

Yellowhead County's Yellowheadlines

Summer 2015
A Bi-Annual Newsletter
Published for the Residents
of Yellowhead County

County Volunteer Firefighters Use Scenario Based Training for new Heavy Extrication Equipment

Approximately twenty Yellowhead County firefighters from across the region took part in four days of training to learn about new techniques and practise with some of the new heavy extrication rescue equipment recently purchased by the Yellowhead County Fire Department (YCFD). This modern, specialized firefighting and rescue equipment will enhance the County's emergency services.

Many of the calls that volunteer firefighters respond to involve car crashes, from single-vehicle accidents to multi-vehicle pileups involving large transport rigs and industrial loads. The new rescue equipment includes an assortment of cutting and prying tools, specialized heavy lifting bags powered by simple air pressure that can lift upwards of 80 tons, and other extrication and stabilization tools.

Over the four days the trainees went through a range of potential scenarios they could encounter in a motor vehicle incident, from victims being trapped between vehicles to lifting a fuel tank off another vehicle. In addition to learn-

ing how to use the equipment as part of a team, participants also gained knowledge about different rescue theories and practices. They received university-level training from an Edmonton instructor who specializes in heavy extrication.

Today's firefighters need to do much more than point a hose at a fire and cut apart metal with basic tools: they need to be aware of the vast differences between car manufacturers and models, how different types of chemicals can react to the environment and how to ensure safety at all times.



"There is magnesium in some vehicles," says Albert Bahri, director of Protective Services, who helped organize the training. "You hit magnesium with water and you get a massive explosion. So many of the things we train for is to make sure our members

are safe." This is where the knowledge training comes into play. "Some things you can't simulate – we can't put them at risk [during training], but we try and give them that knowledge, that concept, so they can work with that."

Firefighters also need to be able to improvise and think on their feet. "We can't lay it out step-by-step for how we organize each scenario," points out Corey Chegwyn, fire chief for the County. "Every incident is different. You have to build that knowledge so they can think through and solve the problem and have the many tools and techniques to finish it off, because each one is different."

Fire and rescue services are provided by over 120 highly trained volunteer firefighters operating out of nine different stations throughout the County. The YCFD is a public department, and its members are primarily paid volunteers. They come from a wide range of backgrounds. Many jobs in the area are tied to the resource industry, so there's a significant representation of those skill sets in the department.

"Every incident is different. You have to build that knowledgeso[the firefighters] can think through and solve the problem."

- C. Chegwyn, YCFD Fire Chief

"We've got welders, we've got pipefitters, we've got heavy duty mechanics," says Chegwyn. "They come with really good skill sets, [a] really good mechanical mindset."

While firefighters with these specific skills are a great benefit to the department, volunteer members of all sorts of backgrounds and ages make up the YCFD. Anyone interested in being a volunteer firefighter is encouraged to contact the department or just stop by their local fire hall on training night to see what it's all about. The department is always looking for new members. There are also volunteer opportunities with the County's Incident Support Team, for those interested in contributing to the department in a supporting role. The YCFD proudly protects 10,465 people living in an area of 22,000 square kilometres.

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YELLOWHEAD COUNTY MUNICIPAL 2015 Budget & Tax Rate

Municipal tax rates will not be increased this year, keeping Yellowhead County's Residential & Farmland tax rate at 2.4585 and the Non-Residential tax rate at 6.3658. The total amount that the County needs to raise through taxation for municipal purposes in 2015 is \$55.1 million.

The County's final 2015 budget maintains the low residential and non-residential tax rates while including prudent borrowing and smart use of reserves, various grants and other revenue sources to fund the rest of the budget.

"It really reflects Council's determination to create a balanced budget while considering various long-term capital projects, current community programs and day-to-day operational requirements while not increasing the municipal tax rate," says County Mayor Gerald Soroka. "Council is confident that we're able to keep providing the services our residents and businesses need while keeping taxes for our ratepayers at a manageable level."

Taxes	Total Amount	Residential & Farmland		Non-Residential	
		Tax Rate	% Increase	Tax Rate	% Increase
Yellowhead County	\$55.1M	2.4585	0%	6.3658	0%

In addition to collecting the taxes that go towards municipal projects, the County is required by the province to collect taxes on behalf of both the seniors' foundation and the Alberta School Foundation Fund.

School & Seniors' Levy Requisitions

Taxes	Total Amount	Residential		Non-Residential	
		Tax Rate	Increase	Tax Rate	Increase
School Foundation	\$22,570,731	2.5108	.08	3.4268	<.06> decrease
Evergreens Foundation	\$2,168,074	0.2290	.11	0.2290	.11

The County has allotted \$5 million for the Town of Edson and \$1.7 million for the Town of Hinton, in addition to regular cost-sharing agreements, to help cover costs for services shared between the municipalities. The towns can use these amounts as they deem appropriate. This is in contrast to the cost-sharing agreements with Edson, Hinton and Parkland County where specific amounts are predetermined by the partners and used to cover costs for specific programs and services, such as recreation facilities, airports, community-related programs, the museum, recycling, fire services and more. Over \$14 million of this budget goes to the County's neighbouring municipalities as part of various cost and revenue agreements.

Cost & Revenue Sharing Agreements

	Total Amount	Revenue Sharing	Cost Sharing
Town of Edson	\$11,392,388	\$5,131,623	\$6,260,765
Town of Hinton	\$2,857,641	\$1,71,0541	\$1,147,100
Parkland County	\$62,000	/	\$62,000

The 2015 total budget for Yellowhead County is \$136.5 million, including the school and seniors' taxes. The total municipal budget, excluding the seniors' tax, school tax and amortization expenses, is \$100,848,407.

Some of the larger capital projects included in the 2015 budget:

• Tipple Park Museum	\$ 1,369,188	• Campground improvements	\$ 616,000
• Evansburg North Road	\$ 1,549,000	• Wildwood North Road	\$14,651,400
• Communications tower expansion	\$ 1,500,000	• Long Lake Road	\$ 8,421,850
• Fire pumper tanker	\$ 774,082	• Evansburg water/sewer & road/sidewalk	\$ 4,650,000
• Fire rescue engine	\$ 805,718		

Robb Gazebo Begins To Take Shape



The new log gazebo in the hamlet of Robb is nearing completion and is anticipated to be ready to use very soon.

The 36' wide gazebo, which will be used for all types of community events, is being built near where the old Robb School was located.

The log beam structure, being built by Mark Deagle Log Building, will feature a fireplace and chimney so it can be used as an all-season community meeting spot.

