly noted that "the clean-

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A LOOK INSIDE

MUNICIPAL PLAN	5
COLLECTOR ROADS	7
AGRI-RECYCLING	9
FIRE SERVICE LEVELS	14



up, which has been going on for years, is being done in a shorter time frame than previous years." He is also an active coordinator for Edson's annual slo-pitch tournament as well as Peers Gold Dust Days.

Gil maintains a strong presence in his community, working with many organizations that have an impact on everyone from the children to the elders in his community that he contributes to in so many ways.

2012 FINAL BUDGET ADOPTED & TAX RATE SET

2012 Final Budget for Yellowhead County is \$96,494,236.

Capital requirements account for 45% (\$43,663,321) of the budget with operating requirements accounting for 33% (\$32,552,203).

Included in the operating requirement is \$5,901,575 in cost sharing payments to Yellowhead County's municipal partners.

The remaining 22% (\$20,278,711) of the budget total is allocated to requisitions for education and seniors. These amounts are collected on behalf of the

Alberta School Foundation and the Evergreens Foundation and all funds, which are collected through taxes, are redirected to the respective foundations.

Some of the 2012 capital projects include the Robb Fire Hall; 48 Ave. in Evansburg & Arena upgrades; Marlboro Hall; Wildwood Library; Peers Cut-across (Township Road 542); Sundance Estates chip seal; and the Wolf Creek Bridge.

County tax rates saw a slight increase in 2012.

Council has set a new rate for the General Municipal Tax. Both residential and non-residential tax rates have been increased by 4% resulting in a rate of 2.4585 for residential and 6.1654 for non-residential.

The estimated amount to be raised through general municipal taxation in 2012 is \$44,229,034, with \$3,000,919 coming from Residential and Farmland

taxes and the remainder coming from the Non-residential and the Machinery & Equipment taxes.

GREEN POWERED

Through Yellowhead County's participation in the AMSC Energy program Yellowhead County's purchase of 513,627 kWh of green power has contributed to the reduction of 452 tonnes of carbon dioxide, which is similar to taking 89 cars off the road for one year or planting 11,571 trees.

Green Power is an optional product offered in the Energy Aggregation Program and municipalities can choose the level that they wish to participate in.



YOUR COUNCIL



Mayor
Gerald Soroka



Councillor
Maxine Lappe
Division 1
Evansburg &
Area



Councillor
Ewald Kwirant
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
Dave Stevens
Division 6
Edson Area



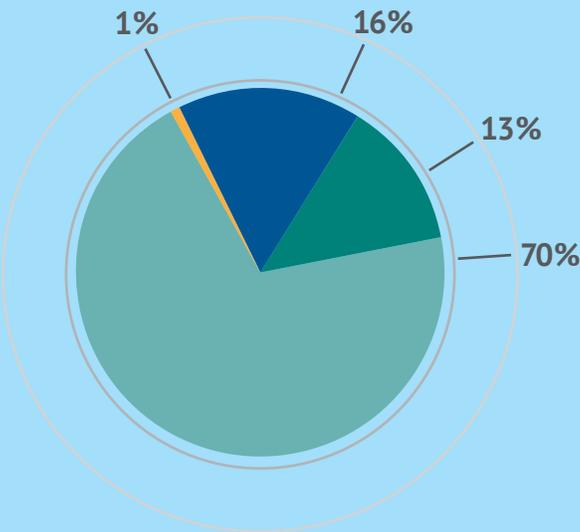
Councillor
Ruth Martin
Williams
Division 7
Edson West



Councillor
Lavone Olson
Division 8
Robb, Cadomin,
Brule & Hin-
ton Area

2012 YELLOWHEAD COUNTY CAPITAL & OPERATING COSTS

- Council
- Community & Protective Services
- Corporate & Planning Services
- Infrastructure Services



CADOMIN RESIDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO FUTURE PLANS FOR HAMLET

On May 8, 2012 Council passed the Cadomin Area Structure Plan (ASP). This bylaw outlines future development, allowable land uses, and architectural controls. Prior to adoption, the draft ASP was presented at various open houses for input and feedback from Cadomin property owners. Over 80 people participated at the Cadomin Open House that took place on September 4, 2011. Residents also took the opportunity to address Council at a Public Hearing prior to adoption of the bylaw. Some of the

issues brought forward by the public throughout the process involved various problems caused by camping and other recreation issues in the hamlet, balancing future development plans with quality of life for residents, and maintaining the rustic charm of the hamlet. The goal of the Cadomin ASP is to provide a framework for the long-term planned and controlled growth and development of the lands located within, and adjacent to, the Hamlet of Cadomin.

INDUSTRIAL ASSESSMENT & FUTURE FORECAST

In May 2012 Yellowhead County received the Industrial Assessment Report for 2011. This report shows the assessed value of industrial activity in the county. The report highlighted three main components: *Industrial Assessment Summary*; *Industrial Plant Expansions & Capital Projects*; and *High Growth Areas & Future Outlooks*. The 2011 Assessment report showed a 6.06% increase in assessments from 2010. This follows a 0.49% decrease from 2010 compared to the 2009 assessment.

The report identified 21 major capital industrial projects within the County in 2011. According to the report, several regions saw better than average infrastructure growth.

Marlboro, Pine Creek, Pembina, Minehead, Edson, Hinton, and Wild River area regions within Yellowhead County have seen better than average infrastructure growth. This growth has allowed for extensive capital investment and continued growth by new and existing companies producing in Yellowhead County.

