

Yellowheadlines

COMMEMORATIVE SCHOOL SIGN PROGRAM



Yellowhead County and Grande Yellowhead Public School Division are providing signage to preserve the memory of the locations and still standing historical one-room County schoolhouses. These long forgotten institutions helped educate the many residents that helped contribute to the development and growth throughout our region.



ROSEVEAR BRIDGE

A massive operation is underway to replace the old ferry crossing 4

HISTORICAL SCHOOLS COMMEMORATIVE SIGN PROGRAM

COUNTY SCHOOLS COMMEMORATIVE SIGNAGE PROGRAM – A NEW COMMEMORATIVE SIGNAGE PROGRAM RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF SITES AND BUILDINGS IN YELLOWHEAD COUNTY THAT HAVE BEEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS. THE METAL SIGNS WILL BE PLACED NEAR THE PROPERTY ON THE COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY SO IT IS VISIBLE BUT WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH TRAFFIC OR ROAD MAINTENANCE.

We are surrounded by history and many times we're completely unaware of it, but a new program started by Yellowhead County and initiated by the Yellowhead County Heritage Board are making sure that's not necessarily the case.



A handful of heritage school buildings and sites throughout the county are getting new signs that will allow passersby to get a glimpse into history and where it was located. These signs will be placed along the sides of the County roads adjacent to where these historical buildings or locations, in the cases where the buildings are no longer standing, are located.

The Heritage Board, working closely with the Grand Yellowhead Public School Division and the property owners of where the schools were located, have identified and made signs for several locations.

The entire program has been done in partnership with

GYPSD that provided 50% of the funding for the signs, as well as "provide us with a whole bunch of historical information from their records."

The commemorative recognition for each of the schools was initiated separately by either interested groups and organizations or property owners and private individuals. The Peers school was initiated by Yellowhead County and the Bryan School in Robb. All the other commemorative signs were from interested community members either representing the building or from family members who own the building or have close ties to the old schools.

While some of the buildings

are still standing, such as the Niton Junction, Carrot Creek, and Folley Timber sites, others such as the Bryan School in Robb, which was built mid-century and operated as a school until the 1990's due to the lack of students in the area, are no longer there.

Many of the existing buildings are still being utilized in one form or another. "There are community Halls on a couple of the sites - most are part of farms or acreages now," says Yellowhead County's Heritage Coordinator Jenny Seibel.

Applications for 2017 are available and can be picked up from Yellowhead County.



Bryan School is one of the many oneroom County School Houses that is receiving a commemorative plaque and is an example of one of the Yellowhead County schools that are no longer standing.



Many of the schools were built over 100 years ago and are no longer standing. Over a dozen successful applications have been received so far and all include stories, historical dates, and anecdotes about the schools.

Bryan School
1951 - 1999
In Partnership with

Heritage Awards honours efforts to preserve Alberta history

EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE RICH HISTORY OF THE YELLOWHEAD REGION WERE RECOGNIZED WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THE MUNICIPAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARD TO YELLOWHEAD COUNTY DURING THE ALBERTA HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION HERITAGE AWARDS, OCT. 14 IN CALGARY.

Yellowhead County's efforts to preserve and share its history are being recognized with the presentation of an Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Heritage Awards with a Municipal Heritage Preservation Award.

Yellowhead County was selected to receive a Heritage Award which was accepted by Yellowhead County Councillor Jack Williams at the Heritage Awards Ceremony in Calgary on October 14. The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation presented the Municipal Heritage Preservation Award in recognition of the exemplary commitment to heritage conservation.

The nomination of the award was submitted by Edson Heritage in recognition of the work done by the Yellowhead County Heritage Advisory Council with help from County staff and of course all the residents who have contributed along the way in developing the County's Heritage program.

The AHRF Heritage Awards Program is an integral part of the Government of Alberta's commitment to support-



ing heritage preservation efforts in communities throughout Alberta.

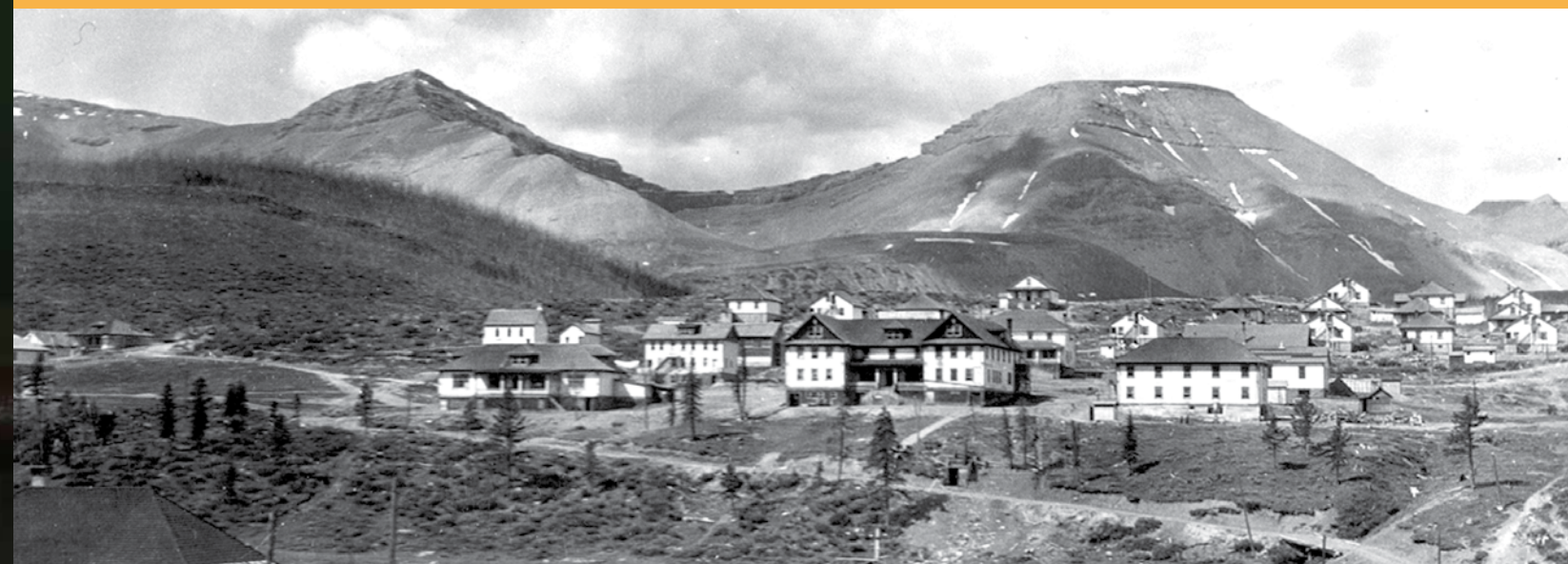
The award also recognizes the work done through the Heritage Schools Program, which indicates the location of former historic schools in the county through the placement of Plaques.