HERITAGE SURVEY & INVENTORY PROCESS

THE HERITAGE INVENTORY & HISTORICAL PLACES OF INTEREST LIST HELP TO ESTABLISH YELLOWHEAD COUNTY'S NUMEROUS DESIGNATED HERITAGE SITES.

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.

After the POIL was created, the process moved to completing a heritage inventory. A heritage inventory uses the POIL to create

a more comprehensive record of resources that meet provincial guidelines for historical significance and retain the physical features necessary to convey that significance. These resources that maintain sufficient integrity would then be eligible for designation as Municipal Historic Resources and be listed on the Municipal Register of Historic Places. Using the current POIL, 67 properties were evaluated, and from that number, 52 properties were moved to the Yellowhead County Heritage Inventory.

Currently, we are in the management planning phase of the Municipal Heritage Project. We are creating a management plan to help establish guidelines and resources for a property once it is designated as a Municipal Historic Resources. We also continue to add to our POIL and heritage inventory. The Municipal Designation is on a voluntary basis only.

Out in Full Force: Yellowhead County Peace Officers

With four Yellowhead County Peace Officers and two enhanced RCMP officers making regular patrols in county hamlets, along rural roads, and at various recreational spots including campgrounds and county ATV trails, you're likely to spot County Peace Officers and RCMP regularly throughout this summer.

Yellowhead County Peace Officers are responsible for general enforcement of issues specific to the county. These include dealing with overloaded transport vehicles, animal control, and various other bylaws created by Yellowhead County Council including specific illegal use of firearms and explosives bylaws.

Community Peace Officers are appointed under the Peace Officer Act for their provincial authorities (Traffic Safety Act, Dangerous Dogs Act, Petty Trespass Act etc), as well as being appointed under the Municipal Government Act via the Bylaw Officer Bylaw. Yellowhead County Peace Officers work with other departments such as the county fire department and the development and planning department for dealing with the investigation and enforcement of bylaws that pertain to these departments.

According to the Criminal Code of Canada, bylaw officers are employed for the preservation or maintenance of the public peace. And, while Yellowhead County Peace Officers aren't authorized to deal with criminal code crimes such as theft, break and enters, assaults, homicide or corruption offenses, they

are authorized to deal with many offenses that RCMP regularly deal with such as traffic offences, Off Highway Vehicles, and illegal waste dumping, in addition to the Yellowhead County bylaws. Community Peace Officers of this type require a higher degree of training and experience than those employed by municipalities that only deal with one type of offence such as parking offences or zoning violations.

The Peace Officer Act does require a minimum standard to be met prior to being appointed as Peace Officer. If a person is appointed as a Community Peace Officer then they are required to meet or exceed the minimum standard as set out in the 6-week training program at the Alberta Staff College or complete training that has been approved by the Solicitor General's Department. Formal training is also available through the Alberta Municipal Enforcement Association and other organizations specific to municipal enforcement.

Officers are sworn under the "Oaths of Office Act" and the "Peace Officer Act" to diligently, faithfully and to the best of their ability carry out the duties of an Enforcement Officer for Yellowhead County.

Community Peace Officers are also appointed as Fire Guardians for Yellowhead County, as designated inspector and investigators under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, and delegated for development authority by Yellowhead County to enforce the Municipal Government Act.

Yellowhead County Peace Officers play a vital role in maintaining well-functioning communities and helping to promote safety and ensuring the rights of residents are protected throughout the county. While enforcement of county bylaws is a mandate of Community Peace Officers, their main priority is to obtain compliance through prevention and education.



Many County Roadway Right-of-Ways are Sprayed – Don't Pick Raspberries or Take Garden Dirt From Them

It might seem like the most natural thing to do, but picking raspberries growing on the side of county roads isn't recommended as many of County's road right-of-ways may be sprayed with herbicides as part of the County's Roadside Vegetation Management program. This also goes for anyone wanting to gather up a little more dirt to use for their garden; some of the herbicides used do have residual characteristics so ratepayers should not be using roadside soil in their gardens. More information on the herbicides used can be found on the County's website in the news section at bitly.com/yc-roadsidespray.



Citizens on Patrol

Watching. Listening. And reporting suspicious activity.



The Evansburg Citizens On Patrol (COP) members are working hard to keep their community a safe-feeling place to live. While patrolling the community is definitely the most active part of the volunteer program, some members take on other duties, such as recruiting new volunteers, coordinating patrols and putting up signs throughout the community.

Society, the local organization that oversees the Citizens on Patrol program. "Everybody thinks it's not going to happen to them," says Danyluk. "But they'll get involved after something happens to them." The group tries to get people involved before an incident happens to them and remind them that everyone is a potential target to criminal activity.

potentially criminal activities is working hard to be a deterrent. The Evansburg COP group currently has 36 signs placed on various County roads, reminding locals and visitors

"EVERYBODY THINKS IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN TO THEM."

-BRAD DANYLUK, EVANSBURG CITIZENS ON PATROL

The organization is always looking for new volunteers, points out Brad Danyluk, Chairperson for the Pembina Community Watch Patrol



Experience of any particular type is not necessarily required for COP volunteers. No members are expected to go on patrols inexperienced: After receiving RCMP clearance, all new COP members are required to go on a ride-along with a local RCMP detachment member prior to going on their first patrol.