GIS (Geographic Information System) data shows there were 774 new wells drilled in 2011. This is a slight increase from the 712 new wells that were drilled in 2010. From these 774 new wells, 552 new Industrial accounts were registered with the County. Approximately 66.45% of the new and existing wells in Yellowhead County experienced some production in 2011.

Future projects for Yellowhead County in 2012 include:

- **Peyto** - Oldman I Nosehill Wild hay Midcut Expansion Projects
- **Open Range** - New Ansell Deep Cut Gas Plant
- **Shell** - Sundance Gas Plant Expansion
- **Petrobakken** - New Pembina Oil Battery
- **Fairborne** - Marlboro Expansion Project

Additionally, further future projects (2013+) for Yellowhead County include:

- **Coalspur Mine Limited** - Vista Coal Project (Phase 1 Regulatory Applications Submitted in 2012)
- **Pembina Pipelines** - New Saturn Gas Processing Facility

Yellowhead County encompasses a large area of existing and potential future development for the Oil & Gas Industry. According to the report, Yellowhead County will likely continue to receive investment and industrial activities to sustain continued growth into the future.

HERITAGE SURVEY

'HERITAGE INVENTORY' & HISTORICAL 'PLACES OF INTEREST LIST' COMES OUT OF YELLOWHEAD COUNTY MUNICIPAL HERITAGE PROJECT.

In 2011, the county, recognizing the need to document its highly valued historic resources, set forth to establish a Heritage Management Program, the first step of which is a Heritage Survey.

The survey captured the location, physical appearance and history of the resources and provides an inclusive database of information that identifies the historical buildings, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites and structures in a community.

The Heritage Survey serves as an important resource for Yellowhead County as a key reference for the major historic sites in the county, and for providing the county with information on the history and value of local buildings for local historical and genealogical research.

Seven community forums were held to gather information from area residents. They received valuable information and contact



names of residents from which to gather historical content. In total approximately 325 sites were surveyed. A Places of Interest List (POIL) of 125 sites was created. A POIL is a comprehensive list created through community feedback and research of the most significant heritage resources in a community. The POIL range from remnants of old structures to fully functioning, and currently utilized, buildings that are still used as places of business, industry or places of residence. All buildings on the list are 1960 and older. This is an evolving document.... It is not 'final' as

there will be additions, changes, and corrections ongoing as more research is completed.

Next Steps

Currently, we are in the Inventory phase of the Municipal Heritage Project. We are evaluating between 30 to 40 sites through the application of Alberta Culture and Community Services' criteria of eligibility, significance and integrity. We plan to continue to inventory a minimum of 30 sites per year over the next couple of years.

The Municipal Designation is on a voluntary basis only.

A copy of the report is available upon request and the sites are being featured online.

THE PLACES OF INTEREST LIST () CONSISTED OF 124 SITES WHICH INCLUDES:

- 12 Agricultural / Farming sites
- 12 Commercial buildings
- 9 Community buildings
- 8 Educational buildings
- 9 Industry buildings
- 7 Recreation sites
- 22 Residential buildings
- 31 Spiritual sites
- 10 Transportation sites
- 4 Forestry sites

What is the

Yellowhead Style?

The 'Yellowhead Style' is characterized through its rustic and vernacular style, small scale to protect from the elements and use of local materials. Buildings are typically modest in detailing and small in size with pyramidal rooflines, simple window fenestration, enclosed porches and narrow overhanging eaves. Buildings in west Yellowhead are generally outfitted with wooden shutters to protect from the high winds, and are generally composed of locally procured materials such as logs or hand hewn boards. Log barns and single storey, front-gabled forestry cabins are key buildings unique to Yellowhead

County. Another characteristic of Yellowhead buildings is that they were moved throughout the county so log buildings typical to the west are found in the east as well.

After the railways were completed through the area in the 1910s, plan book houses were able to be shipped by rail. But many were adapted to Yellowhead County through the use of local products. Big Eddy Ranch south of Edson, for example, is a common plan book design but utilized logs instead of wooden plank siding.

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PHONE SURVEY & PUBLIC INPUT

COMMITTEE DEVELOPING PLAN TO UPDATE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MDP)

Yellowhead County is preparing to update the Municipal Development Plan also to be known as the Yellowhead County Plan. The Yellowhead County Plan draws a picture of what we would like the County to be like in 20 years. Then it charts a course to move us in that direction. Although we live in a complex world and sometimes it seems that it's difficult to know what tomorrow will be like it is essential to set our goals and work toward realizing them. The Yellowhead County Plan will take us a year to complete and I am inviting you to get involved by giving us your ideas.

The Yellowhead County Plan can address anything that the County is responsible for, including:

- **transportation infrastructure,**
- **planning controls, subdivision,**
- **utility infrastructure,**
- **recreational services,**
- **agricultural services,**
- **liaison on your behalf with other governments including Hinton, Edson, the Province of Alberta and also with the large industrial operations in the County,**
- **heritage conservation, and**
- **economic development**

The planners working on the County Plan will be undertaking a brief PHONE SURVEY in early July in which every home phone in the County will be called. They will be asking your opinion on a number of issues and I hope that you will be able to take the time to respond. You can also answer the survey questions on the County website at www.yellowheadcounty.ca. In addition to the Yellowhead County Plan we will be undertaking a review of the

County Land Use Bylaw(LUB). The Land Use Bylaw sets the rules for development and subdivision and any comments you have on that Bylaw will also be very welcome.

Please direct any questions about the Yellowhead County Plan, or the phone survey, to Brent Shepherd, our Planning and Development Manager at (780) 723-4800 or bshepherd@yellowheadcounty.ab.ca. Questions may also be directed to Jenny Kasprovicz with Matrix Planning at (403) 678-7873 or imagineyellowhead@matrix-planning.com

Thank you for your participation in our County planning process.

