

# Yellowhead County's Yellowheadlines

Summer 2016  
Bi-Annual Newsletter

TRANS - CANADA

## County Firefighters Help Combat Fort McMurray Fires

### Yellowhead County Firefighters Gain Unforgettable & Inspiring Experiences

TWO MONTHS AFTER THE FORT MCMURRAY FIRE, LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS REFLECT ON THEIR EXPERIENCE DURING ONE OF THE MOST DEVASTATING FIRES IN CANADIAN HISTORY.



A LOOK INSIDE::  
HERITAGE TOUR  
FARM SAFETY DAY  
COUNTY NOISE BYLAW  
LOCAL FOOD NETWORK  
CAMPGROUND & PARKS PLANS



# YCFD Firefighters in Ft. McMurray

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On May 1, 2016, the Fort McMurray Fire began southwest of the municipality and within a few days it had destroyed approximately 2,400 homes and buildings as it swept through the city and was the cause of the largest wildfire evacuation in Albertan history. Yellowhead County firefighters helped save a community ravaged by one of the worst fires in Canadian history.

The fire responsible for the costliest disaster in Canadian history covered two provinces, consumed forested areas, and impacted several oil sand operations. The fire had spread across approximately 1.5 million acres before it was finally declared to be under control over two months later.

## WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK

The devastation within the city created a work environment that was full of potentially dangerous and stressful situations for the on-scene emergency responders. The work was hazardous and challenging and required significant teamwork and organization. Shift rotations were scheduled to ensure the safety and wellbeing of on-scene personnel. YCFD firefighters were there for a maximum of 72 hours as the operational tempo was very high, and crews were working with minimal breaks over their three-day shift.

Firefighting crews in the city worked together in task groups with equipment and crews of various types and capabilities from all over Alberta. YCFD Engine 5 had been operating throughout the city fighting structure fires and protecting residential and commercial areas from the approaching wildfire.

YCFD officers played key roles within the Incident Command Structure. YCFD captains helped organize crews and delegated assignments in the staging area while deputy chiefs, in the North Sector Command Post, helped direct fire operations within the north half of the city.



While the wildfire skipped over whole sections of the community, without the firefighters' valiant efforts, it is likely that many more homes and buildings in Fort McMurray would not have survived.

Firefighters were able to save the hospital, municipal buildings and all of the schools, except for one that was under construction. Most of the critical infrastructure in Fort McMurray remains. Assessment of the damage to the city found that of the nearly 20,000 buildings and structures in harm's way, approximately 2,400 were destroyed, with over 17,000 approved for occupation.

"The firefighters who were up in Fort McMurray not only gained experience that they could never have gotten from a lifetime of training," says Yellowhead County Deputy Fire Chief of Public Safety Cory Chegwyn. "But they also received a special honour in the hearts of the people whose homes and businesses they were saving, as well as all the Canadians and people from around the world who were watching this event unfold."

"They were able to learn from and work with fire crews from around the province and from around the world helping to save a community ravaged by one of the worst fires in Canadian history," said Chegwyn.



# Campground Improvement Plan Update

Both a Campground Improvement Plan and a Hamlet Parks and Outdoor Spaces Plan have been developed based on community feedback gathered from numerous open houses, stakeholder consultation, and online surveys. This article looks at the Campground Improvement Plan and the next newsletter will focus on the Hamlet Parks and Outdoor Spaces Plan.

## CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Yellowhead County's Campground Improvement Plan gives a better understanding of what both locals and visitors who use the county campgrounds see as a priority for improvements, what changes are needed to meet the needs of these campground visitors, and what the cost of the improvements will be.

Council has budgeted for some items for improvements for this year, but additional improvements and long-term planning and management will need to take place over multiple years.

The plan will be used as a reference by administration and council to make decisions on the operation, maintenance, and long-term capital investment by the County in campgrounds and park spaces.

The eight sites are Bear Lake Park, Shining Bank Lake Campground, Shining Bank Lake Day Use Area, Long Lake Park, Riverside Park, Jerry Vanderwell Memorial Park, Nojack Recreational Area, and Beta Lake Park. Each site offers a variety of amenities and attractions.



