

County's Heritage Advisory Board Members Bring:

Dedication and Commitment

Some history buffs know their stuff because they've studied it inside and out, and there are some who gain their knowledge first-hand from having been surrounded by it their entire life.

Gary Conger is one of those people. Born and raised in the Alberta Coal Branch, Gary has seen how the area has changed over his lifetime and heard first-hand from his family how it evolved as he was growing up in Mercoal where he lived until the mine was eventually closed.

Being involved with many community organizations and also representing his area as a municipal councillor for nine years, Gary not only saw how much the area changed over the decades, but was also a big part of how things developed where he lived. Gary was the elected offi-

cial for Robb-Cadomin for three terms. He also sat on several boards, was involved in the beginning of the Robb Curling Club, taught in the Robb School for 29 years and was part of the fire department in Robb for 20 years.

Gary is stepping down from three Yellowhead County boards – the Subdivision Development Appeal Board (SDAB), the Assessment Review Board (ARB) and the Heritage Advisory Board. These boards are almost two bookends for the County – the SDAB and ARB are mostly about managing and planning new developments and growth in the County, while the Heritage board is about preserving the past. Gary has been a part of them for the past six years.

Gary says he “really enjoyed the Heritage board ... and working with friendly people,” and has had the opportunity to work on

several projects that will serve as significant, permanent historical resources for the area.

First-hand knowledge from people like Gary helps bring out the small details that show



Gary sat on the County's Heritage Advisory Board since its inception (above photo), helping provide direction for the various projects that have brought many of the County's historical stories and sites to life.

what day-to-day life used to be like. “We're moving three rock carvings to the green square in Robb,” Gary shares with obvious excitement and pride. The three rocks are boulders that had been artistically carved by local mine

workers during the slow times of their shifts. The carvings are images that portray life as it used to be in the Coal Branch. The boulders are being moved from their present location in front of the Robb store to the hamlet's new gazebo near the location of the Bryan School where Gary used to teach.

The school site is also receiving one of the new Heritage School plaques – one of the many projects initiated by the Heritage Advisory board. (see pg. 7)

It's through the dedication and hard work by community members such as Conger that help build a better community for present and future generations in our communities.



Gary's grandfather owned the building that eventually became Conger's General Merchants before it was sold to Jacoby's and then eventually moved to Robb, where it still sits today.

A LOOK INSIDE

COAL BRANCH TOUR	5
SCHOOL SIGNAGE	7
ILLEGAL DUMPING	8
SEEDLING PROGRAM	10
WINTER BURNING	14

New Contact Listing for Community Resources Available from County

THE LISTINGS HAVE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE CATEGORIZED INTO THE FOLLOWING DIRECTORIES: **BASIC NEEDS RESOURCE DIRECTORY, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS RESOURCE DIRECTORY, PARENTING RESOURCE DIRECTORY AND THE SENIORS RESOURCE DIRECTORY.**

Yellowhead County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) has compiled four new revised and simplified resource directories, available to County residents and organizations. We hope both newcomers and established residents will find these to be useful tools for obtaining information about the many agencies and services in the County. These resources also offer opportunities for groups to seek out organizations with similar goals for ideas and support.

People seeking contact information have a number of options available. In addition to using Google, Albertans can look up local social services information through InformAlberta.ca, which is the same database that HealthLink and 211 use for referrals. Also, many provincial or government services are still in special sections of the phone book. However, Wendy Robinson, FCSS supervisor, says that "despite the use of the internet and google to look up information, people are still contacting our office or website to find local, reliable information. We want to make it as accessible and easy as possible for people to get information. We're hoping that the new resource lists simplifies this information for people."

Community groups are constantly changing, and so is their contact information. We encourage you to contact us by phone at 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935 if you have any information that needs to be added, revised or deleted from the directories.

THE NEW RESOURCE DIRECTORIES SERVE THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

- Serve as a directory for all community resources.
- Provide information for residents regarding any issues and questions they may be facing.
- Provide referrals to local, provincial and federal agencies.
- Promote personal development workshops.