Sincerely

Gerald Soroka,
MAYOR

MDP & LUB STEERING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

MDP & LUB Steering Committee Appointments – Gary Brownlee, John Rosadiuk and Deborah Williams were appointed by Council to the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Steering Committee.

The MDP and LUB are used to guide and direct land use, development, infrastructure, and environmental issues within Yellowhead County. Mayor Gerald Soroka, Fred Priestley-Wright & Dave Stevens will be the Council representatives on the committee.



ROAD MAINTENANCE

Road Construction & Maintenance

How Does It Work?

What kind of plan does Yellowhead County have in place for road construction? What criteria does the County use to determine the priority given to roads for construction or maintenance?

Council considers safety, fiscal capacity and consistent and sustained traffic as criteria for developing a 3-year plan for road maintenance and construction of the existing road infrastructure. This 3-year plan identifies major road construction projects, resurfacing projects, infrastructure projects, and road reconstruction within hamlets. This plan also addresses local road construction budgeting.

In periods of prolonged sun or rain, what efforts are made to keep road surfaces in “Drivable condition?”

The maintenance and construction of the existing road infrastructure is based on the following priorities:

- Paved and Oiled surfaces.
- Collector roadways that are constructed to a standard to carry large volumes of traffic.
- Access roadways that are constructed to a lower standard and carry traffic to the collectors or arterial roadways.



able condition?”

To keep road surfaces in “Drivable condition”, each County area Supervisor monitors the roads within their area and

problem spots are repaired as required.

As Yellowhead County is considered an industrial based

area, where roads historically have been built to sustain residential and farm traffic, how does the County plan to address the changing road needs to accommodate industrial traffic?

As traffic patterns change these roads are reassessed. Roads designated as a “Resource Road” may be eligible for provincial funding under the Resource Road Program.

How are Councilors kept informed of road issues?

To ensure that Councilors are informed of road issues, each area Councilor receives a copy of road complaints that apply within their respective area.

What does the County have in place to track road complaints?

Yellowhead County records road complaints and forwards them to the appropriate area foreman for investigation and action.

FENCE LINE PROGRAM FREE OFFER!

The Fence Line Program enhances services available to residents of Yellowhead County in addition to the existing Roadside Vegetation Management Plan.

This elective program will allow Yellowhead County owned vehicles and equipment to enter private land

to apply herbicide from the fence line to gravel.

Sites will be pre-inspected to determine what equipment and herbicide selection is necessary. The landowner will be asked to sign a release allowing the County access to the property and permission to use

herbicide as agreed upon by the landowner and Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Staff.

This program will be completed on a **first come first served basis** and at no charge to landowners.

The County has added the

Fence Line Program to enhance services available to residents of Yellowhead County in addition to the existing Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. Call Yellowhead County Agricultural Services today to sign up for the Fenceline Program: 1-800-814-3935

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

One of the main infrastructure priorities is the maintenance of the County's approximately 2,200 kilometres of roads, which range from gravel to pavement. The County maintains collector roads, local roads, hall parking lots, approaches, and hamlet roads.

Dust Control

How Does It Work?

Council adopted a revised version of the County's Dust Control Policy, which removed the reference to arterial roads. Council decided to continue to subsidize 50% of an application for residents.

How can I make a request to have the dust control agents applied to my section of the road?

Applicants may apply for either one spring, or one fall application, or they may apply for both. Applications are available to be

On what roads does Yellowhead County cover the cost of dust control?

Yellowhead County will apply calcium chloride at no charge for safety reasons in the following areas:

- In school and playground zones
- At major intersections and / or poor alignments considered hazardous due to dust
- At major railway crossings

picked up at Yellowhead County's Edson, or Wildwood offices. They are also available on Yellowhead County's web site under the Transportation Section in the sub-section called "Forms".

How much does it cost?

The cost per application for a

200 m stretch of roadway for 2012 is \$321. This charge represents approximately 50 per cent of total cost - with the County covering the remaining cost. Applications are due by May 15 for the spring and fall application and the end of July for the fall application.

Can I request more than 200 meters of dust control?

Yes, however, requests for applications over 200 m in length must pay 100% of the full costs as per County policy.

When are the dust control agents applied?

The application of the calcium chloride used for dust control will be restricted to one spring and one late summer application.

What does Yellowhead County currently use as dust control agents?

Yellowhead County uses calcium chloride as a dust control agent.

Collector Road Priorities

Council adopted changes to the County's Collector Road Network program based on new priorities within Council.

The goal of these paving priorities are to eliminate road bans, tie pavement to pavement, reduce conflict between industrial users and adjacent residents, and enhance future economic growth, and create cost share partnerships with other users.

The changes made reflect anticipated growth in the Edson West and Branch Corner areas, as well as paved connectivity to other subdivisions, local roads, industry, and highways.

The Collector Road Network program is part of the County's long-term Road Improvement Master Plan, which

considers road planning for residential and industrial traffic, future industrial developments, and the impact of proposed highway plans. This policy is a criteria system that sets paving priorities based on traffic volume, traffic composition, roadway function, residential densities, adjacent features, growth potential, cost sharing, and political consideration. Its purpose is to ensure that all Road Paving requests are reviewed and evaluated fairly and consistently against an established priority criteria.

All road planning by the County ties into the proposed Hwy. 16 interchanges.