Work being done this year as a result of the feedback from residents across the county includes:

- Day Use Area Upgrades
- New Fish Cleaning Stations

Based on the report, the most needed improvements at all eight of the Yellowhead County parks are:

- Enlargement of the campsites to accommodate larger units,
- Upgrades to the fire pit areas,
- Road widening to accommodate two-way traffic,
- Overflow and day use parking areas,
- Designated boat trailer parking areas at select sites,
- Updated amenities such as toilets, docks, boat launches, picnic tables, fish cleaning stations, etc.,
- Addition or relocation of playgrounds at select parks,
- Mapping and signage of existing trail systems,
- New concrete vault toilets.



# YOUR COUNCIL



Mayor  
Gerald Soroka



Councillor  
Sandra Cherniawsky  
Division 1  
Evansburg & Area



Councillor  
Anthony Giezen  
Division 2  
Wildwood & Area



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



Councillor  
David Russell  
Division 4  
Shiningbank/Peers Area



Councillor  
Shawn Berry  
Division 5  
Wolf Creek/Pindale Area



Councillor  
Bill Velichko  
Division 6  
Edson Area



Councillor  
Dawn Mitchell  
Division 7  
Edson West



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



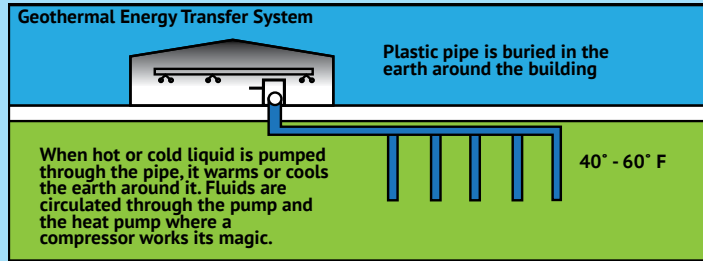
# COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

**PIONEERING WHEN IT WAS BUILT, THE YELLOWHEAD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IS STILL AHEAD OF THE CURVE TODAY.**

**Y**ellowhead County's Administration Building was designed to be an extremely energy efficient system that uses solar and geothermal energy to heat the building interior and water. The building, designed by Manasc Isaac Architects, is a LEED (Leadership in Energy Efficiency Design) certified building and has received a Silver status rating.

"The facility isn't just eye candy; it's a test bed for innovative sustainable building approaches too. A pre-cursor to a net-zero structure, the Yellowhead County Administration Building boasts zero-emissions status, and features solar hot water heating as well as recycled rubber shingles." states the architect's website.

Evoking the diversity of its region, Edson's Yellowhead County Administration Building's design and construction material reflects its industrial, forestry, and agricultural roots, this LEED® Silver facility utilizes local wood products, highlighting the local forestry's commitment to sustainable forest management. The environmental goals of the building were to maximize functional efficiencies and reduce environ-



mental impact, reduction of energy costs, and set an example of environmental stewardship for the community and staff.

**GEOHERMAL SYSTEMS ARE ENERGY TRANSFER SPECIALISTS. THE EARTH IS A SOURCE OF HEAT IN WINTER AND AN EFFICIENT PLACE TO DUMP HEAT IN SUWMMER.**

"The facility isn't just eye candy; it's a test bed for innovative sustainable building."

Manasc Isaac Architects

### HEATING

For geothermal drilled 48 bore holes up to 200-300 feet deep (100 metres)

Ground is always at a temperature of 41 .5 (F) or 8 C

There are 13 heat pumps in the building with 2 air exchangers and three fans.

It is a closed system. We use no fossil fuels to heat the building saving at least \$6,000 in fuel per year. Solar is used to heat the water.

### LIGHTING

High efficiency incandescent lighting - on same frequency as the computer screens. In North America we tend to have too much light in rooms - which has a detrimental affect on our eyes.

Top windows facing south have ledges underneath them with mirrors on them to bring more light in and to bounce the light around the room.

Lights are on motion sensors to reduce electric bill. In electricity costs we have gone form 18 cents per square feet to 11 cents square feet. All Yellowhead County facilities operate on the green grid at 25%. Our electricity in the Administration Building is 100 per cent on the green grid.

### STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

All plants require little maintenance or are indigenous to the area. Rainwater is collected and stored in cisterns to be used to water the exterior plants and grass.