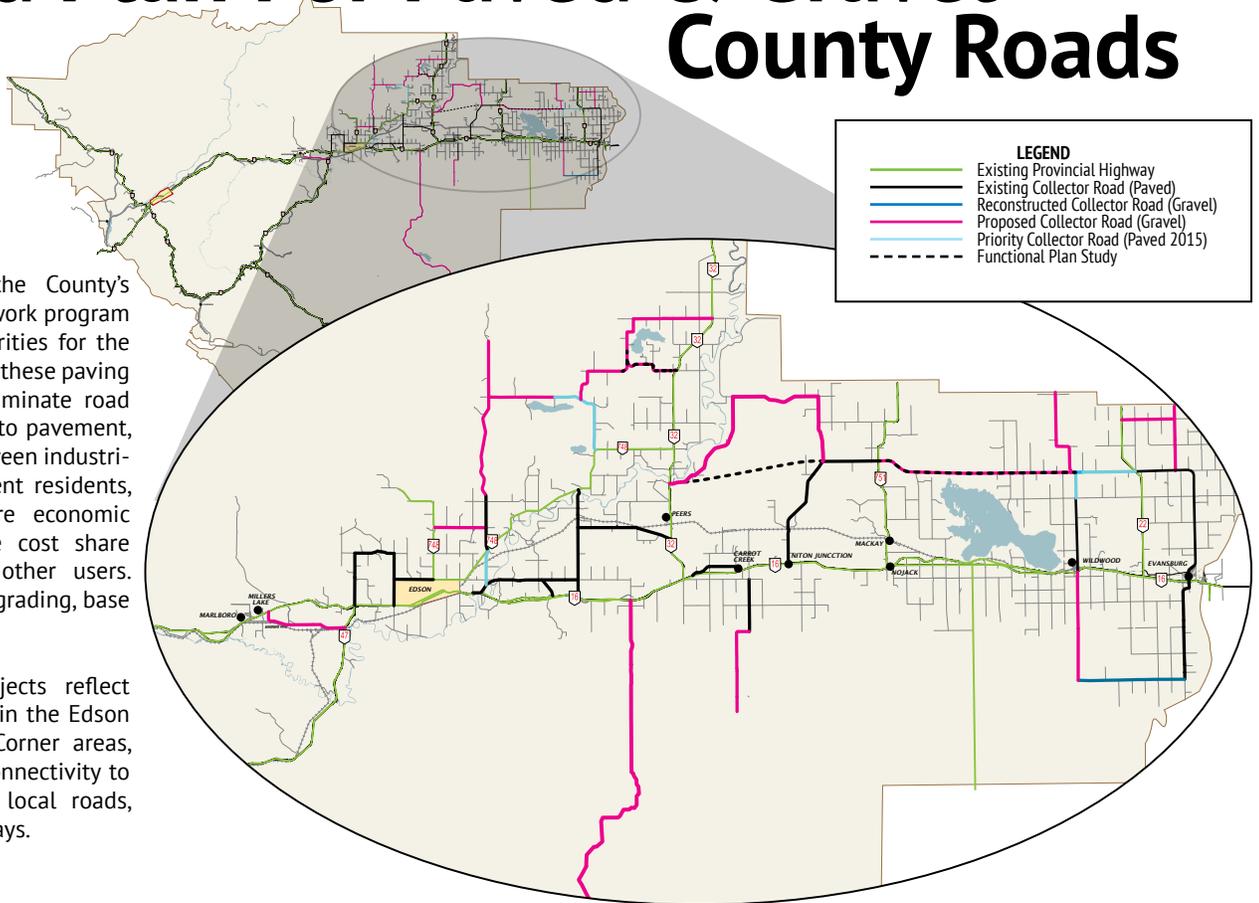
that the residents of Evansburg and the surrounding area feel safe because they know that, in addition to the local RCMP patrolling the area, there is likely a vigilant set of civilian eyes patrolling, too.

Another important part of COP is public relations and visibility in the community. Perhaps just as important as catching suspicious and

Road Plan For Paved & Gravel County Roads

Council adopted the County's Collector Road Network program based on road priorities for the County. The goals 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. These will include grading, base and paving.

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



Peers Community Multiplex Facility Grand Opening

ALTHOUGH A LONG TIME IN THE WORKS, THE EFFORTS OF PEERS AND AREA COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND YELLOWHEAD COUNTY STAFF HAVE COME TO FRUITION, AND THE NEW FACILITY IS FINISHED AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The new facility will be a central site where Peers and area residents can take part in curling and other activities on a regular basis. It opened to the public just prior to the new year, after extensive background work such as building plans and public input sessions within the community.

The facility came in on budget with a price tag of just over \$5 million for the planning, design and construction of the new building and lot. It features a two-sheet curling facility, a large multipurpose room, a fully equipped kitchen and lounge area, and a games room with a pool table, shuffleboard and card games area. It can be used to host community events and meetings.

RC Strategies Inc. did the initial concept plan, and BR2 Architecture (formerly Barr Ryder Architects & Interior Designers), the company hired for the design of the building, took into account not only the curling rinks for the new building, but also additional functions to keep the building relevant to the future needs of this active community, with a design flexible enough that additions can be made if needed.

These considerations were based on numerous factors, including a Peers Community Facility Feasibility Study, direction from the Yellowhead County Recreation Board, a Recreation Review conducted by the County in 2006, overall regional priorities and public input from the community. Community members attended council meetings and public input sessions as decisions were made on what to incorporate into the new facility. The Peers Silver Threads Club, the Peers and District Curling and Recreation Club, and the Peers and District Cultural and Agricultural Society have worked for many months with the architect and the County to plan and construct a building that meets the needs of the broader community.

Peers-area resident Therese Tompkins is the face of the many volunteers who have been working tirelessly to

keep their hamlet and area a vibrant, community-minded place to live in. "The new building will be open and bright," says Tompkins, who has been instrumental in the development of the new facility. "It'll be a lot more room than we've ever had."

The three existing community groups that have been working together to oversee the development of the new centre recently formed the Peers Area Community Group with a shared vision of where this facility will go over the coming years. There are now five groups, with the definite potential for more.

In July 2014, the Peers Curling Club signed over the land and buildings where the old curling rink was located to Yellowhead County in lieu of a \$150,000 contribution from the club for the construction of the new Peers Multiplex.

The old Peers Curling Club property consisted of an agricultural building and old curling facility. The old curling rink will eventually be demolished, and the County will support the continued operation of the Peers and District Community Centre, which will continue to be the home of the Peers Playschool and community events.

The new facility enhances the community and provides a central space to be utilized by the many residents and community groups in the hamlet and surrounding areas.

BACKGROUND

- The old curling building is dated 1968.
- Council was advised of the limited lifespan of the curling facility in 2009 and Council commissioned a Community Facility Feasibility Study which was conducted by RC Strategies in 2010 and 2011.
- The County had purchased the new property in 2008 from Grande Yellowhead Public School District after the old school had sat vacant for many years. The old school was demolished in 2009.
- In July 2011, the Curling Club formally requested County support in developing a new recreational facility in Peers.
- Barr Ryder Architects (now BR2) won the contract in 2012 to design, tender and project manage the facility and this started a process of developing a building design with lots of community participation in the process.
- Council awarded the tender for construction in 2013 to Johnston Builders Ltd.
- The construction contract was \$5,020,000; the actual budget including contingencies, design fees, furniture, geotechnical, etc. was just over \$6,062,000. Original estimate in 2011 was \$11m.



County Kids Awesome Adventure Camps



Yellowhead County summer camps are designed to keep children/youth active and engaged throughout the summer. Each week focuses on a specific theme and features hands-on activities, leadership opportunities, a chance to socialize with peers and learn new skills!

Theme #1: Tropical Adventure

Who's ready for an exciting and adventurous trip to the tropics? No plane ticket? No worries! Just bring your pals for a fun filled week of tropical themed activities. Ever made a volcano explode or tested your treasure hunting abilities?

Theme #2: Mad Science Days

Looking to spice up those long summer days? Mad science days will give you an explosive way to do so. Come on down and do experiments like rocket building, dinosaur digging and flubber making. Our hands on science days will keep boredom at bay!