SENIOR'S SERVICES

- Offer information on services that enhance the quality of life of the retired and semi-retired.
- Provide assistance for individuals completing applications.
- Provide assistance for individuals requiring personal support.

YOUTH SERVICES

- Offer assistance for groups that provide services to youth.
- Promote youth leadership training and summer youth programs.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Promote, encourage and facilitate the development of strong volunteer boards and committees.
- Promote community consultation regarding identifying social issues and services required.

Directories for organizations located within Edson and Hinton are also available. Please call 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935 if you'd like to have one of these directories sent out to you.

FCSS is an 80/20 cost-sharing preventive social services program between the Province of Alberta and municipalities.

New Director of Community Services



Yellowhead County is proud to welcome Christopher Read as the new Community Services director. Read will oversee Agricultural Services, Family and Community Support Services, Heritage, and Parks and Recreation.

Read comes from a background in recreation, culture and parks, and he worked in those roles for the Town of Hinton and the municipality of Jasper. He is replacing outgoing director Debbie Charrest, who retired this past summer after working for over 25 years combined for Yellowhead County and the Municipal and Improvement Districts, where she helped develop and grow the various departments under her direction.

Read will begin overseeing various departments and staff that are currently undertaking several large projects and new long-term planning strategies such as the Agricultural Services Business Plan, the Parks and Outdoor Spaces Plan and more. He'll also be working with several community boards and organizations that work together to grow the well-being of the community, including the Recreation Board, the Agricultural Services Board, the Yellowhead Regional Library board and the Heritage Advisory Board.

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

Yellowhead County FCSS Grants

Youth grants provide support to community projects focused on youth. Groups that have received funding include Wildwood Youth In Action,

Girls Getaway Weekend, Youth Extravaganza, It's Cool To Know Your Way In A Relationship, P.A.R.T.Y., and Heroes.

Community grants support groups providing a preventive social service function to the community. Groups that have received funding include the Support Network, Alzheimer Support Group, Yellowhead Resource Society, Grandparents Program, Evansburg Victim Services, and Edson Victim Services.

The F.C.S.S. program also provides Cost-Sharing to other municipal F.C.S.S. programs that offer services to County residents. Funding is provided to the Towns of Edson and Hinton for the services that they provide to County residents.



Preschool and Family grants provide support to parent run cooperative play schools and to family support projects. Groups that have received funding include the Marlboro, Peers, Carrot Creek, and Lobstick Play Schools and the Successful Kids and Families Project.

Bag of Books

The Edson and District Community Learning Society (EDCLS) received funding from the County this year to offer its Bag of Books program through the Evansburg Library. The EDCLS is the umbrella organization for the Family Literacy program, which organizes and runs the program.

Last year, the County provided EDCLS with funding to run Bag of Books through the Successful Kids and Families program. Being hosted through the Evansburg Library this year means that the program will be available to more people.

County FCSS Grants: diverse and beneficial for County communities

The Yellowhead County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) advisory board has approved grants for three projects in the second quarter of this year. The grants cover a range of services, including the first NeighbourLink event.

FULHAM AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB RECEIVES \$13,000

The grant for the Fulham after-school program will provide activities and opportunities for children to interact with both peers and adults from their community in a safe and caring environment. The program is run by a volunteer board, with the school donating space free of charge. The program has been running for seven years, proving the importance of and support for the program in the Fulham community.

BAG OF BOOKS PROGRAM RECEIVES ADDITIONAL \$480

The Edson and District Community Learning Society received funding for the Bag of Books program at the Evansburg Library. This program encourages literacy in the home by allowing families to take out a Bag of Books that includes activities and crafts. A \$480 increase in funding will allow the program to offer a greater number of Bags of Books to County families.

FIRST-EVER NEIGHBOURLINK GRANT AWARDED

The residents of the Tollerton subdivision in Yellowhead County received the first NeighbourLink grant. The grant helped give 26 residents a chance to meet at Willmore Park for a barbecue, games and visiting. They were able

to discuss area-related topics and make new connections. The applicant was reimbursed \$92 for their program-related expenses.

FCSS focuses on preventive social services, programs or projects that increase the resiliency of individuals, families and the community. FCSS is committed to building community capacity and encouraging local solutions to local challenges. Please contact the FCSS office in Wildwood at 780-325-3782 if you're interested in applying for a grant with FCSS.