A total of 58 awards have been presented to recipients from across the province since the program was reintroduced in 2005. This is Yellowhead

County's first Heritage Award.

The foundation assists Alberta Culture and Tourism in promoting public awareness and enjoyment of Alberta's heritage and is the Government of Alberta's primary window for heritage preservation funding.

For more information go to www.culture.alberta.ca/heritage-and-museums/grants-and-recognition/heritage-awards/



2017 Budget & Tax Rate

2017 Municipal Tax Rates and Budget for Yellowhead County

No increase in the municipal tax rate for Yellowhead County ratepayers when they receive their tax notices

At the April 11, 2017 Yellowhead County Council meeting, the 2017 budget and tax rate was adopted by Council. Yellowhead County Council has voted to keep the tax rate the same for both residential and non-residential amounts. The Yellowhead County 2017 final budget was adopted by Council in the amount of \$158,293,059 (including School and Seniors requisitions).

"We have worked hard to bring forward a budget that doesn't include an increase to the municipal tax rate," says Yellowhead County Mayor Gerald Soroka. "Even in a year where we will see losses in taxation revenue due to external economic factors."

Yellowhead County will see a loss of revenue for 2017, due to lower linear assessments. There will be a decrease of \$3.3 million as a result of this lower assessment.

The revenue-sharing amount that Yellowhead County provides to the Town of Edson and the Town of Hinton will see a 6%

decrease as a result of this lower assessment.

"Due to the economic slow-down in our province and region, which has an impact on the many businesses and people who rely directly and indirectly on the oil and gas industry, our Council has voted to keep tax rates the same in order to not increase any financial burdens to them," continues Soroka.

"We have worked hard to bring forward a budget that continues to provide the important services and capital projects that will have a continuing positive effect on our community for years to come."

With Council's continued support of development for the region, the budget includes capital projects of all sizes. Total capital costs will be \$68.3 million; with \$1.5 million for Parks & Recreation; \$10.6 million for Fire and Protective Services; and \$55.1 million for Infrastructure's road connectivity and rehabilitation projects. In order for these

projects to proceed without increasing tax rates, the budget has included a portion of these funds to be covered by municipal reserves.

The residential tax rate for Yellowhead County has not increased for five years and the last increase to the non-residential rate was in 2014.

PROPERTY TAXATION

Yellowhead County works hard to provide you value for your hard-earned tax dollars. Council and Staff endeavour to ensure that you are provided with the highest level of service possible while considering the needs and expectations of Yellowhead County residents.

Where do your County tax dollars go?

Yellowhead County Council's operating and capital budget includes the following breakdown of expenditures for 2017:

- 54% of expenditures have been allocated towards infrastructure projects and programs including roads, bridges, water, sewer, landfills and airport

- 7% of the budget has been allocated to Community Services programs for our residents
- 8% of the budget has been allocated to Protective Services programs for our residents
- 5% to Corporate and Planning Services
- 1% to go towards Council and general municipal business
- 5% of the budget has been allocated to revenue sharing with the Towns of Edson & Hinton
- 19% of the budget goes to School Tax and Seniors Requisitions

A Few Things You Should Know...

Property taxes cover about 66% of all budget costs, including requisitions.

The remaining 34% of the costs are covered from other sources such as grants, reserves, investment income and user fees.

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

THOUGHT ABOUT RUNNING FOR COUNCIL?

GET INVOLVED - HELP BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY!

Being a Yellowhead County Councillor gives residents an opportunity to help guide the future direction of Yellowhead County.



24 Hours a Day. 7 Days a Week. New 1-Call phone service in Yellowhead County

AN INFORMATION & REFERRAL LINE THAT CONNECTS ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEED THEM.

Edson, Hinton, and Yellowhead County have joined together in creating a regional calling service.

With a combined \$25,000 in funding, the three municipalities have since gathered the relevant information, worked with consultants, upgraded regional infrastructure capabilities, and have launched the service for both residents and visitors.