The Collector Roads Priority List is:

1. **Evansburg North Road to Highway 22**
2. Future Highway 947 – Branch corner to Grande Prairie Trail
3. Grande Prairie Trail – Trail Hall to Future Highway 947
4. Peers Cut Across – Rosevear Road to Highway 32
5. Township Road 542- Highway 748 to Tom Hill Tower Road
6. Niton North Road to Highway 751
7. Wildwood North Road to Highway 22
8. Range Road 165 to Highway 748

The Collector Roads Priority List above are part of a work program anticipated to be completed in 5-7 years.

Paving of Rural Road 75

A two mile section of Range Road 75 is first priority on the current Road Network Master Plan.

This short section of gravel road is the last remaining part of the "Evansburg North Road" that is not yet paved between TWP # 544 and TWP #550. Engineering on this section is being done in 2012, and the blacktop is scheduled to be done in 2013.

Marlboro

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

How to get there:
Marlboro is located 15 minutes west of Edson on Highway 16.



Established in 1913 as a result of the development of a marl mine, Marlboro once was home to nearly 2000 people. Marlboro offers an opportunity for residents seeking a rustic lifestyle just outside of Edson. According to the StatsCan 2011 census the Hamlet of Marlboro has 80 residents. The community is located adjacent to Black Mud Lake. Marlboro is mainly residential in nature, with two small commercial areas. There is a community hall, park with ball diamonds and a fire hall in the hamlet

Alberta's first cement plant was built in Marlboro in 1913 by the Edmonton Portland Cement Company. This spot was chosen because of the large marl (a fine grained-limestone) and clay deposits, as well as its closeness to the Grand Trunk Railway. There are several remains of the concrete plant including a 56 metre high concrete chimney, visible from Highway 16, as well as several concrete foundations.

The Marlboro Cemetery exists as a large scenic area with mature trees and plants in a more remote area of the community. The first burial occurred in the cemetery circa 1910. The landscape has matured into a beautiful scenic setting and has been looked after by Stanley Belcourt of Marlboro for over 50 years. The cemetery is marked with many wooden white crosses and commemorates the lives of First Nations and non-First Nations people. The community today is largely populated by Métis residents.

New Community Hall

In 2012 the Mountainview Recreation Society completed \$100,000 worth of interior renovations to the Marlboro Hall, which included new flooring, lighting, interior paint, and work to the hall's kitchen. Work was completed this spring and greatly enhances the services and activities available within the hamlet. The facility is a focal point for the community and is used for numerous events such as weddings, funerals, com-



munity meetings, preschool, recreational and youth events, FCSS programs and other community events such as community BBQs, Halloween and Christmas parties, and dances.

Marlboro Playschool & FCSS

Yellowhead County FCSS runs a playschool twice per week and an after school program twice per week in Marlboro Hall. Children aged 3-5 years from the Marlboro, Miller's Lake and Bickerdike areas have the opportunity to attend playschool close to home. The playschool is run through Yellowhead County and is licensed by the Province. The Kids In The Hall program is an after school drop-in program held at the Marlboro hall for 6-16 year olds from Marlboro, Millers Lake and the Bickerdike area.

Many residents are actively involved in organizing events such as slo-pitch tournaments and community hall gatherings for various events throughout the year.

Fire & Emergency Services

Marlboro is a Fire District, part of the Yellowhead County Fire Department and provides First Responder Medical capabilities, Interior Fire Suppression, Extraction Operations, Wildland/Urban Interface capabilities, and have Hazmat awareness.

Rick Hansen 'Many In Motion' Relay

On Saturday, March 17, 2012 Marlboro hosted the part of the 25th Anniversary of the Rick Hansen Relay. Local residents came out to support the medal-bearers as they braved the wintery weather.

Surrounding Area.

Just east of Marlboro is the Millers Lake area, which is a small subdivision adjacent to Millers Lake which is used by locals for fishing Rainbow Trout.

Sundance Provincial Park is located northwest of the hamlet.

WEED CONTROL 'COMES A KNOCKIN'

Weed inspections are taking place throughout the summer months of 2012 in Yellowhead County. Weed Inspectors will be working throughout the county documenting invasive plants on both county and private lands. You may see a white county vehicle near your property and a Weed Inspector in a high visibility vest performing weed inspections on your land so please be considerate of their safety.

Please keep in mind that The Weed Control Act grants a Weed Inspector right of entry onto private land during reasonable hours (*The Weed Control Act, Part 3, and Section 12*). The Yellowhead County Agricultural Department believes that a courtesy should be extended to land owners of what is happening on their property. The County continues to promote a "Door Knocking" program to make contact with land owners before a weed inspection takes place. Weed Inspectors inform the property owners of approximate date and time of when an inspection will take place, the results of the inspection(s) and possible control options of noxious and prohibited noxious plants found.

If you would like more information regarding the Weed Inspection program please visit the Yellowhead County website at: www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca or telephone the Agricultural Department in the Wildwood County Office at 1-800-814-3935.

For more information about *The Weed Control Act*, it can be found at the Queens Printer website at www.qp.alberta.ca/

AG RECYCLING OPTIONS

This summer, farmers in Yellowhead County will have the opportunity to recycle their unwanted twine and agricultural film through a free pilot project.

CleanFARMS, an industry-led national not-for-profit agricultural waste management organization, is heading this pilot project, with the support from Yellowhead County and the Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA).

"This pilot program is an excellent initiative," says Jennifer Benson Agricultural Services Supervisor for Yellowhead County. "Farmers are always looking to make smart choices for their farms and for the environment, and we are looking for ways to help them."

Farmers are invited to return their unwanted agricultural film, including silage cover, silage bags, bale wrap, greenhouse film, and twine to participating sites. Collection bags are available free of charge at the Edson Recycling Depot or the Yellowhead County East Services Centre 53404 Rge Rd 92A. This program is strictly for clean, dry, separated and bagged film and twine; grain bags, net wrap, feedbags, and pesticide/fertilizer containers will not be accepted.