# 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY / YELLOWHEAD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



# VETERAN'S PARK & COMMUNITY CONNECTOR BUS

**C**ouncil had an opportunity to view the new Wildwood Community Connector Bus outside Council Chambers that was later formally unveiled on May 6 at the Grand Opening of the new Wildwood Veteran's Park.

Both the past and current president of the Wildwood Legion, along with others involved with the new bus including one of the regular drivers, were able to show the new bus and highlight some of its features that will benefit area residents with more accessible transportation options for a variety of passenger types including a 1,000 lb. lift for wheelchair access.



MAYOR SOROKA AND COMRADE PRESIDENT CHARLOTTE WINTERS AT THE OPENING OF THE WILDWOOD VETERAN'S PARK

Yellowhead County contributed \$42,000 to Wildwood's Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 149 through a capital funding grant towards the new \$90,000 bus that is replacing the older twenty-four-year-old bus.

The Wildwood bus is used for many community events such as the County sponsored Seniors Appreciation Day.

Council entered into an agreement for a 99-year lease for the new Wildwood Veteran's Park. Lieutenant Governor Lois E. Mitchell was among the attendees at the official opening of the new park in Wildwood.



COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE WILDWOOD LEGION IN FRONT OF THE NEW WILDWOOD CONNECTOR BUS



THE NEW WILDWOOD VETERAN'S PARK INCLUDES A CENOTAPH TO HONOUR CANADIAN VETERANS AND A LYNX RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLE AND A M43 MILITARY AMBULANCE.

# Evansburg's Tipple Park & Museum

**C**entrally located in the Hamlet of Evansburg, the Tipple Park Museum showcases local history and artifacts. It also welcomes visitors and tourists to the area and provides a place for community group meetings and various other community events.

The Pembina Lobstick Historical Society operates the museum and features rotating displays, with both seasonal and travelling exhibits. Yellowhead County provided \$2.37 million for the planning, design, and construction of the new building and lot. The interior furniture and window coverings were funded through a Provincial Government CFEP grant and by fundraising done by the Pembina Lobstick Historical Society.

All rooms associated with the museum (archive, display room, storage room and work room) feature humidity controlled cli-

mates to assist in the proper storage of artifacts. The archive room is available by appointment for members of the public to complete historical research with the society's help and resources.

The location and orientation of the facility essentially mirrors that of the old Station House. The new building is also orientated to provide access to the washrooms from Tipple Park. The design of the new facility was developed following the Evansburg Streetscape Plan that is part of Yellowhead County's Area Structure Plan for the Hamlet.

The multi-purpose area, kitchen and meeting room are available for event rentals and is the home of the Evansburg Farmers' Market.

- Features:**
- Areas for artifact display, museum storage, and archival storage;
  - A workshop area for staff to repair objects and to prepare exhibits;
  - A tourist information area;
  - A multi-purpose room, reception area, office, kitchen, washrooms, and meeting room.

The east side roof of the Tipple Park Museum has solar panels and a bi-directional meter. Any excess power generated from these panels will be sold back into the power grid.

The Solar panel installation compliments the use of the building's geothermal heating system, lessening the impact of the operation of the building on the environment.



# Wildwood is "Pink Town"

**WELCOME TO THE WILD PINK YONDER**  
The community of Wildwood has been very excited about winning the Pinkest Little Town in the West prize for raising the most money per capita. The funds raised go towards cancer research, specifically breast cancer.

The community had a dance and silent auction in honour of winning this award. There were two signs presented to the community in celebration of their fundraising efforts.





# Jarvis Lake & Gregg Lake

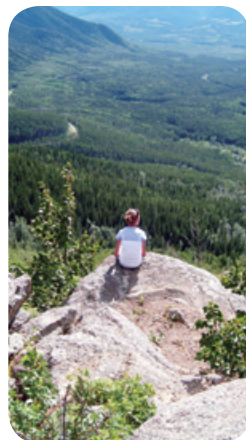
*Yellowhead County has dozens of lakes and parks to explore, each with their own unique attributes. In our newsletters we're featuring several of our them and showing all the great things to see and do there.*

**How to get there:** Located on the 'Scenic Route to Alaska' Highway, Jarvis Lake and Gregg Lake are nestled in the Northern Rockies Foothills just 21 km northwest of Hinton on Highway 40.