Now, anyone in the region can pick up a phone and be connected to a live agent who can help them find resources and services within the community. The service will also offer an online directory service, and an anonymous online chat feature. Plus, if the information callers are looking for isn't available, their request will be tracked, and

an effort made to ensure that information is made available for future callers. With a large number of supported languages, and teletype device accessibility, this service is designed to be approachable for anyone in our region.

The main goal of this new service is to ensure that our area residents are aware of the supports available to them in times of need, particularly in situations where they may need access to services like the food bank that they may have never accessed before.

We can help you find:

- basic needs (food, clothing, shelter and financial needs)
- employment resources
- parenting resources
- counselling
- health care
- childcare
- transportation supports
- volunteer opportunities
- and MUCH more...



Yellowhead County Rosevear Bridge gets its Footing

The new bridge that will replace the Rosevear Ferry is beginning to take shape.

Over the last 70 years, travellers crossing the McLeod River during the summer months along Rosevear Road have used the historic Rosevear Ferry crossing get to the banks on other side of this major waterway. Soon, a new two lane, \$15 million dollar bridge will replace the old ferry.

BACKGROUND

The McLeod River Ferry crossing, located 18km northeast of Edson, connected Highway 16 and Highway 748 on Rosevear Road. River crossings included agriculture operations, gravel pit operations, residential travel, as well as tourists travelling through the area.



The Rosevear Ferry, one of the few ferries remaining in Alberta, played a significant role in the uniqueness of Peers and the surrounding area. The first settlers of Alberta used the crossing to traverse the railhead that was being built at that time. While the current ferry is not the first ferry at that crossing (it was put in during 1969), the operational style of the ferry itself has not changed much since the original one from seventy years ago: it uses an overhead cable-guide to maintain its path across the river.

During any periods of either high or low water in the river, ferry operations were suspended inhibiting traffic and causing inconvenience for travellers using that route. The load capacity of the Rosevear Ferry was also restricted to passenger vehicles or pickup trucks, having a 32,500 kg payload capacity. Larger commercial vehicles were not allowed to use the ferry requiring them to take a longer and less direct route.

NEW BRIDGE

In 2009, Yellowhead County began a feasibility study that looked at the po-

tential to construct a bridge across the McLeod River. A new bridge would allow all-season access and reduce most current vehicle restrictions using the ferry crossing. In addition to unrestricted access, the provincial funding that helped finance the ferry operations was ending.



With low water levels and other environmental and weather-related issues, the ferry has not been opened for the full summer season over the past few years. And as the ferry is unable to run during the winter months, the new bridge will ensure year-round 24-hour access between residents and traffic going between Rosevear Road and north of the McLeod River.

In 2015 there were 15,866 vehicles over 98 days, including ATVs, with a total of 423 passengers.

Based on the results of a 2011 planning study, the construction of a bridge across the McLeod River at the previously identified location was determined to be technically feasible. The new bridge crossing, located west of

the current ferry site, was chosen as the favoured location. The cost for the new bridge will total approximately \$15.5 million.

The construction process that is being done by Trevcon Enterprises Ltd., managed by Stantec and overseen by the County has had to take into account various weather conditions and needs to meet strict environmental requirements during all phases of the building of the new bridge.



Drilling for the pilings that will hold up Yellowhead County's new Rosevear Bridge.

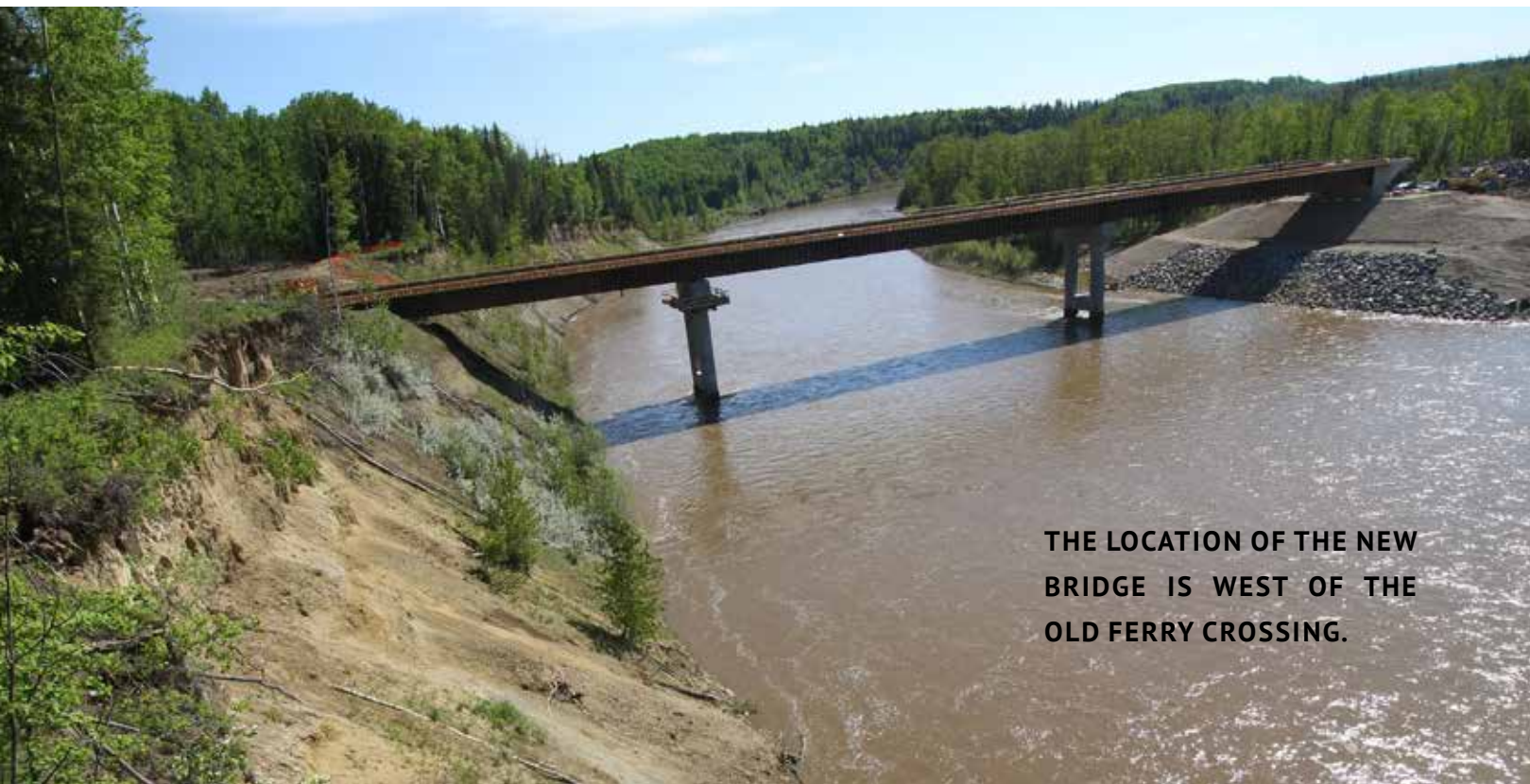
One of the keys to this construction has been the construction crews being able to use the river ice to work on. While the McLeod River was completely frozen over and solid enough to support heavy equipment, Trevcon Enterprises Ltd. out of Calgary brought in their massive drill that cuts through the ice, river bottom, and bedrock and pounds the steel support structures into the ground.