Collections will take place at the following locations starting June 15, 2012:

- Wildwood - NE 16-53-09-W5
- Parkcourt - SE 35-54-08-W5
- Peers - NW 10-54-14-W5
- Edson Recycling Depot

"Farmers don't want to send materials to landfills, but there are limited options for agricultural film and twine," says Barry Friesen, general manager of CleanFARMS. "Where stewardship programs are in place, farmers overwhelmingly choose to participate. The success of CleanFARMS' empty pesticide container recycling program is a prime example and we're hoping that this pilot leads to an equally successful program for agricultural film."

Albertan farmers have demonstrated their commitment to good stewardship over the years. Since 1998 they've returned more than 9,000 kilograms of obsolete pesticide and 1.3 million empty pesticide containers in 2011 in Alberta.

CHIP LAKE STEWARDSHIP GROUP

West-Central Forage Association (formally known as West Central Conservation Group) and Yellowhead County, as partners in the Stewardship Alliance for Conservation Agriculture are initiating the Chip Lake Stewardship Project. The project is aimed at addressing concerns that have been brought forward regarding the environmental condition of Chip Lake, the riparian area around the lake, and its adjacent landholdings.

We are looking for input from individuals that live around or near the lake and use this area for anything including supporting a farm operation to recreational activities such as fishing or nature watching.

We will be hosting a 'coffee shop' meeting (July 12 at the Wildwood Community Hall starting at 6:00pm) to bring together all those who are interested in being involved in this

process. If you would like to become involved and can make the meeting please register at the Wildwood County Office or call before July 10. We believe that the values, beliefs, attitudes and ethical concerns of all those who live around and rely on Chip Lake are vital, and if we can encourage and foster the development of a group of this nature than we can better secure a healthy ecosystem for future generations.



LAND LEASED TO AG GROUP COUNTY LEASES LAND IN WILDWOOD TO WEST CENTRAL FORAGE ASSOCIATION (WCFA) FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

The 15 acres leased by the County to WCFA will help provide stability to the non-profit group who focus their research on the needs of forage and livestock producers in the region. WCFA will not be charged land lease fees. Yellowhead County is also a member of the West Central Conservation Group (WCCG), a partnership of five counties and the West Central Forage Group. The WCCG works to-

gether to develop sustainable parture management and riparian management, along with other beneficial management practices (BMPs). Contact the West Central Conservation Group at the following: West Central Conservation Group Box 360 Evansburg AB T0E 0T0 Phone: 780-727-4424 or 780-206-3894

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

2012 AG STUDENT BURSARIES

The Agricultural Service Board of Yellowhead County will provide two \$500.00 bursaries to students residing in Yellowhead County enrolled in a post-secondary institution while pursuing one of the following:

- a) Bachelor of Science in Agriculture or Environmental Sciences
- b) Pre-Professional (pre-Med, pre-Vet)
- c) Diploma in Agriculture from a recognized School of Agriculture
- d) Degree or diploma directly related to Agriculture from recognized community colleges or universities

Bursaries must be used in the year awarded. Bursaries will be awarded on the basis of the following, in no particular order:

- Academic Achievement
- Agricultural Background
- Community and Social participation

The Agricultural Service Board will be responsible for awarding bursaries and also selecting an alternate in case a successful applicant cannot attend.

Deadline for applications is August 31, 2012. Application forms are to be mailed to:

Yellowhead County
2716 – 1st Avenue
Edson, Alberta
T7E 1N9

Attention: Jennifer Benson
Agricultural Services Supervisor

Forms are available at both Yellowhead County offices or can be downloaded online.

SHELTERBELT AND TREE HEALTH WORKSHOP

Tuesday September 18th Pine Grove Hall from 6:00pm – 8:30pm & Wednesday September 19th Mackay Hall from 6:00pm – 8:30pm

"The shelterbelt program offered to rural landowners is an excellent way to spruce up your farm or acreage while maintaining good conservation practices" says Sonja Pichette, Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Coordinator. This will, unfortunately, be the last year that the Prairie Shelterbelt Program will be offered to rural Canadian residents. Please join Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Agri-Environment Services Branch and Yellowhead County Agricul-

tural Services for a workshop on Shelterbelts and Tree Health. This workshop is offered free of charge. As this is the last year for the program, we ask for interested individuals to please register before September 13, 2012 so that we can accommodate as many people as possible. Donald George, Senior Agroforestry Technician with AESB, and Nolan Duguid, Agroforestry Technician with the Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society will be discussing:

- Shelterbelt planning
 - Species selection
 - Applying for trees
 - Site preparation
 - Care and maintenance, (including weed control)
 - Insect and disease problems
 - Preparing your trees for winter
 - Health Problems to watch out for
 - Woodlot Management
- Agri-Environment Services Branch's (AESB) Prairie Shelterbelt Centre pro-

motes environmental and economic benefits of integrating trees with agricultural systems through research, extension and provision of seedlings to prairie farmers and other eligible clients. Earlier this year the Federal Government made the decision to cut funding for this program. To register for this workshop or for more information on the AESB Prairie Shelterbelt Program please contact Yellowhead County Agricultural Services.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION FOR COUNTY SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FARM SAFETY EDUCATION

Yellowhead County Council received a letter from Alberta Farm Safety expressing their appreciation to Yellowhead County for its financial support towards their in-school farm safety educational programming.

The letter states that in the last three school years, 5082 students in 32 schools in Yellowhead County have received 'UFA Safety Smarts' training in their individual classrooms.

