

yellowheadlines

County Resident Has Eyes Set on National Competition

Wildwood resident ropes in Pro Circuit

On May 29, 2010 Samantha Callioux was crowned Miss Grande Prairie Stompede during its 32rd annual rodeo this year. Samantha is a long-time Yellowhead County resident who has lived in Wildwood for the past 14 years. While being Miss Grande Prairie Stompede this year, Samantha worked as a summer student for Yellowhead County.

Although Callioux holds the title of the Rodeo Queen in Grande Prairie, she is still able to call Wildwood home. Having always barrel raced in rodeos closer to her hometown – such as Wildwood’s Bronc Bustin’ event – her reasons for entering the Grande Prairie rodeo was a strategic move in hopes of accomplishing an even bigger goal.



“By winning the title of Miss Grande Prairie Stompede, I can now compete in the Miss Rodeo Canada competition,” says Callioux with obvious excitement. “Because I live within 4 hours of Grande Prairie I was able to compete in this rodeo which is part of the Canadian Pro Rodeo circuit.”

Competitors were judged on horsemanship skills, rodeo knowledge, photogenic qualities and modeling abilities, public speaking and overall personality and appearance.

Winning the Grande Prairie title is a stepping stone to winning the national competition and Callioux hopes to follow in the footsteps of another Miss Grande Prairie Stompede queen, Britenny Foster, who went on to become Miss Rodeo Canada 2010.

While living in Wildwood this past summer, Callioux worked as a Weed Inspector for the County’s Agricultural Services during her reign as Miss Grande Prairie Stompede. Callioux has previously worked as a summer student for Parks and Recreation at Yellowhead County while completing her diploma in business administration at Lakeland College. “I was very fortunate to be working for the county over this past summer,” Samantha recalls. “They were very supportive – allowing me the time off for all the events I needed to attend. I don’t think I could have done it working anywhere else.”



A Reminder About School Bus Safety on County Roads.

Drivers – please remember the rules of traffic safety:

- School buses initiate the amber lights to clear a pick up zone. You can pass the bus, but should not speed up to do so.
- Once the buses flashing red lights have been turned on, all traffic must stop - in both directions. The flashing red lights tell students that it is safe to cross the road.
- Remember to use extra caution during early morning and late afternoon when it is darker outside or during fog, snow or other weather conditions that limit visibility.

Sam’s Personal Bio

“Since winning the Miss Grande Prairie Stompede title I have traveled throughout Alberta and British Columbia representing my region at many other professional rodeos. I’ve been a guest speaker at events such as the Relay for Life in Grande Prairie and Hoof Prints of Hope in Peers. I have been interviewed by many different radio stations such as XM 105. As Miss Grande Prairie Stompede 2010 many opportunities have been presented to me and I am one step closer to my childhood dream of running for Miss Rodeo Canada in the fall of 2011!”

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COUNCIL INTRODUCTIONS



Gerald Soroka
Mayor

Gerald Soroka is returning to his second term as Mayor of Yellowhead County. Soroka previously served as a Councillor for Division 1. He has also been serving as the elected Vice-President of Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties for the past term.



Maxine Lappe
Div. 1 –
Evansburg and
Area

Originally from Carrot Creek, Maxine Lappe, who has lived and worked in various areas throughout Yellowhead County, and currently resides in Evansburg. She is actively involved with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hinton and Edson.



Ewald Kwirant
Div. 2 – Wildwood
and Area –

Returning as the Councillor for Division 2 is Ewald Kwirant. Kwirant has been extensively involved with the local Volunteer Fire Dept for 35 years, serving as Chief for 30 years. He has been involved in many aspects of farming and agriculture in both work and through 4H, and also sits on the board of directors for the TRL Gas Co-Op.



**Fred Priestley-
Wright**
Div. 3 – Niton
Junction/Carrot
Creek Area

Fred Priestley-Wright is returning to civic duty - having previously served as a county councillor for 12 years. He has been involved in numerous agriculture organizations, as well as having worked with the oil and gas industry and forestry industry. Priestley-Wright has owned businesses in both cattle operations the oil and gas industry.



Brandon DePee
Div. 4 – Shining-
bank/Peers Area

Brandon DePee is the Council representative for Division 4. DePee has lived in the Peers area for the past 6 years where he is self-employed, having previously worked at the local hardware store.



Shawn Berry
Div. 5 – Wolf
Creek/Pinedale
Area

Shawn Berry has lived in the county for 11 years, been self employed for 31 years and has been involved with the Chamber of Commerce, the Municipal Planning Commission for the Town of Edson, and numerous other committees.