July 6-9

Peers 9am-3pm – Mad Science Days

Wildwood 9am-3pm – Tropical Adventure

July 13-16

Marlboro 9:30am-2:30pm – Tropical Adventure

Fallis 9am-3pm – Mad Science Days

July 20-23

Niton Junction 9am-3pm – Tropical Adventure

Entwistle Hall 9am-3pm – Mad Science Days

July 27-30

Peers 9am-3pm – Tropical Adventure

Wildwood 9am-3pm – Mad Science Days

Aug 4-6

Marlboro 9:30am-2:30pm – Mad Science Days

Robb 9:30am-2:30pm *for ages 3-12 – Tropical Adventure

Aug 10-13

Niton Junction 9am-3pm – Mad Science Days

Entwistle 9am-3pm – Tropical Adventure

All Camps are for children ages 5-12
*(Robb will include children ages 3-12)

Registration costs are:

\$5.00 a day

\$20.00 a week

To register please call the Yellowhead County office at 780-325-3782

List of things to bring:

- Extra change of clothes
- Water bottle
- Lunch
- Healthy snacks
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Hat
- Towel
- Swim suit
- Indoor and outdoor shoes
- Positive attitude

New Version of WebMap Open To Public

Munisight ES program accessible on more browsers and systems

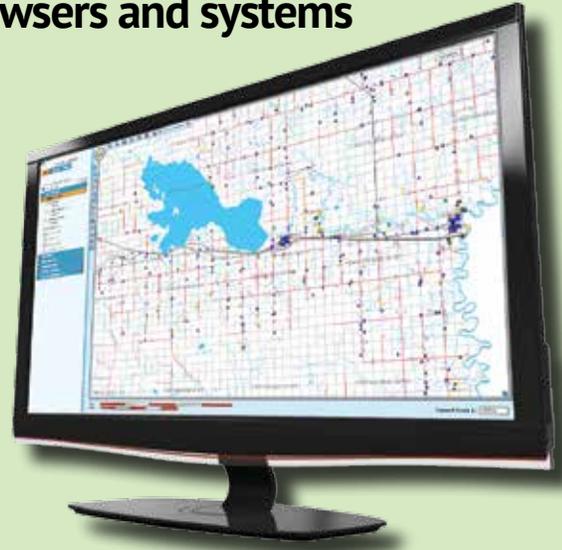
Yellowhead County's interactive on-line mapping tool, now known as MuniSight ES, is available on the county website. MuniSight ES is an online mapping program that contains information for the entire county through an easy to use search function.

MuniSight ES helps with the centralization and sharing of information. Users can display and interact with a range of map features all at once or individually and familiarize themselves with the areas in which they live, increasing

citizen knowledge and accessibility to county information.

MuniSight ES is compatible with most modern browsers, whether on Windows, OS X or Linux systems and is compatible with multiple browsers (ie. Chrome, IE 11, Firefox).

The MuniSight ES mapping data is for information purposes only and not intended to act as legal record. Any use of this data beyond that of general information should be verified by the County's Corporate Services Department before use.



CEMETERIES SURVEY UNDERWAY

RANGE OF CEMETERIES MAKE UP THE VARIOUS TYPES ACROSS THE COUNTY

Yellowhead County contains, within its borders, a whole range of cemeteries, from active sites run by local volunteer groups to historic sites maintained by descendants and other interested parties to the ones that have been taken back by nature, remembered only in history books and given a voice by cemetery enthusiasts and historians.

The County maintains and regularly updates a comprehensive registry of the cemeteries and plots that exist in the County, including both active and historical sites.

The majority of these cemeteries are owned and operated by local non-profit societies (who also maintain the cemetery records), and are now eligible for increased grant funding from the County both for new capital projects and for regular maintenance and operations. The only cemetery operated by Yellowhead County is the Evansburg Cemetery. Under provincial law, only a municipality or church can own the property where an

active cemetery is located. The County owns the land where three cemeteries are located – the Coal Branch cemetery, the Lutheran cemetery, and the Hattenford cemetery.

Under the County's guidelines for grants, a cemetery falls under one of two categories – active or inactive – but there are various subcategories, as well.

Types of cemeteries

- Active vs. historical
- Active and maintained
- Maintained but not active
- Historical maintained
- On private land
- On Crown land
- On County land
- Métis
- Unmaintained and overgrown

During a Council meeting it was decided that the County needs to have an extensive survey of all cemeteries in the County so as to have a thorough and comprehensive mapping

system showing where they are. As Coun. Fred Priestley-Wright pointed out, not knowing the locations of all these sites could lead to future issues involving development – something strictly governed by the Cemetery Act, which stipulates that owners of a property are not required to maintain the site itself but aren't allowed to build over or destroy a gravesite.

"Can you imagine us giving a building permit right next to an inactive cemetery?" points out Priestley-Wright in support of having a survey and database completed for all cemeteries located in the county. "We have to know where these cemeteries are."

Working with the local groups that run the various cemeteries throughout the region, the County is completing an assessment of all active sites. Currently the County has a record of every registered burial plot and keeps them on its mapping database system. It also shares these records to the province.



Garbage, Recycling, Compost and Landfill Options Available in Yellowhead County.

Yellowhead County is part of various organizations, projects, and programs that have the goal of reducing landfill waste and keeping our municipality a pristine and waste free municipality.

Yellowhead County is a partner in the Edson & District Recycling Society, the West Yellowhead Regional Waste Management Authority, and is part of CleanFARMS, an industry-led national not-for-profit agricultural waste management organization.

Another way that the County is working to keep its backyard in pristine condition is its financial contribution to the RV sani-dump in Edson managed by the town. This initiative supports the County's environmental goals for dealing with sewage effluent from County campground users and random campers in the area. Council contributed to the RV sani-dump station as part of a Municipal Cost Sharing agreement with Edson.

For the past few years the County has been a partner in the Foothills Recreation Management Association, which manages several campgrounds and trails throughout the area. These and the County campgrounds are meant to help alleviate some of the stresses caused by random camping by providing low-cost campsites to residents and out-of-area visitors.



Waste Management Hierarchy*

Alberta must strive to move waste management practices up the waste hierarchy towards a more sustainable position.

Waste Reduction

Waste minimization is a process of elimination that involves reducing the amount of waste produced in society and helps eliminate the generation of harmful and persistent wastes, supporting the efforts to promote a more sustainable society



Re-use



This involves items being used again for the same or different purposes with the objective of long-term cost savings.

Recycling



Value and resources should be recovered through recycling, composting, or other processes where appropriate. Energy recovery should be considered for materials with high heat value and no recycling options.