**William A. Switzer Provincial Park** is a lovely, uncrowded alternative to the Rocky Mountain national parks. Switzer Park encompasses more than 63 square km and is relatively undisturbed with lots of wildlife. Pine, spruce and aspen forests surround the park's chain of five small lakes.

Located on each end of Switzer Park are Jarvis Lake on the south and Gregg Lake on the north end. The Jarvis Lake day use area includes a boat launch, fish cleaning stations, playgrounds firepits, pier, sandy beach, and other amenities. Jarvis Lake campground is a nice, small campground overlooking the lake. A beautiful mist can cover the area in the morning making for a photographers dream. A small dock just below the campsite is perfect for launching a canoe or kayak or mooring your boat overnight.

On the north end of the lake is Kelly's Bathtub, you'll find the Visitor Centre and Gift Shop, a sheltered cooking area, fire pits, and other amenities. Also located here are some great trails, a breathtaking viewpoint and an excellent swimming hole and small beach. There are hiking trails and biking trails that cover the entire park. Power boats are allowed at both Jarvis Lake and Gregg Lake.



On the north end of the park is Gregg Lake which includes a much larger campground and fully serviced lots and the same amenities as Jarvis Lake but there is a 12 km/h speed limit at Gregg Lake for power boats.

There is a 4 km interpretive canoe route that takes 1.5 to 2 hours and is kid friendly and easy to navigate, but a bit of portaging around beaver dams is required. A longer, more challenging route goes from Jarvis all the way to Gregg Lake. Switzer Park Paddleboard Rentals has canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards for rent at both lakes. Search @switzerparkpaddleboards on Facebook for hours of operations.

All five lakes have northern pike and lake whitefish. The park also has stocked fish. Trout pond is stocked with hundreds of rainbow trout each spring. You can access the pond from a short trail off the Cache Lake Campground access road. Brown trout are stocked in Jarvis Creek in the valley near Cache Lake Campground and Graveyard Lake/Halfway Campground and ice fishing is very popular at Gregg Lake.

This whole area has countless things to do all summer and lots to do in the winter months as well.

Photos courtesy of Alberta Parks & Scott Sunderwald

## NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOTOUR APP



**THE NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOTOUR APP IS A FREE IPHONE/ IPAD BASED TRAVELLERS' GUIDE TO THE NORTHERN ROCKIES REGION OF ALBERTA.**

The app includes 133 Ecopoints, arrayed along three major routes with side-trips including Grande Cache to south of Cadomin on Highway 40. Each Ecopoint includes a photo and a short description of its key features, with the option to continue to the full text in the Northern Rockies Ecotour book available for purchase locally.

You can share your experience with friends, posting comments and photos to sites such as Facebook and Twitter. The app includes a guidebook, enabling users to locate visitor centres, hiking trails, picnic sites, etc. along the route.

# YELLOWHEAD

# LOCAL FOOD

# INITIATIVE

## Locally Grown. Yellowhead.

**We help bring local producers to a local market for local consumers!**

Connecting our residents with any and all local food available from producers within the region brings several benefits including:

- Better produce at a better price
- Improved business viability
- Smaller environmental footprint

With the ability to opt-in or opt-out at any time, our producers retain ultimate control of how successful this project is and how deeply involved they want to get.

It's a win-win opportunity for both local producers and consumers.

### Consumers want to know where food comes from and how and where it's produced!

The goal of the Yellowhead Local Food Initiative is to ensure that a wide range of local food options are readily available to consumers across our region; from local farmers markets and grocers to all other markets across the county and beyond!

We're helping local food producers, from small niche markets to large processors, get into new markets that are looking for locally sourced food and related products.

The Yellowhead Local Food Initiative network will help you better promote your goods to your current buyers by

entrusting your products with the local Grow Yellowhead local brand and assist you in identifying new markets as we work to create a connected network across the region that brings the best and freshest products Yellowhead County has to offer.

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Better produce at a better price with improved business viability and a smaller environmental footprint.

It's a win-win opportunities for both local producers and consumers.

With the ability to opt-in or opt-out at any time, our producers retain ultimate control of how successful this project is and how deeply involved they want to get.

Contact us to find out more about getting your products and business into the Yellowhead Local Food Initiative network.