Construction of the Rosevear Bridge is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2017, with the tie-in to the road to take place after the bridge construction is completed and scheduled to be complete until fall 2018. The Rosevear Road leading up to the bridge was built not too long ago, and is built to a high standard and meets all the County's County Collector Road standards. The engineering plans for the bridge will have taken into account the traffic patterns and increased usage.



The new bridge offers twenty-four-hour access for most all vehicles and load types year round increasing the convenience of residents and other travellers along this route due to all season availability and twenty-four access for all vehicle and loads types.



THE LOCATION OF THE NEW BRIDGE IS WEST OF THE OLD FERRY CROSSING.

Pump Track Openings A Big Hit

SUNNY SKIES. THREE GRAND OPENINGS. DOZENS OF ATTENDEES. AND OVER THREE HUNDRED BURGERS. THE NEW YC PUMP TRACKS ARE A BIG SUCCESS IN NITON, WILDWOOD, AND EVANSBURG AND WILL SOON BE JOINED BY TWO NEW PUMP TRACKS IN MARLBORO AND PEERS.

On Saturday, September 24, 2016, kids, parents and curious onlookers took part in the grand openings for the three newly created pump tracks. The layout of each pump-track was also designed by Velosolutions; no two of their pumptracks are identical. They design each track individually based on the surface area available and the natural environment it is built on.

The pumptracks are hand built asphalt tracks that are similar to a BMX bike track made of bumps, berms (corners), and raised areas; but don't have a start or finish line and have paths that criss-cross, overlap, and intersect with each other. Riders of various types of equipment such as BMX bikes, scooters, skateboards, and roller blades can use the tracks to speed around or do tricks around the circuit. The track is similar to riding a wave while surfing and the rider can use their body, legs, and arms to 'pump' over each bump to keep up their momentum. A skilled rider can keep going around

the track without pedalling or pushing until their energy is done.

Part of a series of places for riders to stop along Highway 16

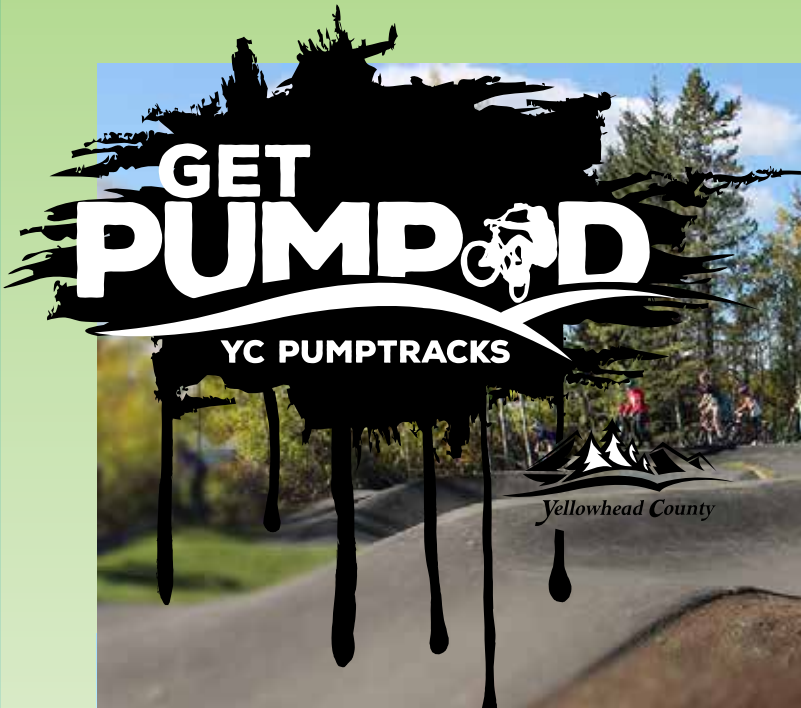
In addition to the five County pump tracks, there are the Hinton Bike Park and trails and, and the ever-growing network of trails in Wilmore Park south of Edson, with plans to have a fully devel-

oped bike park there as well. Another Yellowhead County project is underway that will see a new set of mountain bike trails and small bike park in the hamlet of Brule.