The FCSS program is an 80/20 partnership between the Province of Alberta and municipalities.



LOOKING GOOD IN PEERS

This past year, the Peers Area Community Group and Yellowhead County were recipients of a CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* grant to green the new Peers Multiplex.

This project focused on highlighting the main entrance to the new facility and future phases will include the open field and the playground areas. These plantings will transform this space into a great focal point for the community and provide years of enjoyment for residents and visitors alike.

For more information about the CN EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* program visit: www.cnfromthegroundup.ca.



Playtime in Peers

THE NEW PEERS PLAYGROUND IS FINISHED!

The final 'forest theme' design was a joint creative effort between the county's parks and recreation staff and the Peers' residents who gave their input at the *Art and Design Activities Planning Session* that took place earlier this spring in Peers to help design the new playground. Good job everyone!



EXPLORING THE COAL BRANCH



Earlier this fall, approximately forty people participated in a day of exploring Yellowhead County's historical Coal Branch and other stops of interest along Highway 16 that tie into the local history that took place in the Rockies and surrounding foothills.

Stops included historical highlights in Marlboro,

Hinton, Cadomin, Mountain Park, Mercoal and Robb, where the Canadian Northern Rockies provided the backdrop for this educational and entertaining bus tour.

Participants, who were lucky enough to register early for the sold out tour were treated to stories from former residents who had lived in these areas and

described what it was like as these communities grew and changed. Participants were able to see some of the sites and buildings that are part of the County's ongoing Heritage Survey.

Stops included the highest structure in the county and the highest cemetery in the entire British Commonwealth. Participants learned about all the colourful characters who played a role in the shaping of the area now known as Yellowhead County.

Archival movies by local cinematographer "Flash" Shushuk who lived in the

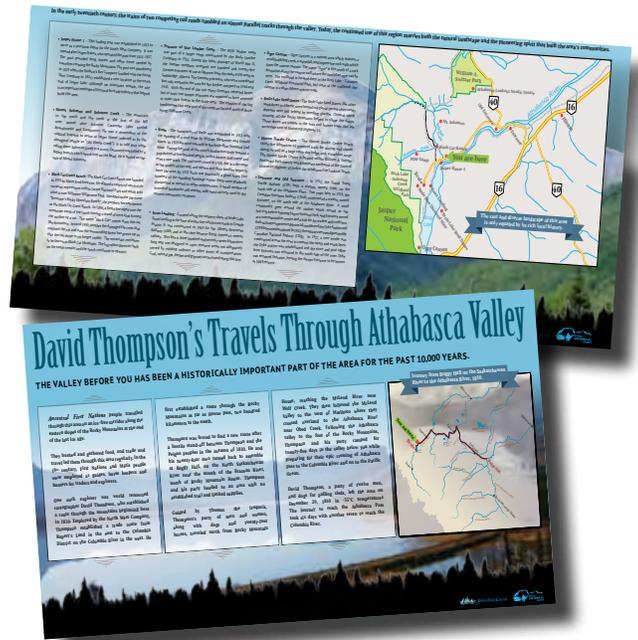
area were shown on the bus during the tour and there was ample information provided on the growth and eventual decline of the once burgeoning Coal Branch population, where numbers reached into the thousands nearly a century ago – large enough to be home to the largest symphony orchestra between Edmonton and Vancouver.

Yellowhead County is looking at hosting another historical tour for next year – and if this tour was any indication of its popularity, anyone wanting to take part next year will have to make sure to sign up early.



NEW SIGNAGE DEPICTS BRULE HISTORY

After a lot of diligent work from Yellowhead County's Heritage Advisory Group and input from various local historians and other groups in the area, including the Hinton Historical Society, the new outdoor signage highlighting both the explorer David Thompson's travels in Brule and other significant spots in the Brule area are up.



The two signs showcase many of the historical landmarks and locations in the Brule area. One focuses on Thompson, the explorer who, with the assistance of local First Nations and Métis explorers, established a route through the Rocky Mountains beginning in 1810 for the North West Company. The second sign has information on both historically relevant sites as well as geographical landmarks such as the nearby dunes and waterfalls.



ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT MAPPING

Surface Rights, Land, and Energy Leases: Help Create the Pricing Transparency Mapping Project

Yellowhead County landowners are being invited to take part in a provincial survey and mapping project created to help property owners get fair compensation for their surface lease, transmission lines, seismic, and pipeline right-of-way agreements.

Background

One of the roles of the Farmers' Advocate Office (FAO) is to assist Alberta landowners by providing information and advice on surface rights, land, and energy. One of the most common questions received by the FAO is: "What is fair and typical for compensation in my area of the province?" There is currently no central repository where this data is compiled and accessible to landowners.

Pricing Transparency Mapping Project

The FAO is collecting surface lease, transmission line, seismic, and pipeline right-of-way agreements from landowners to create four interactive maps with information on projects and the compensation values paid to landowners. By providing a starting point for negotiations, the maps will be a valuable resource for Alberta landowners.

The maps will be updated on a continuous basis as agreements are received. The official name of this initiative is the Surface Rights, Land, and Energy: Pricing Transparency Mapping Project.

The FOA is currently accepting pipeline right-of-way and seismic agreements no older than 2011, and surface lease and transmission line agreements no older than 2010. Landowners can send copies of their surface lease, transmission line, seismic, and pipeline right-of-way agreements to:

Farmers' Advocate Office
Attn: Jeana Les
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
305, 7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Fax: 780-427-3913
Email: jeana.les@gov.ab.ca

(Information from the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Department)

HISTORICAL SCHOOL HOUSES & SITES

Signs will be placed on sites throughout the County where residents received their formative education

Yellowhead County has initiated the Country Schools Commemorative Signage Program and has partnered with Grande Yellowhead Public School Division No. 77 (GYPSD) for this new initiative.

Yellowhead County and GYPSD are providing funding for the creation of signage to mark the county's historical one-room schoolhouse school and school sites to preserve and honour the memory of these sites.

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 is one of the many one-room County School Houses that is receiving a commemorate plaque and is an example of one of the Yellowhead County schools that are no longer standing.



Illegal Dumping can result in fines, in addition to clean up costs

Illegal dumping is problematic in the Hinton and Edson areas of Yellowhead County but is not restricted to them. Yellowhead County Enforcement Services investigates all reported offences, which are punishable by a \$250 fine. There is also an additional cost for the cleanup, which is the responsibility of anyone caught in offence of this by-law. (Yellowhead County – Littering Bylaw 09.26.)

The public is encouraged to report anyone they see dumping refuse in rural areas in an illegal manner.

There are 15 transfer stations located across the County in addition to the landfill sites in both the Hinton and Edson areas, so a place to dump your waste is never too far away. There is no charge for County residents for using any of these sites. The various sites take different types of construction and commercial waste, so be sure to 1-800-665-6030 or go to the County website at www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca for a full listing of the sites and the types of waste accepted.



This dumped load of roofing material was found just off Range Road 192 approximately 500 metres south of Highway 16 near Hornbeck Creek. The culprit was found and charged a fine and was required to do a full clean-up ensuring every single item was removed.

TAKE A PHOTO, GET A FINE

Just because you're slowing down at a traffic accident doesn't mean it's any safer, or legal, for you to snap a few images on your phone or camera as you drive by.

Yellowhead County Protective Services peace officers want to remind any drivers who are tempted to snap a quick pic for social media or the local newspaper that their action can result in a fine under section 115.1 of the Traffic Safety Act. They can incur a fine of \$287 and three demerits.

If they are the cause of an additional accident and it's proven that the cause was distracted driving, then insurance coverage may be an issue.

Taking a photo while driving, no matter what the speed and circumstance can put your vehicle and passengers in harm's way, as well as other vehicles and any first responders attending to the incident.

"Although it might not seem like a big deal if you're going at a reduced speed, this can still put any of our first responders or others working on scene in harm's way," points out Yellowhead County's Senior Community Peace Officer, Glen Alford. "And that's something we always take very seriously."