[www.GrowYellowhead.ca](http://www.GrowYellowhead.ca)

A shared initiative of Community Futures West Yellowhead and Yellowhead County Community Services.





# YELLOWHEAD COUNTY FARM SAFETY DAY

“We believe a hands-on approach to identifying hazards and promoting safety is vital to keeping our youth alive and well.”



FARM SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS.

**D**uring the summer months when students trade in their textbooks for time on the farm, a different type of education becomes increasingly important for kids that work on a local farm or even those just visiting farms across the province.

A local farm safety event was hosted by Yellowhead County for junior high students on May 31, 2016, and provided a hands-on approach to identifying hazards and promoting agricultural safety. This event was at no cost to students

“Some teenagers, who have grown up working on a family farm or nearby local farm, may be very aware of dangers that they can encounter every day,” says Yellowhead County

Agricultural Services Coordinator, Patricia O’Neil. “But, there may be many more dangers out there that they’re not aware of, or that they’ve developed a blind spot to after years of a potential risk because it’s never been an issue in the past. Our Farm Safety Day is geared towards reminding them of those dangers that could injure them, or worse.”

“They’ve developed a blind spot to it after years of a potential risk because it’s never been an issue in the past. Our Farm Safety Day is geared towards reminding them of those dangers that could injure them, or worse.”

- Patricia O’Neil  
Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Coordinator

In Canada, Agriculture ranks as the third most hazardous industry. According to the Farm Safety Centre, a non-profit organization, that promotes safe agricultural practices through the development and delivery of educational materials throughout rural Alberta, from 1997-2014 there were 331 farm-related fatalities, 19% of those were children under 18 years old. With those statistics in mind, the

Yellowhead County’s Agricultural Department wanted to offer a Farm Safety Day, which taught the students how to be safer on their farms through customized education and awareness.

Working on a family farm or any industrial agricultural operation has always had its inherited risks associated with it – from working long hours to using heavy equipment and managing unpredictable livestock. This new event was created to alleviate some of the dangers inherent in these situations.

There were roughly 60 students in attendance from Wildwood and Evansburg schools who took part in the full day event that showcased many of the potentially dangerous situations that anyone working or living on a farm may come across. Education is important for anyone who has grown up on a farm and may be dismissive or too comfortable with many of the day-to-day dangers of farming operations, or for someone who visits a farm and may not be aware of the potentially dangerous situations that are visible to people who are around them on a daily basis.

Between 1997 and 2014, there were 331 farm-related fatalities in the agriculture industry in Alberta. Of those incidents, 63 were under the age of 18 years old.

The students were broken up into small groups and rotated through the different farm safety stations which focussed on various scenarios that may bring a level of danger when in a rural situation. The stations covered topics such as wearing proper clothing and having an awareness when using or being around heavy farm equipment; proper livestock handling and management techniques; legal and other safety requirements when operating off-highway vehicles.

Yellowhead County works with local agri-businesses and workers on promoting farm safety education and awareness through the county’s Agricultural Services Department. Past events have included the Farm Safety Certification Training for Youth and the School Farm Safety Program, both which included emergency first-aid training.

Yellowhead County would like to thank our major sponsors: **UFA, Agriculture for Life** and **Mayerthorpe Martin Deeline** for their contributions to this event. As well as to our other sponsors who volunteered to present and provided the students with take home resources: **Dow Agro Sciences, ATCO Gas, Canadian National Railway, Howie Johnston, Rednex Ranch, Schendel Ranch and Holdings,** and **Yellowhead County Fire Services and Bylaw.**

## FARM INJURY STATISTICS IN CANADA

- Agriculture ranks as Canada’s third most hazardous industry
- In terms of absolute numbers of fatalities, there is no more dangerous occupation.
- There were 1769 agricultural fatalities in Canada from 1990-2005
- Agricultural machines were involved in 70.9% of fatalities
- Of those fatally injured as a result of agricultural work, 91.6% were male
- For children aged fourteen and under the following were the most predominant causes of farm-related fatalities:
 

Machine runovers	41.9%
Drownings	15.2%
Machine rollovers	11.1%
Animal-related	6.5%
Crushed under an object	5.1%

*\*There were an average of 3.5 deaths per year for children (ages 0-18) between 1997 and 2014.*

## FARM SAFETY IS EVERYONE’S BUSINESS. Farm Safety Tips

Here are a few “Read ‘Em Now, Use ‘Em Later” farm safety tips brought to you by Yellowhead County’s Agricultural Services Department.