**David Allen
Stevens**
Div. 6 – Edson
Area

David Allen Stevens will be representing Edson Area as Councillor of Division 6. Stevens was born in Edson and has lived in the area his whole life. His background is carpentry, and as an oil field developer and consultant.



**Ruth Martin
Williams**
Div. 7 – Edson
West

Williams has a background in administration and education where she has taught in schools and colleges across Alberta. She has helped develop and taught programs in Calgary, the N.W.T. and Nunuvik. She is on the Tamarack Health Advisory Council and is the Executive Director of Reflections.



Lavone Olson –
Div. 8 - Hinton
Area/Cadomin/
Robb

Lavone Olson will be returning as Councillor for Division 8 where she has served one previous term. Olson has lived and worked in the area for 25 years and has been involved with many community organizations.

Representing the residents of Yellowhead County

As the new Council steps into its role to represent the residents of Yellowhead County, its service to the community Council has many challenges; including a commitment to transparent government, respecting opposing views, having a clear and understanding of their new role, and bearing and understanding the public they represent.

Hearing and Understanding the Public

Each and every council is expected to reflect the will of its public in its decisions. While it is not possible to be absolutely certain that every decision made by a council is a reflection of the public will, it is hoped that if the council is a reasonable representation of a broad cross-section of public opinion, its decisions will similarly reflect those same people.

There are several major issues to be aware of in council's approach to the public, including:

- › public comment may represent those who commented as opposed to the vast and silent majority of those who did not;
- › public organizations may represent more organization than public (i.e., some have an executive whose membership is drawn from two families);
- › ratepayer groups often fit around one coffee table; and
- › public evaluation is often more accurate when based on hindsight.

On the other hand, public input is essential to good decision making. When solicited on a planned basis, and when those being solicited are purposely representative of a broad base of community opinion, then council would be wise to listen carefully.

Focusing on the Important

Without a clear conception of the more significant issues, every issue begins to take on essentially the same import. Unfortunately, this leads council into believing that all issues could be considered co-equal, when indeed only a few are truly critical to the future of the community.

Each council would be wise to set aside a day or two to focus on the following questions:

- › What did each of us hear during the campaign?
- › What do our citizens think is truly important?
- › If I decided to run again next term, on what progress would I be comfortable basing my re-election campaign?
- › What issues might fit within these keywords: leadership; governance; good neighbourliness; community groups/input; infrastructure; social/family services; fiscal health; long-range planning; and organizational health.

Thinking through the Results

Communities are well-served by those who truly enjoy their roles and strive to make their choice of home community a little better. They are passionate about seeing neighbourhoods work together to spruce up their appearance and add both green space and services that will keep people in their homes and filling their schools.

This article is an excerpt taken from a series of articles on the challenges facing those stepping into elected office by the author George W. Cuff.



RCMP Training at Hinton Airport

The training took place in June and involved members of the Hinton, Edson and Jasper detachments. The purpose was to train members in the deployment of tire deflation devices which are used to apprehend individuals driving motor vehicles that are involved in hazardous pursuits. The intent is to avoid the risks to the public safety that occur when a hazardous pursuit takes place.




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12 lots for sale

4 (0.93 ha) \$276,800	3 (0.87 ha) \$261,000	2 (0.61 ha) \$193,600	1 (0.52 ha) \$170,200
5 (0.83 ha) \$250,800	6 (0.64 ha) \$201,400	7 (0.90 ha) \$269,000	8 (0.70 ha) \$217,000
9 (0.51 ha) \$167,600	10 (0.51 ha) \$167,000	11 (0.43 ha) \$146,800	12 (0.52 ha) \$170,200



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- 20 minutes from Hinton
- Paved Road
- 6km from Jasper Park

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Hornbeck Trails

The Hornbeck Trails span a total distance of 37.4 km. Located only 14 km west of Edson, this area offers superb cross-country ski trails that are maintained by the Muskeg Flyers. And in the summer these trails also make for some great hiking outings. This is a very well maintained trail system thanks to the "Muskeg Flyers" Ski Club.

A warm-up shelter is at the start of the trails and you have the choice of short 1 or 2.5km loops to longer 15km or greater excursions. You will ski through deciduous and coniferous stands where you may and will probably not see any other skiers.

The Muskeg Flyers offers a Jackrabbit program for youth of all ages. An active Jackrabbit group that offers lessons for ages 4 & up, and a cook-



ies and hot chocolate get-together for all ages that both happen every Sunday from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the warm-up shelter.

Whether you are just beginning, or are an advanced skier/hiker, these trails are sure to please all. Hornbeck trails are dog-friendly, but must be kept on a leash. For more information on the Hornbeck Trails or the Muskeg Flyers contact Vivian Williams at 780-7112-1906.