County peace officers are on the lookout for distracted drivers, and charges have been laid on scene on two separate occasions this year.



OVERHANGING BRANCHES

Hamlet residents are reminded to trim their trees and shrubs that are hanging over alleyways and sidewalks for safety for vehicle clearance and for pedestrian traffic including the elderly and those with access issues.

Residents are responsible for clearing any snow and ice that falls on a sidewalk adjacent to their residence within 24 hours of the snow or ice being accumulated. Do not push snow from sidewalks onto freshly plowed roadways, as this clogs up hamlet roads and may not be removed for some time from the roadway.

Reminder To Residents:

No Snow Piles Can Be Left On County Roadways When Clearing Your Driveway



GET OUT THERE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Join your neighbours and other county residents as they challenge each other to helping those in need.

Yellowhead County is encouraging people to 'Be a Good Neighbour'. The goal is to motivate and inspire people in the community to volunteer to clear snow for residents that are not able to shovel their own sidewalks.

Nominations forms available at :

- The county office in Edson or Wildwood;
- By mail.
- New this year will be the option to submit online on the Yellowhead County FCSS Facebook page.

Nominees will be entered to win a prize at the end of the season. Step out, get active, and volunteer!

For more information or questions call the FCSS (Family and Community Support Services) department at the Yellowhead County office in Wildwood at 780-325-3782 or toll free at 1-800-814-3935.



ROBB GAZEBO

The new log gazebo in the hamlet of Robb, near where the old Bryan School was located, was officially opened during a gathering on October 20, 2015.

The 36-foot-wide log beam gazebo features a fireplace and chimney, so it can be used as an all-season meeting spot for all types of community events.

Funded in part by Yellowhead County, the gazebo was built by Mark Deagle Log Building and was made possible through contributions from:

- The Robb Recreation Society
- KVC Developments Ltd.
- C&T Operating Services
- Lehigh Cement
- West Fraser
- Government of Alberta through the Community Facility Enhancement Program.



Fenceline Program

Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Board has approved a Fence Line Program to control Noxious and/or Prohibited Noxious weeds and encroaching brush along fence lines on private property adjacent to Yellowhead County roads and right-of-ways.

The Fence Line Program will allow Yellowhead County owned vehicles and equipment to enter the private land and apply herbicide from the fence line to the County Right of Way. This program will help Yellowhead County control weeds and brush without the chances of an over spray onto private land where sensitive crops or trees may be.

Herbicide will only be applied to County owned land and not onto private land; exceptions are made for fields used for agricultural purposes where landowners may choose to have their headland areas sprayed that larger spray equipment or cultivators tend to miss.

Sites will be pre-inspected to determine what equipment and herbicide will be necessary. The landowner will be asked to sign a release allowing the County access to the property and permission to use herbicide as agreed upon by the landowner and Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Staff. This program will be completed on a first come first served basis and at no charge to landowners.

Spring Seedling Purchasing Program

2014 WAS THE FIRST YEAR OF SPRING SEEDLING PROGRAM – THIRTY-SIX PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN PURCHASING TREES FROM TREE TIME THROUGH THE COUNTY. THIS PAST YEAR’S PARTICIPATION MORE THAN DOUBLED WITH 68 PARTICIPANTS ORDERING 5910 TREES.

With the PFRA program ending in 2013, Yellowhead County Agricultural Services has developed a Spring Seedling Program which will supply residents with tree seedlings at low cost. With the success of the Spring Seedling Program in both 2014 and 2015 Yellowhead County is once again offering this great program.

There will be no application required and anyone residing within Yellowhead County is eligible to purchase trees. The seedlings will be ordered in bulk which allows them to be sold at lower prices. When ordered individually trees would cost between \$3.50 and \$5.50 a seedling, but if ordered through the Spring Seedling Program the seedlings will only cost \$2.00 - \$3.00 per seedling.

Several new species have been added to the list and in total there will be 16 species to choose from which are great for shelterbelts and acreages.

An example of some of the species available include; Colorado Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, Amur Maple, Common Purple Lilac, and Northline Saskatoon. The seedlings range from 1 year old plugs to 3 year old bare root seedlings. The average size of the seedlings received will be from 15 cm tall to 72 cm tall depending on the species.