- **NEVER ADJUST MACHINERY WHEN IT’S POWERED.**
- **DON’T WEAR LOOSE-FITTING CLOTHING AROUND MOVING MACHINERY PARTS.**
- **OBTAIN PROPER TRAINING FOR THE MACHINERY YOU ARE USING – AND KNOW ITS LIMITATIONS.**
- **GO OVER BASIC FARM SAFETY KNOWLEDGE WITH YOUR KIDS REGULARLY. THE INCIDENTS OF FATAL INJURIES TO CHILDREN, AGED ONE TO SIX, LIVING ON CANADIAN FARMS IS NEARLY TWICE THAT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION.**

Remember: Yellowhead County’s Ag Services offers farming related workshops & information throughout the year. Call 1-800-814-3935.



# Limits to Noise Levels in Hamlets & Subdivisions

NEWLY UPDATED NOISE BYLAW EXPANDS TO INCLUDE MULTI-LOT SUBDIVISIONS AS WELL AS COUNTY HAMLETS AIMED TO REDUCE EXCESS NOISE.

The updated bylaw addresses potential excessive noise issues in County hamlets and subdivisions and gives law enforcement a bylaw that can be used to enforce any noise issue that affects the quality of life of those living in these two types of residential areas. There have been complaints received in a multi-lot subdivision about unreasonable noise issues being generated at all hours of the day/night.

The recently updated Yellowhead County Noise Bylaw will now cover all multi-lot subdivisions across the county in addition to hamlets in order to reduce potential excessive noise issues in these residential living areas. The bylaw doesn't restrict all types of noise, as there are numerous exceptions: residents can use domestic equipment such as snow blowers, and lawn mowers for periodic property maintenance – providing it's used short-term only and between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM.

The goal of the bylaw is to reduce sound generating activities that are likely to disturb and detract from the comfort and peace of other nearby residents also living in county hamlets and subdivision.

## The Noise Bylaw does not apply to:

- The performance of work by any person on farmlands for the purpose of carrying on a farming operation,
- Persons using domestic equipment such as snow blowers, lawn mowers, etc., (provided that the noise is of a temporary nature and the equipment is properly maintained and operated in a normal manner),
- Regular noise that occurs between the hours of 7:00 am and 10:00 pm.,
- Community events.

## Peers Area Structure Plan

Yellowhead County has approved funding for an Area Structure Plan (ASP) review for the hamlet of Peers. While there is an existing area structure plan from 2002, there is an opportunity to update the area structure plan to reflect community aspirations. An ASP identifies future growth opportunities and how that growth will happen within the framework of County bylaws and policies.

The planning consulting firm Matrix Planning has been selected to prepare the ASP and County Council will approve an advisory committee to work with staff and the consultant. The first stage of the process will collect background information into the early fall. Public consultation meetings will then be held throughout late fall and into early 2017.

Area councillor David Russell says "it has been a while since we have had the ASP reviewed for Peers. There is a new floodplain study that will help better understand where land can be developed and where it will be constrained. This ASP will help put that floodplain study into context."

For more information contact Brent Shepherd, Planning and Development Manager at Yellowhead County.



# West Yellowhead Recycling Society Canvassers Take to the Streets

WASTE DIVERSION IN LOCAL RESIDENTIAL AREAS COULD IMPROVE, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES TO HANDLING YARD WASTE, FOOD WASTE, AND PAPER.

In the months of July and August, employees from the West Yellowhead Recycling Society are surveying communities in the West Yellowhead. The canvassers will mainly be targeting the commercial sector in Edson, Hinton, and Jasper. In Niton, Peers, Wildwood, and Evansburg, however, the canvassers will mostly be focussing on residential areas.

The society aims to gather information about the types of waste being generated and how they're being handled. The canvassers will also be asking about the collection methods being used for garbage & recycling. Employees will be inquiring about any recycling barriers individuals are experiencing and any suggestions they might have as well. In the future, the West Yellowhead Recycling Society aims to use this information to improve their services.