Head west out of Edson on Hwy 16 for 2km and watch for a X-Country Ski signs that mark the way to the warm-up shelter and trails.

Ski Silver Summit

With great elevation, over a thousand foot vertical drop, a north east exposure and over 10 feet of snow on average annually. Together it creates excellent conditions from early December to late April.

With a 17,000 sq. ft. lodge that houses 22 hostel-style rooms (sleeping up to 8 per room), central washrooms and showers, and a full service cafeteria and lounge that can accommodate a large amount of people - all while charging minimal prices - this is a great ski-hill for everybody.

The remote, yet close to Edson, location offers a wide variety of options for winter enthusiasts and is on an immense snow machine trail network that links up with Edson, Whitecourt and Fox Creek.

Athabasca Lookout and Nordic Center

The Nordic Lookout Center contains over 2400 acres and boasts 35 km of expertly groomed world-class trails that are up to 10 meters in width and anywhere from 1.5 km to 25 km long for both skating and classic skiing. The Centre also has a large rustic day lodge and a biathlon range. The trails have been recently upgraded to provide enjoyable skiing on novice to expert trails that have hosted world and national events. This provincially

designated recreation area hosts a number of events, as it includes a biathlon range, two large training grids, a telemark hill, small ski jump, two shelters, and a 1.5 km luge run.

As well, there is 1.5 kms of trail that is lit up at night for those adventurous night skiers or hikers. The club has an active Jackrabbit and youth race program. Day ski passes can be purchased at the self registration kiosk at the lodge. In the summer there's hiking, fishing and swimming, and in winter there's snowmobiling, dog sledding, ice fishing, snow shoeing and skating. The view from the lookout center is awe inspiring - one can see for forever!

Go west of Hinton for 2 km to Highway 40 north and then drive for about 18 km and follow the signs. It is a few kilometers to the Nordic Centre parking lot and those looking for the Lookout Tower or the luge track must travel a little further along the road.

For more information visit www.hintonnordic.ca

Ice fishing in Yellowhead County



Can't get enough of fishing in the summer, well don't let a little bit of cold stop you. Ice fishing—also known as vertical jigging—is for novices and experts alike. Ice fishing can be done on most lakes and streams in Yellowhead County. Depending on ice conditions, the season generally runs from December through April. And don't forget the ice fishing derby held in William A. Switzer Provincial Park mid-February.

Due to lower natural food production and increased fish interest in bait, ice fishing yields more whitefish and perch than in any other season

Ice fishing gear is highly specialized- an auger or ice saw is required to cut a hole in the ice. One method is to use a small, light fishing rod with small, brightly coloured lures or jigs and lift the pole every now and then, producing the jig effect. Some ice fishers are using flashers, a sonar device to help them pin down areas that have an ample supply of fish.

You need an annual Sportfishing Licence to fish in Alberta. The Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations has information on catch limits, bait bans and, seasonal closures. This free publication can be obtained at numerous locations including your district Fish and Wildlife offices or online at www.albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs. Go to the Yellowhead County website for a great list of lakes where you can go ice fishing and what type of fish you can catch there.

Hamlet of Peers – Street Improvement

Yellowhead County has begun the next component of infrastructure improvements for the Hamlet of Peers. Construction began this past fall and is anticipated to be completed by August 15, 2011.

This project consists of the installation of curb, gutter, sidewalks and asphalt pavement throughout the entire hamlet. To accommodate the surface water drainage, a storm sewer system and storm water retention pond will be constructed.

The contractor started with the construction of the storm water retention pond and will then move on to the installation of the storm sewer on 51st Avenue and 51st Street. Road construction work will be done in conjunction with those same areas – weather depending.



Should you have any questions about this project you can contact Yellowhead County – Don O’Quinn Director of Infrastructure Services.



Rural Addressing

A reminder from Yellowhead County that it is the landowner’s responsibility to clear brush and snow from their rural addressing sign to ensure that it can be clearly seen from the road. A clearly identifiable sign helps in assisting emergency responders, utility employees, and the general public being able to find your location faster. Each property is given a rural address that relates to the range road, township road or named road from which the property is accessed. If you have any questions, or need a sign, please contact Fire Services Technician Ian Babych at 1-800-665-6030.

Water Conservation

A typical household can reduce water consumption by 40% or more, with or no effect on lifestyle. What follows are some suggestions for how to get your house or business in order. Based on the three rules of water conservation – reduce, repair and retrofit.