Order forms and a list of the species being offered for the 2016 season will be available starting in January. They can be picked up at either the Edson and Wildwood Yellowhead County offices, and can also be downloaded and printed off from the County Website. Payment will be required in full upon placing an order. All order forms must be submitted and paid in full before the advertised deadline. Trees will be available for pickup from either County office location in May.



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES' 3 Year Strategic Business Plan

The Agricultural Services Business Plan, developed by administration and the Agricultural Services Board is a three-year strategic business plan used to guide the department through various goals relating to agricultural stability for the County.

THE PLAN IDENTIFIES FIVE KEY AGRICULTURAL RELATED GOALS:

1. To provide for effective and sustainable weed control on private and public lands
2. To promote effective pest control and reduce agricultural losses
3. To promote soil, water conservation and general best management practices in our rural agricultural communities
4. To increase awareness of animal health issues and provide support for these issues to producers and stakeholders
5. To increase awareness of agricultural issues, enhance the economic well-being of the agricultural community and promote healthy rural living

SOME OF THE ITEMS PROPOSED IN THE BUSINESS PLAN INCLUDE:

- Increasing seasonal staffing by one position to allow for Blackleg and Fusarium pest inspections. This position would also be responsible for Clubroot inspections, grasshopper counts, Alberta Agriculture field reports and assistance with Weed Notice inspections and action.
- Potentially purchasing a livestock emergency response trailer
- Potentially building a truck fill station on the east end of the County

AG STUDENT BURSARY WINNER

This Year's winner of the Agricultural Services Bursary is Victoria Kenworthy. Council approved the Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Board's recommendation for an Agricultural Services Bursary of \$500. Kenworthy is in her third year of post secondary education working towards her Bachelor of Applied Science for Environmental Management. Kenworthy is from just outside of Hinton

and worked for Yellowhead County's Agricultural Department this past summer as a Weed Inspector. She received a diploma in 2015 for Environmental Conservation and Reclamation from Lakeland College, and is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Science Environmental Management program at Lakeland College.

Eco-containers Available for Spring. Order early!

Yellowhead County's Agricultural Department is once again offering, for purchase, Eco-Friendly containers for your backyard! This year we are offering rain barrels, kitchen collectors, and backyard composters.



The rain barrels have a 55 gallon capacity and are constructed of up to 50% recycled materials. A spigot, screws, overflow hose, and clamp are included.



The kitchen collectors have a 2 gallon capacity, are oval shaped, dishwasher safe, and are equipped with a 360 degree double rim closure providing fly and odor control.



The Earth Machine Backyard Composter has an 80 gallon capacity and comes with an aeration rod and bottom dispersal.

Please call the Wildwood office at 1-800-814-3935 or the Edson office at 1-800-665-6030 to get a list of prices or to pre-order.

Containers will be available for pick up out of the Edson and Wildwood offices in May 2016. Stock is limited so please order early.



Y.I.P.I.

Yellowhead Invasive Plant Initiative

On July 30, 2015, Yellowhead County teamed up with members of the Alberta Junior Forest Rangers and Forest Health staff from Alberta Environment and Parks to once again implement the Yellowhead Invasive Plant Initiative (YIPI). The initiative first started in 2008 as a way to get multi-stakeholder groups to focus on weed control in Yellowhead County and work on a plan together. This year, efforts were focused in the former coal mining town of Mercoal, which is now an area with a small number of summer residences.



Staff from all three attending parties helped to hand-pick and spray selective herbicides on both County and provincial land to control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. Some of the weeds targeted that day were tall buttercup, oxeye daisy and common toadflax. Residents were also welcome to come out and join the efforts, ask any questions they had about our initiative and get recommendations for weed control on their own private land within Mercoal.



Farm Family Centennial Award Recipients

This was the second year that Yellowhead County offered farm families an award for owning and farming the same land for 100 years. Each Farm Family Centennial Award recipient was awarded a steel powder-coated gate sign and certificate commemorating this 100 year milestone.

In total four farm families received the award in 2015, the Haddock's, the Seibel's, the Young's, and the Spreen's. Congratulations to this Year's recipients and thank you for continuing to persevere in farming throughout the generations!