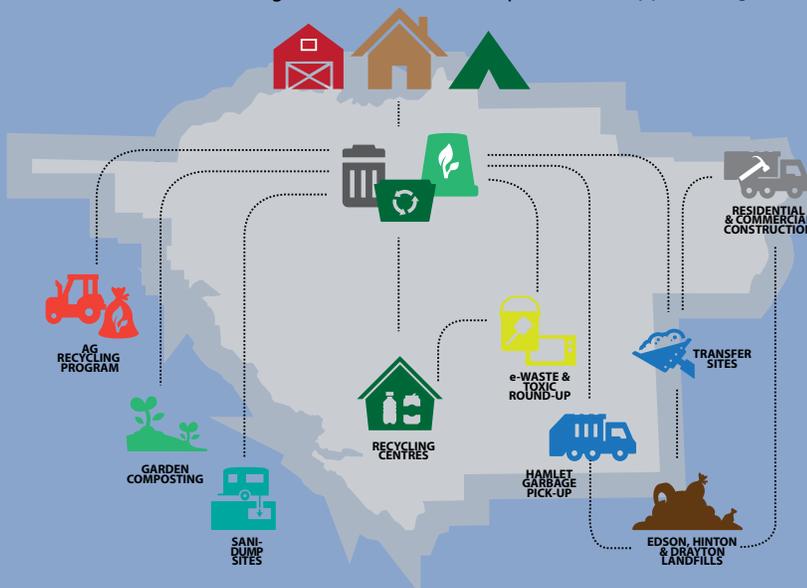
Disposal



Landfilling, as well as burning without energy recovery, are examples of waste disposal methods when other options are not feasible.

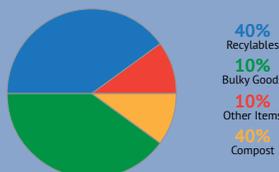
Garbage. Recycling. Compost.

Yellowhead County is involved in many ways to get your residential, commercial, and agricultural waste to end up where it's supposed to go.

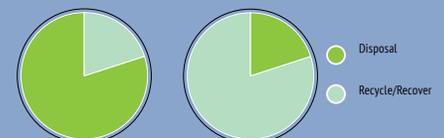


Breakdown of Residential Waste*

Up to 80% of residential waste can be recycled



Municipal Waste Profile*



*Statistics From Alberta Environment's Too Good to Waste - Making Conservation a Priority.

Yellowhead County – Committed to keeping its landscape beautiful and clean.

Landfills

County residents can take their waste to both the Edson Landfill and the Hinton Regional Landfill at no cost.

Items that can be dropped off include:

- Residential Garbage
- Fridges and other Appliances
- Other Metal Items
- Tires
- Leaves, Branches, Trees and Stump
- Furniture
- Clean Yard Waste
- Wood

Ag Plastics Recycling

Farmers are invited to return their unwanted agricultural film, including silage cover, silage bags, bale wrap, greenhouse film, and twine to participating sites. All materials must be clean, dry, separated, and bagged. Collection bags are available free of charge at the Edson Recycling Depot or the Yellowhead County East Services Centre. Grain bags, net wrap and feed-bags will not be accepted.

Collection areas are at the following locations :

- Wildwood
- Parkcourt
- Peers
- Edson

Recycling Centres

Locations are:

- Evansburg Arena
- Wildwood Fire Hall
- Niton Fire Hall
- Peers
- Edson
- Hinton

Items that can be dropped off include:

- Office Paper
- Tin Cans
- Clear Glass
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Newspaper
- Low Grade Paper
- Plastic (not accepted at Peers, Wildwood, or Niton)
- Compost & Yard Waste (not accepted at Evansburg, Peers, Wildwood, or Niton)
- Paint and E-Waste (accepted at Edson & Hinton)

Sani-Dump Sites

Providing dumping stations for recreational vehicles helps Yellowhead County's environmental goals in properly dealing with sewage effluent from the many County campgrounds users and random campers in the area.

The sani-dump sites throughout the County are provided and managed by various organizations ranging from municipal government, Alberta highways, provincial campgrounds, private campgrounds, and more.

Transfer Sites

The following pre-sorted household items will be accepted at all the landfills and transfer sites:

Household Waste - Dry Fibre (Paper/Cardboard etc.) - Used Oil - Lead-Acid Batteries - Clean Burnable Wood Products & Compostable Yard Waste (except Entrance)

The following items are accepted only at designated sites:

Construction Rubble will be accepted at Wildwood, Peers, and Hinton Regional.

Scrap Metal, Tires, Appliances, and Vehicle Hulks will be accepted at Parkcourt, Wildwood, Peers, and Hinton landfill sites, and the Marlboro and Robb transfer stations.

Some Scrap Metals will be accepted at Niton Junction.