Reduce

Much of the water "consumed" in our daily activities is simply wasted. Taps are left running while we brush our teeth. Dishwashers and laundry machines are operated without full loads. Really, everywhere we use water there is room for improvement. Here are just a few examples for both indoor and outdoor water use.

- › Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket or flush it unnecessarily.
- › Take short showers – five minutes or less should do. If you prefer baths, fill the tub only one-quarter full.
- › Keep a jug of water in the fridge for drinking. This will eliminate the need to run the water until it's cool each time you want to drink.
- › Insulate hot water pipes. This will help eliminate the need to run the water for several minutes before the hot water starts to flow.

Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Don't worry if the savings are minimal. Every drop counts. You can make a difference.

The Bottom Line

If we each save a little, it can add up to major savings in water, energy and money. For the average household, reductions in water use as high as 40% or more are feasible, just by following these and other easy steps. More water conservation tips can be found at www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca



The benefits don't stop at the household or business. The municipal water and sewer department gets a break on the amount of water it has to pump to our homes and businesses and on the amount of wastewater it has to treat in sewage treatment plants. Water conservation can extend the useful life of municipal water supply and treatment plants, and will benefit the operating efficiency – and life expectancy – of private septic disposal systems.

Shelterbelt Program

Free trees for any landowners who have 5 acres or more!

“If you are a landowner with 5 acres (2 hectares) or more in western Canada you are now eligible for free trees under the PFRA Prairie Shelterbelt Program.”

Agri-Environment Services Shelterbelt Program is a Federal Government body that has given trees to farms for more than 100 years. The shelterbelt trees provide many benefits to landowners. They reduce the wind around the yard, thus protecting buildings, reducing heating costs, and control blowing snow. They also protect livestock from the cold winter winds, provide ideal wildlife habitats, protect the soil and trap snow for additional moisture in the spring.

Applications will be accepted from June 1st to March 15th for May delivery. All applications are available at either of our County Offices (Wildwood or Edson) or by calling 403-340-4291, toll free 1-866-766-2284.

Yellowhead Invasive Plant Initiative

2010 programs kicked off this year with the first annual “Pull a Weed Day,” held on July 9th in Brule. Community members were invited to participate from 10:00am-3:00pm in weed pulling activities throughout the Brule area. Representatives from Yellowhead County Agriculture Services and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development were onsite for any questions that community members had about the Yellowhead Invasive Plant Initiative program, weed control options, ASB Rental Equipment and new invasive species to watch out for.

Workers were provided with safety vests, gloves, weed pulling bags, signage and plenty of cold water! This event raised weed and invasive plant awareness in one of the most ecologically sensitive areas of our County, and that community members all get involved in future events! In total the team picked 750kg of invasive plants from stream crossings, sensitive areas and from within the community of Brule. Along with the picking efforts our Spray Team worked spraying Prohibited Noxious and

Noxious Weeds throughout the region in late July and August, completing 100km of roadways and subdivisions.

Yellowhead County's Agricultural Services Board also set up a herbicide demonstration plot at a grazing reserve just west of town to show area residents control options available for some of their worst weeds. Restore and Grazon were put to the test to control heavy infestations of Canada Thistle, Tall Buttercup, and one of the areas worst new invaders Wild Caraway. Garlon Ultra was also applied to control the encroaching brush.

In 2011, we are hoping to start Weed Information Open Houses and volunteer driven picking events in other communities throughout the County.

If you are interested in more information about the Yellowhead Invasive Plant Initiatives efforts please call Sarah Kehler Agricultural Services Department in Wildwood at -800-814-3935.



Yellowhead County Fence Line Program

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

The Fence Line Program is a pilot project for 2011. It will allow Yellowhead County owned vehicles and equipment to enter private land and apply herbicide from the fence line to gravel. Sites will be pre-inspected to determine what equipment and herbicide selection is necessary. The landowner will be asked to sign a release allowing the County access to the property

and permission to use herbicide as agreed upon by the landowner and Yellowhead County Agricultural Services Staff. This program will be completed on a first come first served basis and at no charge to landowners. The County will be adding the Fence Line Program pilot to enhance services to the residents of Yellowhead County in addition to the existing Roadside Vegetation Management Plan.

If you would like more information on this or any Agricultural Services Programs or to register for Fence Line Program please contact the Agricultural Services Department in Wildwood at 1800-814-3935.

Snow Removal Reminder



Residents are reminded to remove and clear away all snow and ice from their sidewalks within 24 hours of the snow or ice being accumulated.

If you have any questions regarding this reminder please contact Yellowhead County-Municipal Enforcement at 780-723-4800 or toll free at 1-800-665-6030.