2015 ATB Farm Family Winner

Robert and Evelyn Wild, owners of the Wild Cattle Company, were the Yellowhead County winners of the 2015 ATB Farm Family Awards.

This annual award recognizes outstanding families from northern and central Alberta who best represent the values of the family farm within their rural communities.

The award honours those who best exemplify the value of the family farm to our rural communities and society by being leaders in the industry.

The Winner of the ATB Farm Family:

- Is an active farm family unit where agriculture is the major source of income.
- Increases Awareness of agriculture and maintain a high standard in their agriculture business.
- Promotes the agriculture community through involvement and rural citizenship.
- Is proactive in new agricultural technologies.
- Acts as a role model to the rural community.
- Is deserving based on equal recognition of agricultural and community involvement.

WHO IS WCFA?

West-Central Forage Association (WCFA) is a not-for-profit, membership based association. We use leading edge extension, research, demonstration, and information exchange to enhance forage, livestock, and environmental knowledge.

WCFA's region encompasses over 10 million acres, providing a friendly atmosphere where members can utilize shared resources, such as rental equipment and print resources from our "ag library".

WCFA can also aid your operation with cattle age identification, BIXS regis-

tration, feed and soil testing, nutrition advise for your livestock, riparian health and management assessments, and one-on-one consultations helping you plan rotational grazing systems that let you get the most out of your land.

We also undertake forage based projects aimed at maintaining and improving the success of agriculture production in Alberta, while preserving and improving the health of our environment. Our research helps producers get a relevant assessment of current forage trends specific to the west central region.

With our informative extension programs we are able to connect and share information about a variety of agriculture related topics. We offer workshops and tours, such as: Unconventional business models, Starting your farm from scratch, livestock body condition scoring, low stress calf handling, and computer lessons, just to name a few!

Becoming a member of WCFA means you will receive a monthly newsletter that has valuable information on a wide range of agricultural, environmental, technical, and business

topics, while keeping you informed about upcoming events.

If you are interested in becoming a member, or if you have any questions, feel free to call the office (780-727-4447) and talk to one of the team! You can also find us at www.westcentralforage.com, as well as on Facebook (West-Central Forage Association) and Twitter (@WestCentralFor).



WINTER BURNING

Winter Burning Tips

As Wildfire Season ends and fire permits are no longer required many landowners take this opportunity to burn brush and debris from land clearing and property cleanup. While this is an effective way of disposing of debris, it must be done safely and responsibly. Landowners are legally responsible for the safety of their burns whether a permit is required or not. It is important to consider smoke travel and how it may affect your neighbors comfort and safety. Remember smoke can cause a significant traffic hazard on nearby roads and highways.

Brush pile burning

- Burn when there is snow cover and the ground is frozen.
- Never burn when winds are greater than 12km/hour.
- Avoid building piles in muskeg areas.
- Set only the fires that can be controlled at all times by available manpower and equipment.
- Ensure that piles are at least 25 meters from trees and structures.
- Build a 15 meter wide bare mineral soil guard around all windrows.

Extinguishing Piles and Windrows

- Check on burning frequently.
- Re-pile unburnt and burn again.
- Before spring, go back and check your winter burns. A fire can burn under the snow all winter long, only to come back to life on a windy spring day. Go back and extinguish any hotspots.
- Walk the burn area.
- Roll the debris over to check for hotspots.
- Probe the burned area to ensure there are no smoldering fires in the ground.
- Stir the debris and water down hot spots.

Land clearing

- Burn when there is snow cover and the ground is frozen.
- Never burn when winds are greater than 12km/hour.
- Set only the fires that can be controlled at all times by available manpower and equipment.
- Use a brush rake or excavator to build piles.
- Eliminate dirt from the roots, and pack the windrows as tight as possible.
- Build windrows across the direction of the prevailing winds.
- Ensure that windrows are not longer than 60 meters.
- Ensure that there is at least an 8 meter break between windrows.
- Ensure that all windrows are at least 25 meters from trees and structures.
- Build a 15 meter wide bare mineral soil guard around all windrows.