Pinkbike, the internet's largest mountain biking online website, featured Yellowhead County's first three pump tracks on their site. You can view this amazing video at www.bit.ly/YCpumptrack-NEWS.

Yellowhead County would like to thank all of our sponsors and partners that made our Pump Track Grand Openings a huge success!

- Stewart Sand and Gravel Ltd**
- D Raymond Contracting**
- OK Tire Auto Service**
- Iron Will Enterprises**
- Brewster Bobcat Service Ltd**
- So-Gnar Snow and Skate**
- Vicious Cycle**



Pump Track Naming Contest

A pumptrack naming contest was held on the day of the grand opening where attendees could submit their name idea for each pump track, and the winners won a new BMX bike. Voting was done online and in the schools within each hamlet.

The winners were: Niton Junction's Thunder Junction, by Logan Bramming; Wildwood's Pump and Jump by Logan Hilliard; and Evansburg's Grouch Pad by Tristan Masson.



Invasive Weed of the Month

Orange Hawkweed & Meadow Hawkweed

Hieracium aurantiacum

Hieracium caespitosum

Category: Prohibited Noxious perennials that prefer well drained course soils and can successfully grow under the forest canopy

Why they are a concern: They spread very quickly and grow in dense mats which is impossible for other vegetation to grow through

Prevention: Watch out for weed seeds in wildflower seed mixes, clean off equipment, buy weed free hay. Eradicate as soon as a single plant is found

Control Methods: Mowing prevents seed production, but plants will continue to reproduce through stolons and rhizomes. Cultivation is not effective. Herbicides use is the most effective method for these species. Hand digging may be effective if there is only a handful of plants, every part of the root system must be dug up.



For more information and a link to detailed fact sheet or a full list of Invasive Species visit the www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca or contact our Agricultural Services Department at (780) 325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935

For a more detailed fact sheet or a full list of Invasive Species please visit www.abinvasives.ca

Invasive Weed Information provided by Alberta Invasive Species Council.

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

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

It's a win-win opportunity 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.

Locally Grown. Yellowhead.

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

www.GrowYellowhead.ca

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



Emerson Lakes & the Hoodoos

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 70 km north-west of Edson or 60 km northeast of Hinton. There are two ways to get to there from each town, but keep in mind a lot of the road is industry road and can be rough.

Emerson Lakes Campground is found in Sundance Provincial Park. The park is off the beaten path, but once you find it, you'll be rewarded with a chain of 5 small lakes and about 7 km of trails to explore. You can fish, canoe, or take an electric powered boat on the lakes and view the hoodoos on the Wild Sculpture Trail.

Lat: 53.728004 Long: -117.121835

Emerson Lakes

These five lakes, located 75 km northwest of Edson, are a hiker's dream. With lush trails and a stunning view, this hike takes you around three of the six lakes – about seven kilometers in total. With lakeside day-use areas and camping stalls just feet from the lake, this is one place that is definitely worth the drive. There are 7 km of self-guided interpretive trails around three of the Emerson Lakes.

History It is a characteristic kettle and esker glacial formation. The small, deep lakes are nestled between high, steep esker rides. The eskers were once internal streams in a glacier and when the glacier retreated, the streambeds, highly rich in stream washed gravel, were deposited on the landscape and remain as an enduring reminder of a cold past. This site, originally built in 1972, was the first recreation site developed by Hinton Wood Products. (from FRMA website)

Camping There are 15 unserviced campsites that are \$11 each and there is a reservation fee of \$6/night. Reservations must be made at least 3 days in advance (by Wednesday for a Friday night reservation).

There are firepits, firewood available and pit toilets. The campground operator is Fox



Creek Development Association at 780-865-2154.

Water Water is available from a hand pump at this site. Although Alberta Parks strives to maintain water quality, we recommend that you bring your own drinking water.

Fishing The lake associated with the campground contains eastern brook trout. (Please consult fishing regulations for restrictions and catch limits.)

Go to www.albertafishingguide.com/location/water/emerson-lakes for more details.

The Hoodoos (Wild Sculpture Trail)

Located 65 km northwest of Edson, the Wild Sculpture Trail hosts multitudes of hoodoos formed from several thick layers of rock eroded over time into intricate wind-swept sculptures. Just a short hike through an old-growth white spruce forest will bring you to spectacular scenery, overlooking lakes brimming with wildlife and mountains looming in the distance. In the Sundance Valley, hike 2 km on the Wild Sculpture Trail to reach the hoodoos or continue down through the forest to three peaceful lakes. Stop by while camping at Emerson Lakes for a spectacularly natural weekend getaway.

The hoodoos are located at the northern tip of Sundance Provincial Park which have the hoodoos trail as well as OHV riding permitted on two designated trails only - at Rupert's Crossing and at the north end of the park.

This whole area has countless things to do all summer and lots to do in the winter months as well. Get out there and explore!

Fire Safety Water Source for County Subdivisions

RESIDENTS OF SOME COUNTY SUBDIVISIONS MAY HAVE NOTICED SOME CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AT THE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION WATER SUPPLY TANKS THIS PAST YEAR. IT WAS PART OF A PROJECT UNDERWAY TO ENSURE THAT ALL FIRE PROTECTION WATER SUPPLIES ARE UP TO STANDARD AND FUNCTION CORRECTLY.