Wildwood Amazing Race



Although the wind was cool & brisk, the sun was shining, as were the smiles on all the kid's faces who participated in the first Amazing Race - Wildwood Style. The race, which took place on October 15, saw 19 participants, ages 8-14 years, race through Wildwood as they participated in a scavenger hunt. The hunt involved team members working together to complete various challenges in hopes of being the first team to complete the race.

"We had an amazing time during the recent Amazing Race challenge in Wildwood," says event organizer Theresa Druar, Children's Program Coordinator. "Participants were able to learn about some of the businesses in their community, and how they operate, while having a chance to get to know some of the other residents of Wildwood," points out Lori Johnstone-Stang, Youth Services Coordinator, who also helped to coordinate the event.

The event was organized by Yellowhead County's Wildwood FCSS department.



Alberta's Elm Pruning Ban is Over

Elm sanitation is essential to an integrated Dutch Elm Disease (DED) prevention program. To help prevent DED, elms in Alberta can only be pruned between October 1 and March 31, when there is no danger of spreading this disease.

"The deadly DED fungus is spread by three insect vectors: the banded, native and smaller European elm bark beetles," says Janet Feddes-Calpas, STOPDED executive director. "Elm bark beetles feed on healthy elms during the summer, and breed over winter in dead and dying elm trees.

"Between October 1 and March 31, these beetles are

not active, and elms can be safely pruned. However, if elm trees are pruned between April 1 and September 30, these vectors of the disease will be drawn to the scent of the fresh pruning cuts, potentially attracting infested beetles and infecting an otherwise healthy elm."

It is essential that all elm dead wood be removed and properly disposed of by burning, burying or chipping by March 31. To prevent the spread of DED, do not transport or store elm firewood.

For more information, call the STOPDED hotline at 1-877-837-ELMS or check out the web site at www.stopped.org

Evansburg lots for sale

- Fully serviced lots from \$28,000
- Thriving Community
- Excellent Tax Rate
- All Amenities
- Architectural Controls
- Lots Back Onto Green Space



Evansburg, merging the urban/rural divide. Move into the country with all the amenities.

A short drive to Wabamun Lake, Lake Isle, Chip Lake and 2.5 hours from Jasper National Park. Evansburg is 25 minutes from Drayton Valley, 40 minutes from Stony Plain and 30 minutes to Mayerthorpe.

Contact Tracy Ruskowski at Yellowhead County
1-800-665-6030 or 780-723-4800

BRULE

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



How to get there:

Drive west along Hwy. 16 from Hinton and then turn right on Hwy. 40 North, drive about 10 kilometres past Entrance, over the Athabasca River and turn left the sign indicating Brule.

The last issue featured the hamlet of Cadomin, located in the south-western portion of Yellowhead County. Also in the western side of the county is the hamlet of Brule, tucked into the Rocky Mountain foothills, about 30 km. west of Hinton. Residents of the hamlet are able to end many a day watching the sun set behind the glorious Rocky Mountains. The hamlet is adjacent to Brule Lake, which borders both Jasper National Park and Rock Lake-Solomon Creek Wildland Provincial Park and is fed into by Athabasca River and carries on again into the river as it heads north.

Brule has three Bed & Breakfasts, as well as outfitters that offer trails rides and over-night pack trips. Brule is an excellent staging area for all types of excursions into the nearby area, whether by foot, quad, horse, or bike. There are also operators who offer guided tours by horse or other means.

Remnants of what was once a prominent mining community exist just outside the hamlet - including old mine building remains and the Brule Cemetery, with graves that date back to the early 1900s.

Rock Lake-Solomon Creek Wildland Provincial Park

Between Jasper National Park and Brule is a tiny finger of this provincial park that extends down and separates the hamlet from the more famous park. This park protects one of Alberta's most diverse upper foothills ecosystems, with mountain peaks, grassy slopes, dense forests and wet meadows. Chances are good you'll see wildlife as the area is a significant wildlife movement corridor.

Just south of Brule is the best way to find the trail that takes you into the provincial park, and into a trail system that extends into Jasper National, and Willmore Wilderness Park.



Ogre Canyon

Ogre Canyon, located in the provincial park, is accessible from Brule. The canyon and the sinkholes within it were carved out by streams and underground water. In the 1900's the Ogre Canyon trail was used as a packhorse trail, transporting explorers and their goods through the mountains. The best way to access the Canyon is to drive to the end of main street in Brule, park your car and walk down the old railway grade.



Brule Sand Dunes

These three story sand dunes are a fun place to hike, bike or quad. In the 1900's the Grand Trunk Pacific railway ran across these desert-like dunes helping to connect the Rockies to Edmonton. Although drifting sand over the tracks caused this section of the railway to be shut down, remains of some of the tracks are still visible today. So take a trip out to the dunes and spend a whole day exploring and taking in the breath-taking scenery.