In the last four years farm-related fatalities involving children have dropped from 21% to just over 17% of the provincial total. The 'UFA Safety Smarts' program is linked where possible to the regular school curriculum, and rural school administrators are

excited when the program is available to their students.

"We appreciate the example and leadership of Yellowhead County in recognizing the importance of farm safety education and then following through with financial support of our in-school programming."

- Alberta Farm Safety

The financial support from the County will be recognized on their website at www.abfarm-safety.com

FARM SAFETY TIPS

- *Never adjust machinery when it is powered.*
- *Don't wear loose fitting clothing around moving machinery parts.*
- *Go over basic farm safety with your children.*
- *Keep stacks of hay and hay bales away from power lines so you don't have to worry about electrical incidents with loading equipment*
- *Have workers trained in first aid and always have first aid kits and fire extinguishers nearby.*
- *Obtain proper training for the machinery you are using, and know its limitations!*
- *Position fuel storage tanks at least 30 meters from any building.*
- *Make sure fencing and corrals are in good condition and replace damaged sections.*

FCSS SUPPORTS RURAL COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS

Ronald Reagan said "No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers." This quote describes the belief of Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) perfectly. FCSS may be known for some of the direct programs and services it offers, such as Home Support, the Marlboro play-school, or funding to specific programs and projects in the community, but ultimately, FCSS knows that local people are the most knowledgeable about their communities and some of the most important work FCSS can do is to support the local communities of Yellowhead County to determine their own needs and

future.

To this end, FCSS supports communities and non-profit groups throughout the County, including seniors groups, playschools, inter-generational programs and collaboratives serving children and youth.

For the fall of 2012, FCSS is providing a series of workshops for the non-profit groups of Yellowhead County.

Wages at Work provides a comprehensive hands-on learning experience designed to provide a better understanding of the rights and obligations of employers and employees under the Employment Standards Code. This workshop is useful for

small business owners, non-profit organizations, human resource professionals and anyone with an interest in employment standards.

Child and Youth Programming Made Easy is a workshop that will provide the basic information required to develop safe programs for children and youth. Topics will include the basics behind registration forms, waivers and consents, policies and financial resources available to organizations.

Recreation, Agriculture and FCSS also offer Leaders Meetings twice a year to provide information, appreciation, professional development and networking opportunities to the various non-profit groups we support, either fi-

nancially or in collaboration or partnership.

All of these opportunities are in recognition that the non-profits and volunteers in Yellowhead County are our greatest resource. Providing support, help and learning to our community groups is the most effective way of ensuring the communities of Yellowhead County are happy, healthy and vital places to live that meet the needs of those living there. If you have any suggestions for training or workshops, or your group is requiring support or help with a particular issue, please feel free to contact the FCSS department of Yellowhead County @ 1-800-814-3935.

FCSS HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM

Yellowhead County's Home Support program is now two years old. To ensure the program is meeting residents' needs, a telephone survey was done to gauge customer satisfaction with Home Support and 83% of recent users said they were "very satisfied" with the program.

When asked if the current six hours of housekeeping service per month is enough, 50% said that it was, 41% said that they would like eight hours per month, and the remainder asked about extra hours for special projects like Spring Cleaning.

The impact and value of Home support is most evident, though, in the stories of clients. There is no "typical" Home Support client. The past year's clients include people who required short-term help while recovering from an accident or surgery, and people who have been using the service regularly since it started.

One of the Home Support success stories involves two sisters and their elderly mother. Both sisters were concerned about their mother. Their mother loved her own home and wanted to continue living there, but she had difficulty keeping the house clean and tidy. Both sisters tried to visit often and help with housecleaning, but this involved several hours of drive, and was not possible as often as they wished.

Fortunately, one of the sisters happened to see an ad saying that Yellowhead County was providing Home Support, and she called and spoke to Community Outreach Coordinator, Sarah Leach, to see if her mother could qualify for help. Sarah assured her that any County resident, of any age, who is experiencing problems with mobility can access Home Support to help with housecleaning.

Sarah met with the mother and daughter at the mother's home and explained

that the cost of Home Support was on a sliding scale based on the client's income. Sarah also provided useful information about the Alberta Special Needs



Assistance program for seniors that could help with the costs involved.

Mom agreed that she could use some help with vacuuming and also with putting clean sheets on the bed, since these tasks are very hard to do when you need to use a cane for balance, however, she was nervous about having a stranger in her home. Sarah explained that the Home

Support workers are carefully screened by Yellowhead County and trained to behave professionally and guard confidentiality.

The family started using Home Support services, and it was evident that the client and worker really 'clicked'. Later, the daughter wrote a note to the Home Support program which said, in part, "Sarah, we are so happy with the Home Support worker – she is so kind to Mom and her people skills are excellent. We know we can count on her."

In the past two years, the program has expanded from a pilot project in limited areas to include all County residents from Range Road 50 to Range Road 205. If you would like more information about the Home Support program, or other senior services, call Sarah Leach in the Wildwood office at (780)325-3782 or long distance at 1-800-814-3935.

**SUMMER
EVENTS**
In Yellowhead
County

Entwistle Rodeo – June 30-July 1

Chip Lake Music Festival – July 13-14

Pembina River Nights Country, Roots & Blues Festival – July 13-14

Wild Mountain Music Festival – July 20-22

Mary Reimer Rodeo – July 27-29

Peers Gold Dust Daze – August 4-6

Evansburg Pembina Valley Daze – August 11-12

Lone Wolves Pembina River Show & Shine - August 11

Wildwood Agricultural Fair – August 17

Yellowhead County Summer Programs = SUMMER FUN!!!!