100% Preventable

Most if not all of the wildfires we see at this time of year are human-caused. Human-caused wildfires are 100 per cent preventable. Please do your part to prevent wildfires!

While the risk of starting a wildfire maybe low, holdover fires can happen. Holdover fires or ground fires often start during the fall and winter months as a result of improperly extinguished fires. This type of fire burns without smoke or flame and smolders underground over the winter. In the spring as snow melts and dry fuels become abundant, a little windy weather can set ablaze early in the wildfire season.

To avoid accidentally starting a holdover fire, it's important to check all burn areas to ensure they are out. To properly extinguish a fire, completely soak the area with water, stir up the ashes and soak the area again. Always check for hot spots around your fall and winter burn sites. Feel for heat in the spring and times of dry windy weather.

For more information contact Cory Chegwyn, Deputy Fire Chief of Public Safety at Yellowhead County at (780) 723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030.





YCFD Fire Prevention Week Open Houses

Busy Time for Fire Prevention and Education in the County



The Yellowhead County Fire Department's full-time staff and paid-on-call staff ran the gamut of their various roles as firefighters in October. From general and specialized training, to firefighting of different types, to vehicle incident rescues, to public relations and fire prevention education, there wasn't much they didn't have to deal with this past season.



Firefighters from across the County had to balance the hosting of various Fire Prevention Week open houses held at the nine County fire halls with responding to a variety of emergencies.



There was great turnout for the County's Open Houses with Highway Thru Hell's Colin Mclean drawing a huge crowd at Central Station. Activities included fire extinguisher training, vehicle extraction demonstrations, a barbecue, and lots of fire prevention related giveaways, keeping all the firefighters busy throughout the week.



Due to effective pre-planning and coordination between the different fire halls, firefighters were able to respond in a short time frame to the numerous emergencies, including major collisions, fires and a water rescue, that happened over Fire Prevention Week.



"Our response time and effectiveness from our team was something to be proud of," says director of Protective Services Albert Bahri. "Our firefighters were able to switch gears as needed, and they were able to apply their different skill sets as they reacted to each situation."



"Having firefighters already out with their gear and vehicles at the evening open houses helped with how quickly they were able to get to these incidents," says Bahri. "And the quick response time for incidents that took place during the day was due to our new standard of having our full-time staff and casual staff ready to head out the doors any time at a moment's notice. We have an out-the-door response time of two minutes or less during regular office hours."



"Our firefighters were able to switch gears as needed, and they were able to apply their different skill sets as they reacted to each situation."

- Albert Bahri
Director of Protective Services



Yellowhead County Fire Department responded to the following incidents during Fire Prevention Week in 2015:

- 8 motor vehicle collisions, 2 with extrication required
- 6 fires, 2 of them structural, 1 resulting in an injury and 1 fatality
- 1 water rescue
- 5 fire alarms
- 3 EMS assist calls



YCFD also completed seven public relations events during Fire Prevention Week at the stations throughout the County.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Numerous resources are available to help you and your family prepare before a disaster strikes.

Residents are encouraged to prepare themselves, their family and their property for any type of potential disaster and should have resources in place to be able to sustain themselves for seventy-two hours.

In the event of any type of emergency where immediate assistance is needed, residents should call 911 immediately.

Yellowhead County will make use of the most appropriate methods to communicate warning and informational messages to the public, including media such as radio, the Yellowhead County website, the Alberta Emergency Alert program, and any other forms of communication to distribute information in the quickest and most relevant way possible.

There are a variety of disaster information brochures, as well as emergency preparedness guides that will assist you to best be able to deal with most types of emergency events. Many of these can be found on the Yellowhead County website at www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca in the departments section under emergency services.



Get the free app today.

Sign up today to receive Alberta Emergency Alerts directly to phones, tablets and computers via Twitter, Facebook, RSS, or directly to the app.

www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca

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

Jack Ramme

– Chief Administrative Officer

Albert Bahri

– Director of Protective Services

Barb Lyons

– Director of Corporate and Planning Services

Christopher Read

– Director of Community Services

Don O'Quinn

– Director of Infrastructure Services

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