Brule Ruff-Out Rodeo

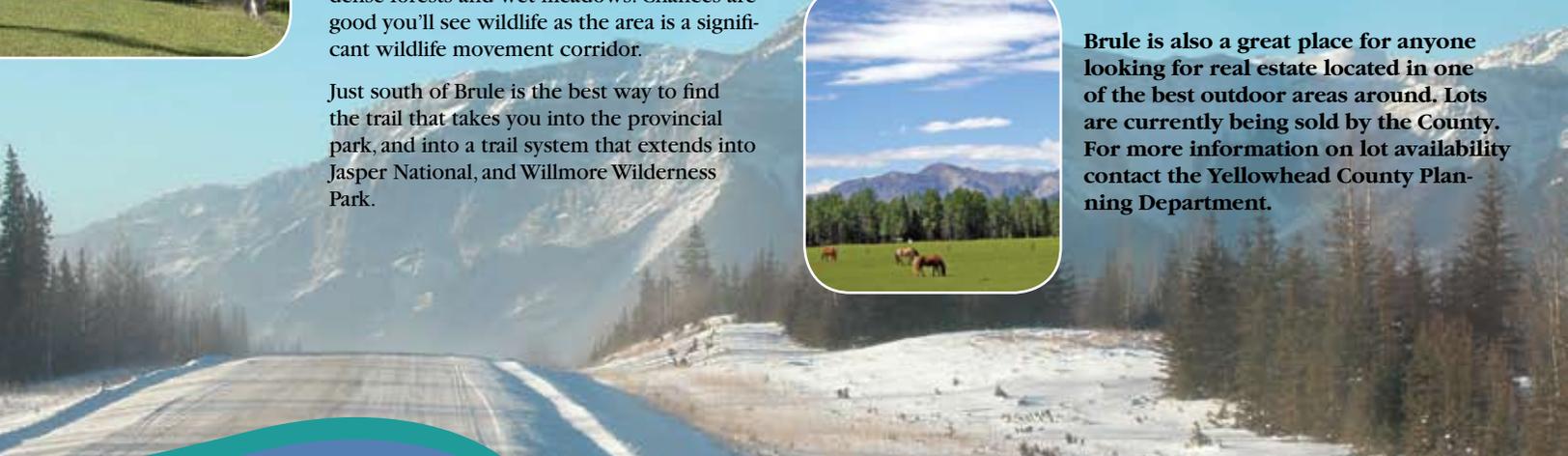
Every May the hamlet hosts the Ruff-Out rodeo in the area; with a community that has such a strong connection and history to horses, the rodeo is a popular event for both riders and spectators. This year Brule hosted its 42nd annual rodeo.

Entrance & Old Entrance

On the way to Brule is Entrance, known for its large horse pastures, historical significance as a rail stop, and its scenic beauty.



Brule is also a great place for anyone looking for real estate located in one of the best outdoor areas around. Lots are currently being sold by the County. For more information on lot availability contact the Yellowhead County Planning Department.



Streetscape Projects

Evansburg

Evansburg was busy this year in preparation for their 100 year Homecoming. Some of the many projects that were slated for this year were: paving of the trail system through Tipple Park and along 50th Ave, installation of picnic tables, park benches and planters along Main Street and along the trail system in Tipple Park, reconstruction of the Galloway Station Museum flower bed and the construction of a gazebo.

Streetscape plans will continue next year with ongoing landscaping of Tipple Park. This will include plantings around the gazebo as well as numerous plant beds along the trail system and throughout the park.

Wildwood

This years projects in Wildwood included new benches, planters and garbage cans down main street and by the Community/ Senior's Centre. New dugouts were also constructed at Gunner Rehn Park. The biggest addition was the installation of a new playground next to the Wildwood Curling Complex.

A huge thank you

goes out to all the residents of both Evansburg and Wildwood who contributed ideas and suggestions regarding the ongoing streetscape plans in their respective community. These projects would not be successful without their hard work and support!



County Pride Contest

Yellowhead County would like to congratulate the winners for the 2010 County Pride contest and thank everyone who participated in this year's event. The judges and tour participants were treated to some of Yellowhead County's most beautiful farms, acreages, and hamlet gardens and yards.

This year saw an increase in nominations, with a total of 17 lovingly cared for little spots of paradise created by Yellowhead County gardeners. There were a total of 6 winners, with 2 from each category. Judges based their scoring on overall presentation, including neatness and use of space, in addition to specific categories of lawn care; flowerbeds/gardens - including vegetables; species variety and health; buildings; and management practices.