With a considerable distance between some of the County's more populated rural subdivisions and a reliable water source, there is a very real concern of not having enough water on-hand to combat a significant blaze effectively.

A grass fire in a rural area is spreading quickly in a field separating several houses in a County subdivision. The first engine on scene quickly uses up its water supply and needs to be refilled quickly before the county firefighters can continue to work to extinguish the blaze that is swiftly making its way towards the first house. Having to resupply it from a natural water source will take considerable time, and there's a good chance the first house will catch fire and be lost.

Luckily this scenario is less likely to happen as Yellowhead County Fire Department (YCFD) has been busy this past summer upgrading and installing enhanced water suppression systems for several subdivisions located in the county. Firefighters arriving at a scene near any of the water supply tanks can now quickly dispense of the water without having to be too conservative as they wait for a resupply.



The water tanks are unobtrusive and have been landscaped to fit in with the surrounding area. Developers creating new subdivisions in the county are now required to install tanks as part of the development requirements. Maintenance and snow removal will be done by the Fire Department and grass cutting in the summer will be done by the county's parks department. Developers will coordinate with the Deputy Fire Chief of Public Safety regarding standard requirement. This new link in YCFD's rural firefighting chain of procedures will be incorporated into their operational procedures.

"We will be training with our firefighters on these systems," assures Chegwyn. "All drivers and operators will head out to these locations in this area to do hands-on training." This training will help familiarize themselves with both the locations and the operations of tanks and how they work with the fire tankers and engines. Training will include truck positioning and hook-up training.

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

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

These new tanks also reduce the impact of the ever real issue of waiting for backup crews that have to come from fire halls even further away and that are volunteer paid-on-call firefighters that aren't always in the hall awaiting a fire call to attend. Most fire halls in the County are manned by firefighters that may be at home, work, or any other place in their community at the time a call comes in. This new system gives the first firefighters on scene an extra advantage to coordinate quicker refilling of their tankers already on scene.

These new underground water tanks also help the firefighters to employ a more aggressive style of firefighting without a fear of running out of water and to be able to consistently assault the fire source or having too much lag time between refilling the tanker and giving the fire to re-ignite.

"Having water supplies in place helps with a more aggressive mindset," says Cory. "Aggressive firefighting standards reduce extinguishment times up to 50%."

Upgrading is being done in River Ridge, Tollerton, Branch West, Aspen Heights, Maskuta, and Grandview; with new installs at Seabolt, Mountain View, Pinedale, and Fulham.

"HAVING WATER SUPPLIES IN PLACE HELPS WITH A MORE AGGRESSIVE MINDSET. AGGRESSIVE FIREFIGHTING STANDARDS REDUCE EXTINGUISHMENT TIMES."

- DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF OF PUBLIC SAFETY, CORY CHEGWYN

Types of Maintenance, Repairs and Upgrades:

- Updating the pipe size to 6 inch on all tanks.
- Adding recirculation and fill piping.
- Adding or upgrading frost protection.
- Verifying capacities.
- Removing old stagnant water and replacing with fresh water.
- Flushing and cleaning out sediment.
- Improving landscaping for appearance, drainage, and erosion control.
- Improving gates and bollard protection.
- Adding signage.
- As tanks are repaired and standardized they will be added to a standard regular maintenance program which will include the following:
- Regular recirculation and function testing by fire crews.
- Snow removal.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What benefit do the tanks have to me as a landowner?

Access to water is critical to effective firefighting. Whether it be a structure or wildland fire, our best chance of extinguishing a fire comes from having a large volume of water in close proximity.

Will this have a positive effect on my insurance premiums?

YCFD cannot speak for your insurance company but we encourage you to provide this information to your insurer as it may have an effect on your rates.

How big are the tanks?

Tanks are minimum 10,000 imperial gallons.

Are the tanks only used for firefighting within the subdivision?

No, YCFD will always use the water supply that is fastest to access so the tank may be used for fires near the subdivision.

What happens after a tank is used for a fire?

YCFD tankers or commercial water haulers will be dispatched to refill the tank immediately.

What about subdivisions that do not have water tanks?

Part of this program is to identify areas that do not have adequate water supplies for firefighting. In some areas that may mean that a tank or pond will be installed.



9 Mile Hill Construction

LOWERING OF THE GRADE ON 9 MILE HILL ON THE WOLF LAKE ROAD

Council awarded the contract for grade-lowering of Nine-Mile Hill on the Wolf Lake Road to Morgan Construction & Environmental Ltd. at a total tender price of \$2,760,037.70. Work started this past fall and will be finished in 2017 resulting in a much safer road for both local residential and industrial traffic.



SCHOOL SPEED ZONES IN COUNTY HAMLETS

Back in 2010, Council made a change to a traffic bylaw to accommodate a request by the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division. Part of the amendment was an increase from the provincially regulated times to a larger encompassing time frame between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

During these times drivers are required to reduce their speeds to 30 km/hr when schools are in session. This change affected Niton, Wildwood and the two schools in

Evansburg. It will not apply to Fulham as it is adjacent to Highway 32 which is not a road under the county's jurisdiction, but there is currently a pilot project being undertaken by Alberta Transportation that would reduce the speed at Fulham School from 100 km/hr to 70 km/hr from September 1 to June 30.