A report from Stats Canada concluded that industrial, commercial & institutional (IC&I) waste made up 49% of the total waste in the province. Residential waste contributed to 24%, while construction & demolition waste made up the last 27%.

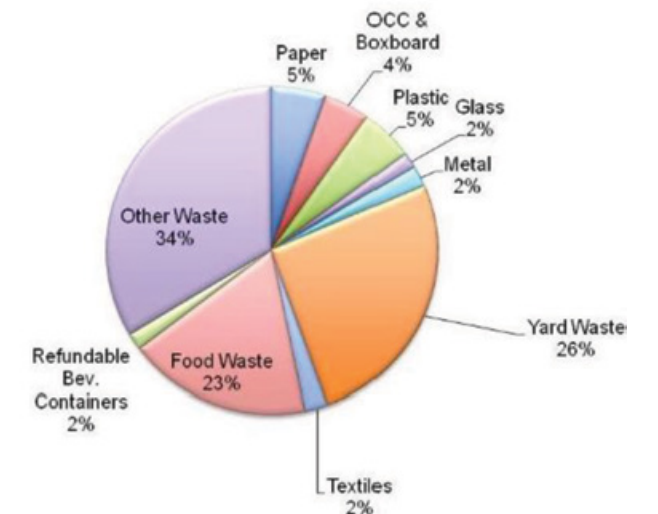
Another report, the 2005 Provincial Waste Characterization Framework, stated 33% of IC&I waste was paper. In comparison, Alberta's residential waste was largely made up of yard waste, paper, and food waste according to the same report. Yard waste made up 31% of the total, paper contributed to 22%, and 21% of the total was food waste. In the graphs associated with these figures, "other" signifies waste that was not recyclable in the waste diversion programs. The charts that have been used are the most recent available.

A significant portion of the waste generated within Alberta is non-residential. Since substantial portions of the non-residential waste are recyclable, reports indicate non-residential sectors present areas for vast improvement. Residential areas could improve as well according to some reports, particularly when it comes to handling yard waste, food waste, and paper.

A report, done by Sonnevera International Corporation in 2010, for the Town of Edson and Yellowhead County similarly reflected that waste diversion could be improved. 49% of the county's overall waste could have been composted, while an additional 20% could have been recycled. Since seeing the results of the 2010 report, the county has taken actions to increase recycling and composting, however. The West Yellowhead Recycling Society will lastly be reminding businesses and residents that there are alternatives when it comes to handling these items.

Submitted by Janai Redman, Dallas Cartwright and Anne Auriat

## Yellowhead County's Residential Waste Distribution



(Town of Edson/Yellowhead County Solid Waste Management Review Final Report, 2010)

## Alberta's Residential Waste Distribution



(Provincial Waste Characterization Framework, 2005)





# Seniors Information Sessions

THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE SENIORS BENEFITS PROGRAM THIS YEAR! COME OUT AND LEARN ABOUT THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS AND HOW TO ACCESS THEM.

“For Seniors on a low income there are financial benefits to ease some of the cost of aging, and providing an opportunity for people to become aware of them is important,” says Wendy Robinson, FCSS Supervisor. “Learning about the various programs available can help people to plan their major expenses for the year and maximize the benefits available to them.”

There are a number of programs available to support seniors, financially, through the federal and provincial government and information workshops are being offered in Peers, Mackay and Evansburg for individuals to come out and learn about the various programs available to them. This is valuable information for everyone nearing retirement, as well as those currently benefiting from the benefit programs available to seniors.

## Information Sessions:

**August 31, 2016: Evansburg Heritage House. 10 am – 12 pm**  
**August 31, 2016: Mackay Community Hall. 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**  
**September 14, 2016: Peers Multiplex. 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm.**

Registration is free, but pre-register is required so enough handouts and seating are available for everyone, in addition to coffee and snacks! You can register for these workshops at 1-800-814-3935.

FCSS is a preventive social services program available in 99% of the communities in Alberta. It is based on the premise of local solutions for local needs and building community and individual capacity to solve challenges.



FCSS is an 80/20 funding partnership between the Province of Alberta and individual municipalities.

Provincial representatives will be present to offer current information and answer all of your questions! Proper planning will help maximize your available benefits.

What would you like to see for recreation options in your area?