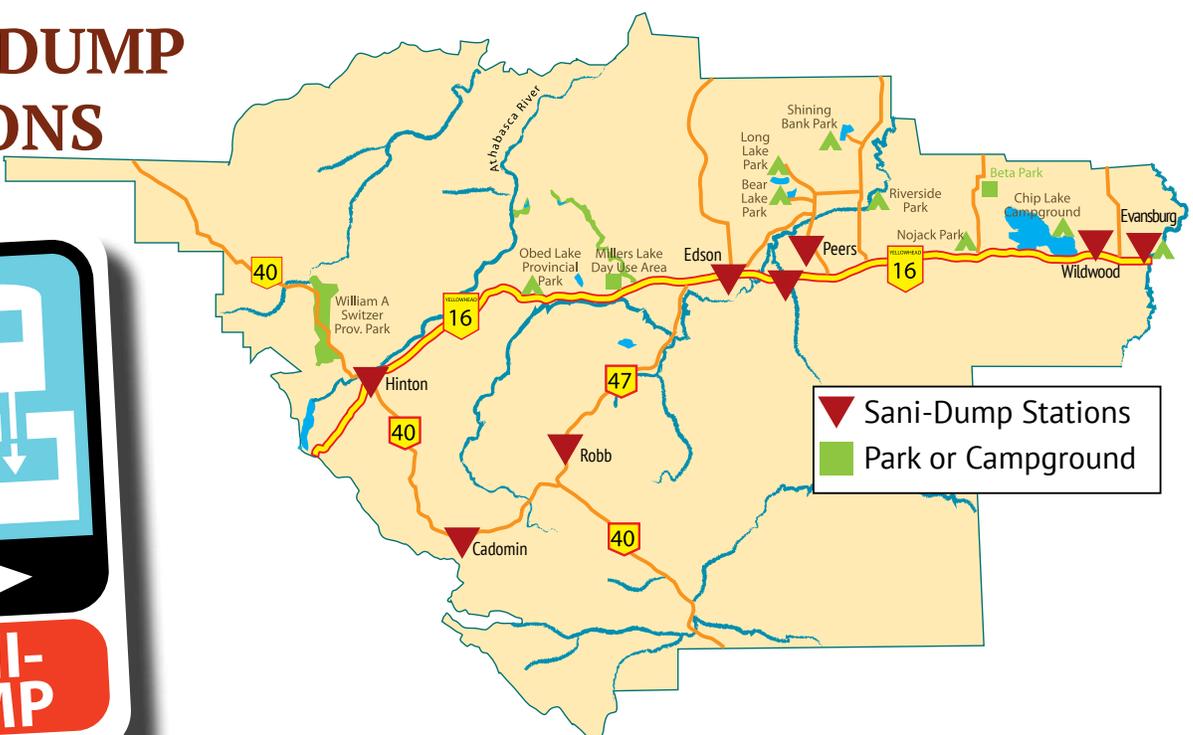


Wood products are not accepted at transfer sites when there is a high wildfire hazard and ban in our region.

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 during fire bans, and the build-up of fuel stockpiles creates a fire hazard for potential wildfires.

COUNTY CAMPING SANI-DUMP OPTIONS



DEB'S GREENHOUSE & U-PICK RASPBERRY

WILDWOOD BUSINESS IS GROWING RAPIDLY AND PLANTING FIRM ROOTS

The last few years have been quite busy for Debbie Foisy. On top of receiving several awards and nominations, she was also elected president of the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association (AGGA), becoming the first president to be younger than the association itself, which was founded in 1980. Foisy has spent countless volunteer hours as part of AGGA, including numerous meetings with the Agriculture Minister and members of the AGGA board where she has learned a lot about both running a business and the art of greenhouses and growing.

One of her reasons to get involved with the organization was to, as she describes it, "Learn from people who have been in this business." The board members represent well respected members of the greenhouse community in Alberta, who include founding members such as Lois Hole. Now in her 6th spring season, Foisy seems to be going strong and moving forward at a good pace. Last year, Foisy was nominated for the prestigious Young Retailer of the Year Award, and had the opportunity to attend the award ceremonies at Cultivate '14 in Columbus, Ohio. Foisy was extremely honoured to receive this nomination and attend the event, which she described on her Facebook page: "If the horticultural world had a

red carpet, this would be the Oscars." Foisy had the proud honour of representing, not only Alberta, but all of Canada at the event, which is the largest trade show of its kind in North America.

Nominees for the Red Fox/Green Profit Young Retailer Award must demonstrate passion, creativity, leadership and a desire to excel in the horticulture industry. The nomination didn't result in a win, but Deb did post on her website that the experience and knowledge she gained from attending the event will prove invaluable to the growth of her business.

Prior to this nomination she won the Grower of the Year award in 2013 from the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association, first place for the Yellowhead County Pride Award in the farm category in 2012



and first place in 2011 at the Wildwood Agricultural Fair in the vegetable garden category.



Debbie with husband Cody and their kids Russ, Ryder, Clayton and Paige.

Foisy continues to be very involved in the community where she hosts tours for both school and senior groups and does the flowers for the hamlets of Wildwood and Niton – this year's theme is pink in support of breast cancer. In addition to the various plants, flowers and other green-thumb related items Deb's Greenhouse sells, you can also visit the half acre of u-pick raspberries on her property for some of the freshest berries around.

Deb's Greenhouse & U-Pick Raspberry is located 11 kilometers west of Wildwood on Highway 16, seven kms south on RR103. Watch for the signs.

Summer Weed Inspections to Begin in County

Weed inspections will be taking place throughout the summer months of 2015 in Yellowhead County. Please be advised that the Weed Inspectors based in the Wildwood County office will be out in full force documenting various invasive plants on county and private lands. You may see a white county vehicle near your property and an inspector in a high visibility vest performing weed inspections so please be considerate of their safety.

Please keep in mind that The Weed Control Act grants an Inspector right of entry on to private land during reasonable hours (The Weed Control Act, Part 3, and Section 12). The Agricultural Department of Yellowhead County 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. We 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.yel-lowheadcounty.ab.ca or phone the Agricultural Department at 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



New Smartphone App Helps Residents Identify & Report Weeds

A new iPhone application developed by the City of Edmonton is taking the guesswork out of weed identification.

According to the city's website the Alberta Weed Spotter is an easy-to-use application designed to help Albertans identify and report weeds to provincial authorities. The application includes all 75 species currently regulated under Alberta's Weed Control Act.

The goal of the app is to help improve strategic weed management decisions and allow for quicker responses to new weed infestations across the province. The application contains images of weeds separated into categories such as flowering, grass-like, and tree or shrub.

This will allow Albertans to easily identify weeds they come across and will assist in helping to report them to Yellowhead County's Agricultural Services Department, the local authority in our area responsible for municipal weed enforcement

UPCOMING AGRICULTURAL SERVICES WORKSHOPS

June

Pond Days – A whole day dedicated to Grade 4 and 5 students in Yellowhead County. Students will learn about a wide variety of things from water quality and aquatic insects to Plant ID and Wildlife Habitats. This all day event is held at Chip Lake Park.

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

July

County Pride Garden Tour – Yellowhead County has many beautiful farms, acreages and hamlet yards. This contest was started in 2004 to showcase these properties and recognize the hard work many people do to make their space a more beautiful place to live. Nominate someone you know with a beautiful yard that deserves to be showcased.

YIPI (Yellowhead Invasive Plant Initiative) – In 2008 Yellowhead County's Agricultural Services Department and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development initiated a multi-stakeholder group to discuss weed collaboration within Yellowhead County. Part of the program includes a week in July where all Agricultural Services staff go to designated areas of the county to apply IVM practices of herbicide application, picking and cutting. This year our efforts will be focused South of Hinton.

Centennial Farm Family Reminder

Yellowhead County acknowledges the contribution that agriculture provides to the economy, the community and the County and wishes to recognize families who continue to farm on the same location over the generations.

The award of a gate sign and certificate of recognition will be presented in the year following the application, with the first awards being in the year 2015.

The applicant must show:

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

The application at both Wildwood and Edson County Offices or at www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca.

Deadline for Applications is August 31, 2015.

For more details call:
(780)325-3782 or
1-800-814-3935.



Using Pesticides? Here's a few tips.