Not only is this event a great opportunity for the participating gardeners to be honoured for their hard work, but it also grows both creative inspiration and community

bonds. "This tour is one of my favorite days of work!" remarks Jennifer Benson, Supervisor for Yellowhead County Agricultural Services. "I love the gardens, the ideas, the proud looks on the owner's faces when you show up on judging day and they show you around their yard," shares Benson.

During both the judging and the tour, Benson gets to share in the discovery with local and neighbouring residents to see what surprises the local horticulturists have been hard at work growing the past season. "The smiles on their faces when they get off the bus and see the treasures we have found for them to look at - it's a great day!"

This contest, which was started in 2004, showcases County properties and recognizes the hard work many people do to make their space a more beautiful place to live.



Kneteman Acreage



Shiewe Farm

The winners of the Country Pride 2010 were:

Hamlet - **Monica Plante** (Marlboro)
Hamlet - **Linda Matalski** (Wildwood)

Acreage - **Mona and Bob Kneteman** (Edson, N)
Acreage - **John and Diedre Panek** (Edson, N)

Farm - **Larry and Lorraine Shiewe** (Niton)
Farm - **Myrna McNiver** (Shining Bank area)
Honourable Mention - **Val Dearden** (Edson, N)

Make sure to keep the County Pride contest in mind as you plan and plant your yards and gardens for next year. You won't want to miss this opportunity to share your work with fellow gardeners from the area.

Keeping Your Roads Safe and Maintained

Yellowhead County's Engineering Department works hard year-round to ensure local roadways are constructed and maintained to provide safety for road users throughout the region.

- The Engineering Department is responsible for maintaining approximately 2300 km of roadway and over 200 bridge and bridge culverts throughout the County.
- The road maintenance program includes dust control, grading, gravelling, oiling, pothole patching, snow removal, and brush control.
- The majority of Yellowhead County's roads (2, 133 km) are gravel. In order to maintain these roads on an annual basis Yellowhead County utilizes an average of 145,000 tonnes of gravel and thirteen graders.

Gregg Lake FireSmart Project

– a community taking action

This past September residents of Gregg Lake subdivision gathered together for a FireSmart Community Workbee. This event is the most recent of many community meetings that have lead to a FireSmart plan being developed for different areas. Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD), Yellowhead County, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation and, most importantly, Gregg Lake residents were all partners in developing the plan.

Initial meetings introduced residents to the potential wildfire threats in their community. Input from the residents and landowners identified unique characteristics and gave local insight to areas of concern.

Residents recognized the need for preventative work and preparation in case of a wildfire and wanted to learn more and actually see what could be done in and around their community. A FireSmart workbee got everyone together, a chance to see FireSmart in action, and to get the project rolling.

A FireSmart demonstration was set-up where a wildland firefighting crew thinned, pruned, and cleared understory and deadfall from a forested area to show residents what FireSmart might look like on their own property.

Dennis Quintilio & Associates (DQ&A), who ASRD contracted to draft the FireSmart plan, hosted a barbeque where the first outline of the FireSmart Plan was presented to residents.

Community members then gave further input and the contractor integrated those ideas into the next draft of the plan.

Following the information session, property owners were given the opportunity to have wildfire prevention specialists from ASRD develop a personal FireSmart home-owner assessment.

Many property owners then got started on their own lots, pruning mature trees and thinning out the underbrush. As many lots were too small to have a safe burn area, Alberta Tourism Parks and Recreation provided an area for collecting branches and woody debris for safe disposal.

Home-owners were encouraged to take on realistic, incremental changes to make their homes and properties more FireSmart.

The sidebar shows a few tasks that you and your family can do with a little bit of time and minimal cost to help FireSmart your house and property.

A FireSmart Home-Owners "Protect Your Home From Wildfire" Manual can be found under Documents at www.srd.alberta.ca/ManagingPrograms/PreventingFightingWildfire/FireSmart

To learn more about how your community, neighbourhood, or home can become more FireSmart go to: FireSmart.alberta.ca or contact Heather Hawkins, Wildfire Information Officer at Alberta Sustainable Resource Development at (780)723-8228 or heather.hawkins@gov.ab.ca

Submitted by Sustainable Resource Development

FireSmart action items with low cost and a little time:

- Contact your utility company if trees or branches are not clear of power lines
- Always keep a watchful eye on fire pits and burn barrels when they are in use. Make the attempt to avoid the use of burn barrels and instead take debris to a transfer site / landfill.
- Ensure your roof is free of needles and leaves and there are no overhanging trees or branches that can catch on fire
- Make sure your chimney is up to code and has a spark arresting screen installed
- Remove long grass, flammable shrubs, logs, branches, twigs and needles within 10 metres of your home.
- Have a nearby water supply for emergencies.
- Store firewood a minimum of 10 metres from any structures.