"Summer has always been my favorite time of year, but even more so since beginning my position with Yellowhead County FCSS," says Theresa Druar Children's Program Coordinator. The summer programs, provided for local youth, runs throughout various areas of the county during July and August.

One highlight last summer was the circus camp that was held in Evansburg. *Youth in Action* received grant money through FCSS and donations from PennWest and Conoco Phillips to bring in Flyin' Bob to teach his tricks of the trade. This unique program provided the opportunity for participants to experience new skill development that less than 1% of the population has. The best part about this program was there truly was something for everyone. The self esteem acquired from this program is automatic when a participant realizes that he or she is able to star in a real live performance after only 3 days of practicing!

Participant Kaylyn MacKay even wrote a story about her experience, "All too soon it was my turn for wire walking. Mama gave me a big thumbs up, I took a great big breath, I knew my Papa was watching and I really wanted to do a good job. I went for it. I did it! I did a really great job! I didn't fall off! Everyone clapped. Everyone in the Circus Camp did a really good job! THE BIG SHOW really was BIG! The audi-

ence loved us! I felt like I was a very important part of THE BIG SHOW and that I was kind of part of a *Circ de Soleil*."

Circus camp inspired FCSS staff to host more exciting and unique programs such as CSI camp. This day camp was held in Fulham and gave participants the opportunity to take and analyze fingerprints, shoe prints and teeth imprints. They learned what it's like to be a real Crime Scene Investigator from Cpl Mike Donnelly of the Edson RCMP. Participants even had the chance to solve a mock crime.

A two day "Survivor" camp had participants competing in team work challenges much like the reality show. However, instead of being voted off, teams collected survivor money for a surprise auction at the end of each day.

Other events included a Teddy Bear Picnic at Bear Lake and some Chillin' At Chip Lake, which allowed some younger participants and their families to have some fun in the sun doing crafts, playing games and making their own ice cream.

The FCSS staff look forward to providing many more independence and self esteem enhancing programs disguised as FUN!



SUMMER BLAST 2012

Drop-in fun at Niton School Playground

July 9 - 13, 9am - 1pm - no fee or registration required, All ages welcome

Jr Golf Day at Evansburg Golf Course:

July 17, 10:30am - 3:30pm - Lunch is provided \$15.00 MUST pre-register by July 10 - Ages 8 & up

Horseback Riding at Cadomin:

July 19, a 4hr scenic ride, bring your own lunch, \$60 MUST pre-register by July 12 - Ages 11 & up (bring your own helmet) Transportation provided

Teddy Bear Picnic at Bear Lake:

Drop-In family program with crafts and games, **July 20**, 1pm - 3:30pm All ages welcome

I Am Potential Daycamp:

Discover your potential with multiple fun activities in Robb and Brule, **July 24 - 26**, 10am - 3pm - All ages welcome, \$10 registration fee, bring your own lunch

An Overnight Nature Camp:

at Gunner Rehn Park in Wildwood, **July 31 - Aug 1**, Ages 8 & up, \$15 registration fee, Must pre-register by July 27, All meals provided

Drop-in fun at Entwistle Playground by the Pool:

Aug 7 & 14, 10am - 2pm, All ages welcome, no fee or pre-registration required, bring your own lunch

Circus Camp:

at Wildwood School, **Aug 8 - 10**, 9:30am - 3:30pm, Ages 8 & up, \$30 Must pre-register by July 31, bring your own lunch

Old Fashioned Day:

at Evansburg Tipple Park Museum, experience what it was like in the old days, Ages 7 & up, **Aug 13**, 9:30am - 2:30pm \$10 registration fee, must pre-register by Aug 7, Lunch is provided

CSI camp : investigate a mock crime scene while taking fingerprints and gathering evidence to figure out "who done it" **Aug 15 in Niton, Aug 16 in Marlboro**, 10am - 2pm, \$5 registration fee, bring your own lunch, Ages 7 & up

Amazing Race: Evansburg, **Aug 21**, 11am - 3pm, Registration Fee \$10, Lunch is provided, Ages 8 & up

Drop-in fun at Fulham Hall: **Aug 22**, 10am - 2pm, All ages welcome, no fee or pre-registration required, bring your own lunch

Chillin' at Chip Lake: Chip Lake, Wildwood, **Aug 23**, 1pm - 3:30pm, Family Fun games, crafts and more, All ages welcome, no fee or pre-registration required

Girls with Tools - Learn how to check and change oil, read gauges, change a tire and more to improve your confidence behind the wheel, Girls aged 15 and up. Date, times & locations **TBA**, please call for more information

Hoodoo Hiking Trip: Explore a natural phenomenon, **Aug 23**, 11am - 1pm - Ages 11-17, \$5 registration fee, bring your own lunch and comfortable shoes. Transportation provided

Survivor Camp! Join us for this 2 day daycamp. Create a team flag, participate in team challenges, races, obstacle courses and much more. Robb **Aug 11&12** and Robb **16&17**, 10am - 3pm - Ages 6-12, \$10 per day, bring your own lunch.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame: Join us as we head out to catch an Edmonton Capitals baseball game, **Aug 14**, Game starts at 2pm - Children 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult, \$15/child and bring your parent for FREE!!!

For Information or to Register Contact:

Theresa Druar or Krysta Shack at 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935
tdruar@yellowheadcounty.ab.ca kshack@yellowheadcounty.ab.ca,
or look for us on Facebook under **Yellowhead County Children & Youth FCSS.**

If you have an idea for a program YOU would like to see in your area please contact us.



ROBB FIRE HALL UPGRADES

Major Renovations Bring Substantial Changes to Fire Hall - Room Now Available for Training, Equipment Storage, And Vehicles

The Robb Fire Hall is currently being renovated to increase the safety for residents in the hamlet and the surrounding area.