Yellowhead County Traffic Bylaw 21.12 states: A school zone begins where there is a traffic control device indicating the school zone and ends where

there is a traffic control device indicating the end of the school zone.

School zones are in effect from 8:00 am through 5:00 pm every school day.

As a reminder, all drivers should use caution and consideration while driving through school zones as well as playground and recreation areas both during school hours and outside of these hours and non-school days.



PORTABLE SPEED TRAILER ENCOURAGES SAFE DRIVING BEHAVIOURS ON COUNTY ROADS

A new portable speed trailer will provide Yellowhead County's Protective Services Department with an extra tool to monitor traffic and encourages safe driving behaviours on county roads. The new portable speed trailer will remind drivers to be aware of speed limits and will aid in enhancing safety on County roads. It will act as an education and deterrent tool rather than an enforcement tool and will be deployed to various places throughout the county.



Yellowhead Trails Master Plan Survey

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY IS PREPARING A TRAIL MASTER PLAN AND WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

This plan will set the long-term vision for trails in Yellowhead County and provide direction on the investment in trail infrastructure and management of trails for the next 10 years.

Throughout the summer we will be hosting a variety of roving kiosks at special events as well as public open houses to provide additional outlets for feedback.



"We are very excited about the future of trails within our County and can't wait to hear how we can improve and develop trail networks within our hamlets," explains Parks & Recreation Supervisor Crystal McNernie.

The Trails Master Plan will include an extensive public consultation process that engages a broad spectrum of the community and offers a variety of engagement opportunities.



"The online survey is one of our first initiatives to gather resident feedback on the future of our trail systems," says McNernie.

The purpose of the survey is to understand:

- Current trail use in the County
- What is working & what is not working with the current trail network
- Supply, maintenance and management issues with the current trail network, and
- Priorities to improve the trail networks and visitor experience.

To complete the survey and to stay up to date on the Trails Master Plan process, please visit our website at www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

Alberta Junior Forest Rangers help "Green up" campgrounds

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY CAMPGROUNDS ARE "GREENING UP" THANKS TO THE ALBERTA JUNIOR FOREST RANGERS AND PINE TREES DONATED BY WEYERHAEUSER.

Last summer, the Alberta Junior Forest Rangers assisted Yellowhead County Parks and Recreation with planting 100 pine trees that were generously donated by Weyerhaeuser. The trees were planted in reclaimed areas due to recent campground day-use upgrades and in campsite areas suffering from widening and braiding. The Junior Forest Rangers brought their strength and tools, as well as knowledge gained from their program, to ensure proper planting and future success of the trees. Parks and Special Projects Coordinator Kevin Myles was impressed by their work ethic

and spirit noting that their resourcefulness was handy in determining locations for planting. The three-foot pine trees were offered by Ian Kwantes of Weyerhaeuser, who reached out to the County to see if the trees could be useful for any current projects. The timing was perfect to involve the Junior Forest Rangers and to best utilize the donated trees. Yellowhead County would like thank Weyerhaeuser and the Alberta Junior Forest Rangers and are looking forward to opportunities for future partnerships.



New Fire Halls in East End of County Underway

WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE NEW FIRE HALL GETTING CLOSER TO COMPLETION AND ANOTHER NOW UNDERWAY, THE EAST END OF THE COUNTY IS RAPIDLY SEEING DRASTIC ENHANCEMENTS FOR ITS FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE ASSETS.

Yellowhead County started a Fire Station replacement program in 2011 beginning with the Robb Fire Station. The Robb Fire Station was completed and opened for use in October of 2013. With the successful completion of the Robb station, ongoing research and deployment models have been developed based on lessons learned from the Robb build and the designation of CORE stations in Yellowhead County.

Preliminary researched showed the fire station in Evansburg as the next station that needed to be replaced.

The old Evansburg building was over forty years old and was having issues with the floors sinking, asbestos, plumbing, insulation, drywall, and flooring. There were problems with the roof, a lack of usable space, and poor ventilation. I also housed an ambulance for Associated Ambulance and a Peace Officer vehicle, which again cuts down on available space.

The concept of the new Evansburg fire hall was presented to Council in 2015 and approved for construction to begin in 2016. BR2 Architecture, who Yellowhead County hired for the Peers Multiplex, is the Architect utilised on the Evansburg Fire Hall project and was commissioned to start the process that included environmental studies, site survey, and building design. The Evansburg Fire Hall



“The conceptual rendition looks stunning. It has a very modern yet practical look. It is appealing and seems to have a functional layout. It will be a welcome addition to any community and Evansburg should be pleased.”

-Post on Yellowhead County Facebook Page

will cost approximately \$5.4 million for the construction of the building. The demolition of the old Evansburg Fire Hall began at the end of August 2016 with the construction of the new Evansburg Fire Hall beginning shortly after at the same location.

Wildwood Fire Hall



Following up from the Council Strategic Planning Session, Yellowhead County has moved forward with the Wildwood Fire Hall project.

Council approved the proposal from BR2 Architecture for the design, tendering, and construction supervision of the new fire hall in Wildwood.

BR2 Architecture has prepared the design for the hall with construction having just recently started.



SASQUATCH SIGHTINGS INCREASE ON YELLOWHEAD COUNTY RIVERS!

RECREATIONAL USERS WILL BE SEEING MANY MORE SASQUATCH SIGHTINGS THIS SUMMER AS THEY TRAVEL ALONG SOME OF THE MORE POPULAR RIVER ROUTES IN YELLOWHEAD COUNTY.