- Don't spray the entire lawn; take out weeds by hand or spot spray them.
- Don't spray when it's windy.
- tell your neighbours ahead of time if pesticides are going to be used on your property
- Be considerate of neighbouring vegetable and flower gardens.
- Be especially careful if there are children or pets that could come into contact with these chemicals.
- Wear protective clothing like long sleeves, and gloves.
- Always follow the instructions on the label



Herbicide & Pesticide Spray Equipment Rentals

Spraying equipment used for herbicides/pesticides is available for rent and can be rented by contacting the Yellowhead County Agricultural Department in the county's Wildwood office.

Most of the agricultural rental equipment, with the exception of the spraying equipment, previously available through the Yellowhead County Agricultural Service Board is no longer available for rent by the County.

What to do in an accident

A bit of preparation and keeping a cool head can make all the difference

Being involved in an accident of any sort can be stressful and leave people in a state of shock and bewilderment, but keeping a cool head will help everything that follows go more smoothly and possibly reduce the risk of additional incidents and help with legal procedures that may be needed later on.

- **Remain calm**
- **If there are injuries or potential for more damage call 911**
- **Don't move someone who is injured unless they're in harm's way**
- **Move your vehicle safely out of traffic if it's possible and safe to do so**
- **If you can't move your vehicle turn on hazards or warning cones or flares**
- **Turn off the engine to prevent possibility of further damage**
- **Write down contact info of all other drivers (including driver's licenses, license plates, and insurance provider)**
- **Write down contact info of passengers and witnesses**
- **Write down pertinent details regarding the incident**
- **Use camera phone to document details (before vehicles are removed)**
- **Do not debate cause of incident or incident details with others**

BE PREPARED BEFORE AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS

The best way to deal with a motor vehicle incident is to be prepared before one happens. Always have the following in your vehicle whenever you head out. Even if you're not involved in an incident the things you have on hand might help out others on the road.

- A first aid kit
- Flares, emergency light sticks or warning triangles
- A flashlight
- A pen and paper
- Gloves, blankets, and a jacket
- Shovel

Know where you are

When travelling along highways pay attention to communities and range roads and township roads as you pass them.

Cell phones can help with location finding, but being able to tell 911 where you are will help get emergency responders to the location that much quicker. Or if you're not stopping at the incident, such as a out of control fire that you pass, you can tell 911 where it was you saw it.



AEA

www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca

Alberta Emergency Alert is designed to provide critical, life-saving information when emergencies or disasters occur. When an alert comes through your radio, television, phone or internet, take immediate action. If an emergency develops, you should follow the safety instructions provided by an alert to protect yourself and your family.

All Albertans are encouraged to sign up to receive Alberta Emergency Alerts directly to phones, tablets and computers via Twitter, Facebook or RSS.

ALBERTA EMERGENCY ALERT

Download the NEW Alberta Emergency Alert mobile application for Android and Apple.

The app has the following features:

- Allows alerts to be delivered based on current location ("where you are");
- Receive alerts for preselected areas ("where loved ones may be located");
- Allow the user to change the alert tone for informational alerts; and
- Links to the AEMA emergency preparedness website with details of the 72 hour Emergency kit.

Fitness for firefighters:

Having what it takes to never give up

Fire Captain Andrew Kencis is committed to maintaining a high level of personal fitness and encouraging other firefighters to do the same.

“We hear about ‘functional fitness’ a lot, lately,” he says. Functional fitness is about building a body capable of doing real-life activities in real-life positions, not just lifting a certain amount of weight in a gym setting.

“A firefighter drills constantly,” Andrew continues. “In motor vehicle accidents, structure fires, hose deployment and emergency patient care – it’s all done while wearing heavy, bulky gear that restricts normal movement. Simple tasks take on an entirely new dimension under these conditions. And maintaining cardiovascular health is essential to protect

against heart attacks.”

“When I first joined the fire service, it became clear to me that I needed to achieve a higher

“We gain the knowledge that we can do more than we thought.” - A. Kencis

level of functional fitness to be effective and safe on scene. That’s what started my journey.”

For the past five years, Andrew, age 55, has participated in regional, national and international firefighter fitness competitions. He’s won gold for his individual races and also won gold with Fire Captain Frank Block in



2013 and with Firefighter Bruce Dungey in 2014 for their over-50 two-man races.

In 2014, Andrew competed at the Fire Combat World Challenge in Phoenix, Arizona. He scored a personal best in his first race and placed sixth in his age group in the finals. His personal best earned him a place in the Lion’s Den – a selection of elite competitors who achieve qualifying runs.

For Andrew, these competitions are about real-life preparation, affording firefighters the



opportunity to test themselves against challenges that they could reasonably expect to encounter at a real scene.

“Through these competitions,” Andrew says, “we gain the knowledge that we can do more than we thought. And we also know that fellow firefighters who compete in these events have what it takes to never give up.”

There’s a saying in the FireFit community that, for Andrew, sums it up: “It’s not how strong you are. It’s how strong you are tired.”



County Firefighters Honoured with Meritorious Awards

Several Yellowhead County firefighters were each presented with a Meritorious Service Award at the Yellowhead County Council chambers on March 24, 2015. The awards were presented to honour their actions taken during a multi-vehicle pile-up and fatal crash that took place on December 4, 2014 in Yellowhead County.

The recipients of this award were the first emergency responder to arrive at the multi-vehicle incident that involved collisions on both the east and west bound lanes of Highway 16 at an area between Niton Junction and Chip Lake. Smoke covering the highway limited their visibility while they were on the scene of the incident, further putting their safety at risk.

Yellowhead County Mayor Gerald Soroka presented the Meritorious Service Awards and commemorative plaque to the following firefighters:



*Corinne Grant
Ed Strauss
Penny Lowe
Candice Canning
Brenna Smyrski*

BURN SMART

Burn barrels and safe burning practices help to prevent wildfires

Fire and smoke caused by forest fires and controlled burns can have a significant impact on Yellowhead County property, residents, and recreational areas resulting in loss of property and potentially life. Anyone can take steps to reduce the likelihood of a wildfire through careful planning and using some of the following prevention tips.

BURN BARRELS

Burn barrels may be the easiest way to get rid of debris, however open burning can release pollutants, create unpleasant odours and cause contamination. Using your burn barrels properly can help prevent wildfires and reduce the impact on the environment.

ALTERNATIVE TO BURN BARRELS

Consider composting, recycling, or chipping your refuse if possible. Composting alone can reduce household waste by up to 30 percent. Alternatively, bring your refuse to a dump or landfill is a safer and more environmentally friendly way of disposal than burning.

SAFE BURNING PRACTICES

If you must use a burn barrel, burning in the late evening is recommended. The cooler temperature and calmer wind will help you maintain control of the burn. Never leave your fire unattended. Have the tools and equipment listed in your permit available to put out any spot fires that may occur.