As the fire hall has been in service for many years, it is now at a stage that upgrades are necessary to make sure the building is capable of housing existing and future equipment and providing the space needed for training for the volunteer firefighters.

The renovations are being done to bring the capacity of the hall to a higher level. The upgrades will address several issues including training issues, equipment issues, and several safety issues related to

storage and maintenance requirements for hazardous materials needed by the fire department.

The construction will renovate the existing structure to have three bays, as well as 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, enhancing the fire and safety services of the area.

Upgrades include:

- Addition of a mezzanine level
- Relocation of the new addition to accommodate fire truck parking in front of the building – requiring additional concrete walls and concrete pad
- Structural upgrade and reroofing of the existing structure to accommodate snow load changes
- Underground storage tank purchase and installation
- Upgraded foundation system design to comply with recommendations of geotechnical report
- Revision of exterior wall system and insulation to accommodate structural changes
- Additional grading/swales to suit new construction and existing grade elevations



PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION

FIRE DEPARTMENT LEVEL OF SERVICE POLICY

Yellowhead County Council recently updated the Fire Department Level of Service Policy. The goal of this policy is to ensure that each community receives the appropriate Emergency Services in a realistic and sustainable manner with priorities being prevention, fire suppression, and rescue and safety.

The new policy introduces a tool that helps determine the service level available for each county fire hall. This tool is a decision making flowchart that helps determine volunteer firefighter availability, level of training, and equipment availability compared to risk potential for each area. Services available depend on the level of

training of the firefighters. Examples of levels of service include basic fire suppression, interior fire suppression, and all terrain vehicle rescue.

Individual County Fire Halls are assigned levels of service based on the risks and needs of that response area.

On average, Yellowhead County Firefighters receive 68 hours of fire fighting training a year, in addition to any specialized training such as vehicle extrication.

Yellowhead County operates 8 fire halls throughout the municipality and currently has 117 volunteers.

WOOD PRODUCTS AT TRANSFER STATIONS

Wood and wood products are normally accepted at County transfer stations. Wood products are not accepted at transfer sites when there is a high wildfire hazard and ban in our region.

During a fire ban, residents are asked to keep any wood at their own properties until

all the fire restrictions are lifted. The County is unable to safely burn the wood piles at the transfer station at this time, and the build-up of fuel stockpiles creates a large fire hazard for wildfires.

This policy of enacting wood dumping restrictions dependent on the fire hazard situ-

ation at the time will remain in place for the rest of the season, so residents should check with the county prior to taking a load of wood to any transfer station when there have been high wildfire hazard warnings. Please contact the County at 1-800-665-6030 for more information.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY *INCIDENT SUPPORT SPECIALIST*

Are you an energetic, adrenaline seeking, community focused person who likes to be part of a team? Then being a part of the Yellowhead County Incident Support team might be for you.

Yellowhead County Fire Department is currently hiring Incident Support Specialists.

As an Incident Support Specialist, you respond to emer-

gency incidents within the region to provide support to firefighters and other emergency responders. Operating the Incident Support (IS) Unit and the Structural Protection Unit, you assist with onsite equipment and logistical support; provide compressed air to refill firefighter's self-contained breathing apparatus, and aid in rest and rehabilitation for emergency respond-

ers as well as operate the Ranger 6x6 off road vehicle. Both units are critical tools in providing emergency services to Yellowhead County and its partners.

Incident Support Specialists operate on a paid-for-call basis. After completing initial comprehensive training I.S. Specialists attend regular training sessions. All I.S. train-

ing is scheduled for evenings and weekends to accommodate I.S. Specialists' busy schedules. I.S. Specialists are provided with uniforms, protective clothing, and pagers.

For more information about becoming an Incident Support Unit Specialist, please contact Yellowhead County Fire Department at 780-723-4800.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY COUNCIL & STAFF WISH TO CONGRATULATE ALL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ON THEIR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

Troy Cumberland Station 5 Marlboro, promoted to Captain.

Gil Belcourt Station 5 Marlboro, promoted to Captain.

Trina Ploentzke Station 5 Marlboro, promoted from probationary firefighter to firefighter.

Dave MacPherson Station 5 Marlboro, promoted from probationary firefighter to firefighter.

Colin Regan Station 8 Niton Junction, promoted from probationary firefighter to firefighter.



Win Cash and Have Your Photo Displayed Here!

2012 Yellowhead County Photo Contest

You can win as much as \$500 for entering your photographs in Yellowhead County's 2012 Photo Contest.

There are three photo categories to enter:

- People
- Places
- Production and Progress

Entry forms and contest rules are available on the Yellowhead County website www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca or at both County offices. Help us celebrate the beauty and diversity of Yellowhead County.

Photo Contest Deadline: September 30, 2012

County Website Makes Information Easier To Find And More Accessible

Some of the new features on the site include:

- Interactive Google Maps Showing County Campground Locations
- Latest News, Media Releases, Council Highlights and more
- Quick Links for our most used pages and Emergency Information
- A-Z of County Services Webpage
- Events Calendar
- Quick Text Size Increase Buttons For Users with Reduced Visual Capabilities

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

Jack Ramme

– Chief Administrative Officer

Barb Lyons

– Director of Corporate and Planning Services

Don O'Quinn

– Director of Infrastructure Services

Debbie Charest

– Director of Community and Protective Services

Yellowhead County

780-723-4800

1-800-665-6030

Fax: 780-723-5066

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 Utilities Emergency Number: 780-723-3221

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

Visit www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