Several new Sasquatch “Welcome to our Backyard” signs were installed at key locations along popular river launches in Yellowhead County.

Over the past several years Yellowhead County Fire Department has rescued tubers on both these and other rivers in Yellowhead County. While a route on a map may be misleading as to the actual distance and time needed to travel a planned course, having a reminder that geographic distances are often longer than expected is important before starting off. The time needed to get from a drop-off spot along the river to the intended final destination may take much longer than people anticipate.

The signs, located on the Pembina River and the McLeod River, alert explorers to the potential consequences when using these rivers for activities such as canoeing and tubing. It also reminds people to respect the area they’re travelling through regarding private property and the environment. While most of the signs are located in the County, the Town of Edson has allowed for the placement of a Sasquatch sign in Wilmore Park – a very popular put-in spot on the McLeod River.

THE SIGNS ALSO ACT AS A RESCUE ASSISTANCE TOOL.

Each sign is numbered, and anyone needing help on the river can reference the last numerical sign they saw if they need to call 9-1-1 for help. That number will give first responders a better idea of where they are stranded on the river and help to reduce the time for first responders to locate the source of the distress call.

Footnote: The Sasquatch campaign is part of a partnership with several other Eastern Slopes counties in Alberta that are working together to remind people to reduce their environmental footprint when participating in recreational activities in our natural areas and is aimed at all outdoor recreational users. The Sasquatch river signage campaign is a Yellowhead County Protective Services specific initiative.



Yellowhead County Protective Services has placed several Sasquatch signs at various launch spots on Yellowhead County rivers to remind river users of the potential consequences on the river and to act as a rescue tool if needed.



The signs list tips aimed to help keep anyone venturing onto the rivers safer and better informed.

www.WelcomeToOurBackyard.ca

PEERS AREA STRUCTURE PLAN UPDATE

The Peers Area Structure Plan (ASP) gives residents an opportunity to have a good discussion about community enhancement, opportunities and constraints to development, and types of land use that might be appropriate for Peers.

Following discussions with the community recognized the need for more and varied rental and owner-occupied housing opportunities for seniors and all demographic segments of the society and that the high water table and some soils required further assessments of what land might be developable. The County has decided to do a geotechnical drilling program that will drill test holes to see what lands may be suitable for development. Other matters discussed included: policies for land around the floodplain, revisions of the Recreation Master Plan since the sani-dump station has been constructed, identifying developable lands that would cost the least to service

with water, sewer and roads identify a variety of desirable house types and allow flexibility in how those different land uses can mix within the hamlet encouraging land-owners to develop needed residential lots encouraging a better level of service for telecommunications options

The next public meeting will give residents an opportunity to look at any revised draft policies of the Peers ASP and will be part of a Public Hearing before it would receive final adoption by Council.

The Peers Area Structure Plan will affect:

- New developments and subdivisions
- Recreational usage of land
- Residential development and
- Commercial and Industrial Development
- Community long-term growth



NEW COUNTY RECREATION PROGRAMMING & ACTIVE LIVING HAS BEGUN!

Jina Materi is Yellowhead County's new Recreation Program Coordinator. Jina organizes recreation and leisure activities, parks and culture programs, and other programs, services and special events throughout the County.

Yellowhead County's goal, through this new position, is to provide enjoyable recreational, leisure, and wellness related activities, known as Active Living, to Yellowhead County residents. The aim is to provide opportunities for communities to engage in healthy activities, whether physical, social, creative, educational or spiritual in nature.

Active Living programs may include group exercise, circuit training, Zumba, bootcamp, or yoga. Other programming options include a more cultural aspect with art classes, drama classes and general interest classes.



Are you interested in instructing group fitness or other active living courses, or are there any particular recreation classes or activities you'd like to see in your community? Let us know! Email Jina at jmateri@yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

SOLAR PANELS ON MUSEUM WILL FEED SURPLUS ENERGY

THE SOLAR PANELS ON THE TIPPLE PARK MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTRE IN EVANSBURG ARE WORKING TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND REDUCE ENERGY BILLS BY USING RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AND WILL SELL EXCESS ENERGY INTO THE POWER GRID.

Several solar panels have been installed on the east side roof of the new Tipple Park Museum in Evansburg. The new solar panel installation complements the use of the existing geothermal heating system in the building with the goal to reduce any environmental impact caused by the daily operations of the building.

Yellowhead County is one of the first municipalities in Alberta to receive AMSP (Alberta Municipal Solar Program) funding for our solar panel system that can sell excess energy back into the grid. The solar panel system includes a bi-directional meter and an agreement with Fortis that allows any excess power generated from the panels to be sold back into the electric grid.

The solar program grant is funded by the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) to support municipi-

palities in addressing climate change and provides funding programs, technical assistance, and education to help municipalities reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

This grant program provides financial rebates to Alberta municipalities that install solar photovoltaic systems on municipal facilities to help lower energy bills by generating renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and showing leadership on climate change reduction.

MCCAC is operated as a joint partnership between Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD-C), Alberta Environment and Parks, Municipal Affairs, and Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA). Other MCCAC projects are showcased at www.mccac.ca/project-showcase.



The new Tipple Park Museum sign has been installed showing all the services offered at this new community building.



Hinton, Edson, and Yellowhead County residents.

One phone call to access community service program and service information.

**24 Hours a Day.
7 Days a Week.**
We Listen. We Connect.

Sasquatch Contest

Take the #LeaveltPristine Challenge.



*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.

**FIND IT CLEAN.
LEAVE IT PRISTINE.**

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

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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

Visit www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