PREPARE THE SITE

Cover your burn barrel with a six millimetre or smaller metal screen to reduce the risk of flying sparks and burning debris.

Position your burn barrel on exposed soil.

Keep the area within three metres clear of combustible material.

Burn barrels must be at least thirty metres from all structures and trees.

PERMIT CANCELLATIONS

Fire permits may be suspended or cancelled if the fire hazard in the area changes. In these situations, the permit holder will be notified and must immediately extinguish all fires. In the event of a fire ban, all fire permits can be suspended.

ALLOWABLE BURNING MATERIAL

- Brush and fallen trees
- Straw, stubble, grass, weeds, leaves and tree prunings
- Used power and telephone poles that do not contain preservatives
- Wood or wood products not containing preservatives
- Solid wood waste from tree harvesting
- Solid wood waste from post and pole operation not containing preservatives
- Cardboard and paper products

RESTRICTED BURNING MATERIALS

- Preserved wood
- Material from automobile bodes and tires
- Rubber
- Plastic
- Used oil and other petroleum-based products (i.e. styrofoam)
- Manure
- Pathological waste
- Asphalt shingles
- Material prohibited by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA)

BEFORE YOU BURN IT, GET A PERMIT

A fire permit details safe burning practices that will help prevent your fire from becoming a wildfire. It is required for all fires except campfires in the Forest Protection Area of Alberta. Fire permits are free and can be requested from your local ESRD office for most areas in Yellowhead County, with the exception of the area east of Highway 22 and north of Highway 16 where a permit from Yellowhead County's fire marshals located in either the Yellowhead County Administration office in Edson or the Yellowhead County East Community Services in Wildwood.

New Campground Fees

Fees Aim to Reduce No-Shows & Keep Empty Sites Available

Campers making a reservation at the Bear Lake or Shining Bank Lake campgrounds will now prepay a non-refundable \$12 reservation fee as well as their nightly campsite fees. When campers reserve sites and then don't show up to claim them, the result is lost revenue for the operators and a loss of available sites for other campers. If users cancel in time (72 hours before the 2 p.m. check-in time), they can get a refund for their campsite fees but not the \$12 reservation fee.

A \$5 fee will be charged for transferring sites.

County campsite fees are per unit per night:

- \$17/night for each camping unit in a campsite at Bear Lake and Shining Bank Lake
- \$15/night for each camping unit in a campsite at Jerry Vanderwell Memorial Park, Riverside Park and Long Lake

All camping fees must be prepaid by credit card. Currently only Bear Lake and Shining Bank Lake campgrounds offer reservable campsites.

Reservations can be made starting May 1 of every year. The camping season generally runs from May 15 to Sept. 15.

- The minimum stay for a reservation is four nights.
- The maximum stay is 16 consecutive nights.
- There is a limit of four campsite reservations per customer/transaction.
- A confirmed reservation is not transferable from one group to another.
- Check-in time is 4 p.m.
- Check-out time is usually 2 p.m.

Campers must notify the campground operator of a late arrival by phone, otherwise they forfeit their site.

The new fees reflect the Alberta Parks reservation fees and guidelines as well as the guidelines of several municipal and private campgrounds. The goal of the new fees and policies is to ensure there are as many available campsites as possible for County residents and visitors.



Information from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development



Yellowhead County Campgrounds & Parks Improvement Plan

Every year hundreds of visitors flock to the campgrounds in Yellowhead County.

direction from Council and administration, involvement with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, and data already on file. The new Management Plan provides guidance to County Council and administration regarding budgeting and scheduling future improvements for these sites.

“We were looking for a clear plan for County campgrounds that can aid us in going forth with improvements over the next several years,” says Heather Hawkins, Parks and Special Projects coordinator for the County. “We’d like to provide a quality outdoor experience for residents and visitors both in the campground setting and as park spaces. The local campgrounds are important recreational spaces for the area.”

Based on the report, the most-needed improvements at all eight of the campgrounds are campsite enlargement to accommodate bigger units and upgrades to the fire pit areas to be in compliance with the new Government of Alberta standards. It was also noted that many of the campgrounds would benefit from wider roads throughout the sites to accommodate two-way traffic. Overflow and day use parking areas are required

at many locations as well as designated boat trailer parking areas at select sites.

The beauty, peace and tranquility of each park needs to remain intact, as it’s this atmosphere that draws in visitors, as noted by survey respondents as well as the Yellowhead County Recreation Board, which represents County residents. Maintaining the current atmosphere while providing visitors with updated and inviting facilities and improved site access will encourage them to stay at the parks longer and to return again in the future.

“The local campgrounds are important recreational spaces for the area.”

- H. Hawkins

Updated amenities such as toilets, docks, boat launches, picnic tables, fish cleaning stations and so forth are also required at all the parks. The addition and/or relocation of playgrounds at select parks is another area for improvement. It was also noted that park users need proper mapping and signage of existing trail systems so that they have the necessary information to utilize them.

While Council has budgeted for some items for improvement this year, additional improvements and long-term planning and management will need to be carried out through a multi-year planning process. The estimated cost, if the County were to proceed with all the recommended updates, would be approximately \$4.5 million. The 2015 budget includes \$616,000 for campground improvements, with the primary focus being new concrete vault toilets that will last longer and be easier to maintain. This was an area of improvement identified prior to the completion of the report, but the report also highlighted it as a recommended priority.

Council, while not moving the entire plan forward in one fell swoop, is embracing and taking ownership of environmental resources in its own backyard that can be used for recreational purposes in a cost-effective and manageable manner.

The County will use the Management Plan as a reference to make decisions on the direction of the operation, maintenance and long-term capital investment in its campgrounds.



Both residents and visitors love getting out to experience the natural beauty of our area, and camping is one of the more popular ways to do that. To ensure that facilities and amenities meet the needs of campers and day visitors, the County conducted a campground improvement study to get a better understanding of what improvements are needed, what the cost of the improvements might be and what the priorities are for campground users.

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.

The County used information gathered from resident and visitor user surveys, on-site inspections by staff and consultants,



SASQUATCH APPROVED RECREATION IN THE WEST COUNTRY



- Control your fire. Make sure it is out when you leave.
- Keep campsites a minimum of 100 metres from all oil and gas facilities.
- Stay on existing trails with off-road vehicles and share the trails with all users.
- Ensure environmentally sensitive areas such as creeks, wetlands, trees, and shrubs are not disturbed.
- Respect wildlife.
- Pack out ALL garbage & recyclables.

REMEMBER...

Free random camping and trail use is a privilege that is unheard of in many parts of North America.

Please be respectful of our backyard.

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

Debbie Charest

– Director of Community Services

Barb Lyons

– Director of Corporate and Planning 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