## Recreation & Leisure Activities Survey

*“Recreational activities are often done for enjoyment, amusement, or pleasure – the need to do something for recreation is an essential element of human biology and psychology.”*



Please take a few minutes to fill out this very short survey as Yellowhead County moves forward with setting up our new recreation programming throughout the county. Your feedback is necessary to ensure we meet your needs and expectations.

Go to [www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca](http://www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca) or [www.bit.ly/YCRecreationCourses](http://www.bit.ly/YCRecreationCourses) or stop by one of the County offices in Edson or Wildwood.

# Heritage Tours Going Strong

THE YELLOWHEAD COUNTY HERITAGE TOURS CONTINUE TO SELL OUT AND ALWAYS HAVE A LONG WAITING LIST - SO DON'T WAIT TOO LONG TO SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT ONE TAKING PLACE THIS FALL.

This spring, forty people participated in a day of exploring Yellowhead County's historical Coal Branch and that tie into the local history that took place in the Rockies and surrounding foothills over 100 years ago.

Stops included historical highlights in Cadomin, Mountain Park, Mercoal and Robb, where the Canadian Northern Rockies provided the backdrop for this educational and entertaining bus tour.

Participants, who were lucky enough to register early for the sold-out tour, were treated to stories from former residents who had lived in these areas and described what it was like as these communities grew and changed.

Stops included the highest structure in the county and



the highest cemetery in the entire British Commonwealth. Participants learned about all the colourful characters that played a role in the shaping of the area now known as Yellowhead County.

## Fall Heritage Bus Tour Wildwood & Evansburg September 22, 2016

Register by September 12. Come and join us for a day of exploring Yellowhead County's heritage in the Wildwood and Evansburg areas! Stops will include a historic church, working farm in the Leaman area, lunch in an old school house, driving tour of historic downtown Evansburg, and tours of the Tipple Park Museum. Price is \$40.00 per person. Lunch and refreshments provided.

# Don't be Sorry. Get your Fire Permit

NOT GETTING YOUR FIRE PERMIT FOR BURNING MAY COME AT A COST

Not having a burn permit during fire season may cost you significantly – even if you don't start a wildfire or grassfire. Make sure you get your free permit for any existing or new fires.

During the summer, most burning activities in Yellowhead County require a fire permit. Residents are reminded to take extra care while burning this summer as dry conditions and strong winds can fuel fast burning grassfire.

## TIPS & INFO ON BURNING:

- PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR BRUSH PILES, TRANSFER SITES, AND FIELD, GRASS OR STUBBLE BURNS.
- FIRE INCIDENTS CAN BE REDUCED BY KEEPING BURNS SMALL AND ALWAYS HAVING FIRE SAFETY ON HAND.
- PERMITS ARE NOT NEEDED FOR CAMPFIRES, OR FOR BURN BARRELS IN SOME LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTY.



# Sasquatch Contest

## Take the #LeaveltPristine Challenge.

Win a \$50 Gift Certificate for Amazon or Mountain Equipment Co-op.

*Make your Pledge!  
Smile. Click. Share.*

Snap a pic holding how you pledge to keep our backyard clean and pristine and share it on our 'Welcome To Our Backyard' Facebook page using the hashtag #LeaveltPristine.

Use one of these examples or create your own:

- Control your campfire and make sure it's out when you leave.
- Keep campsites at least 100 metres from oil and gas facilities.
- Stay on existing trails and share the trails with all users.
- Don't disturb environmentally sensitive areas such as creeks, wetlands, trees, and shrubs.
- Respect wildlife.
- Pack out ALL garbage & recyclables.
- Use Sani-Dumps to dump my waste.
- Do not trespass on private land or restricted industry areas.



*FIND IT CLEAN.  
LEAVE IT PRISTINE.*

Dial the province at 1-800-642-3800 to report serious public lands abuse on Crown Land or 1-800-665-6030 for County land issues.

*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

### After-Hours Emergency

**Utilities, Bylaw, Transportation: 780-723-3221**

#### Yellowhead County

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

#### Edson Office (Main)

2716 - 1st Avenue  
Edson, AB T7E 1N9

#### Wildwood Office

53404 Rge Rd 92A  
Wildwood, AB

#### Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Office Locations

Visit [www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca](http://www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca)