Three minutes or less!

Emergency Fire Preparedness Contest for Kids & Families

Send us your fire escape plan for a chance to win to Fire Safety Pack for your family.

As Yellowhead County Fire Departments are made up of mostly volunteer firefighters who may have to come from their place of work or their homes, your response time in reacting to a fire may greatly affect how efficiently everyone in your house gets to safety.

Having a good plan and knowledge of fire safety and prevention, plus working and tested fire safety equipment, such as a fire extinguisher and smoke alarms, can greatly help reduce the loss of life and property.

Go to www.3minutedrill.alberta.ca for more information on home fire safety and send us in your plan to Yellowhead County Fire Department.

Incident Support Unit

The Incident Support Unit is a specialized piece of firefighting equipment that will become an integral part of the Yellowhead County Fire Department. Within the last several years a lot of focus has been directed toward the necessity to ensure the health and safety of emergency response members. This unit is an integral part of establishing and increasing the safety of our members while they are providing emergency services and to aid in their training.

This unit will provide:

1. Relief from severe climate conditions,
2. A place for rest and recovery,
3. Cooling and/or warming, rehydration,
4. Calorie/electrolyte replacement,
5. Medical monitoring,
6. A place for EMS treatment,
7. Member accountability tools and crowd control/location ID

The Incident Support Unit has been designed to carry out several different functions simultaneously.

To accomplish this, it is divided into two areas, the forward section is designed for 'Rehabilitation' of members - with full climate control including two heaters, an air conditioner and adequate seating for 8 members where relief from the outside conditions is easily achieved.



The rear section is designed to facilitate the task of refilling and servicing 'Self Contained Breathing Apparatus' (SCBA) equipment. The unit has an array of lighting and accessories to better accomplish the tasks required on emergency scenes - including a weather station, 742 gallon fresh water and 40 gallon waste water tanks, interior and exterior lighting, emergency lighting, and a 20 kW diesel generator.

The unit will provide two different functions; first - to provide a means for the transportation of breathing air from the breathing air compressor location to all Yellowhead County Fire Department fire stations. In addition, when a station is conducting training exercises involving large amounts of breathing air, it will be used to provide air for these training sessions.

The second role is to assist firefighters at emergency scenes - when requested, and resources are available, it will be deployed to emergency scenes to provide breathing air and rehabilitation support of the emergency responders on the scene.

Get Involved! Volunteer with your local Fire Detachment



Yellowhead County residents depend on volunteer firefighters to defend their homes and families in case of emergency. Men and women of all ages commit their time and expertise to ensuring that everything possible is done to help out residents and visitors whenever there is a fire, vehicle collision or other emergency.

Yellowhead County maintains fire stations in Brule, Cadomin, Robb, Marlboro, Peers, Niton, Wildwood and Evansburg. We also partner with the municipalities of Edson and Hinton.

Volunteers are trained in First Aid, firefighting and rescue techniques, as well as dealing with hazardous materials. This extensive training ensures not only the best rescue techniques possible, but also gives volunteers skills to use in their professional and personal lives.

New volunteers are always welcome at our fire stations throughout the county. Become a volunteer firefighter today! Contact Fire Chief Cory Chegwyn or Deputy Fire Chief Shawn McKerry at the Edson Yellowhead County Administration Building.

Do you want to play a vital role in your community and learn valuable skills?

Do you want to save lives and help people in need?

Then become a volunteer firefighter!



TAXATION REMINDER

On May 17, 2010 the 2010 Combined Assessment & Taxation Notices were mailed. The due date for payment was June 30, 2010, and any 2010 levy remaining unpaid was subject to a 6% penalty July 1st, 2010. For accounts that remain outstanding, a 6% penalty will be calculated on the outstanding balance as of December 31, 2010.

Remittance should be made payable to Yellowhead County and can be made by legal tender at a County office, at any Bank, Internet Banking and Telephone Banking. If mailing payment, the postmark will determine date of payment.

Yellowhead County offers a tax installment plan that begins in December of each year. This plan allows for the payment of current taxes in equal installments over a twelve month period without penalty, provided that no installments are missed. However, all tax arrears must be paid prior to initiating the plan.

If you have any questions, please contact the Edson office at 780-723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030.

Events Calendar

Find out what's happening in Yellowhead County and Promote your Events Free!

Yellowhead County has a new Events page on their website. Find out all the fun things happening in Your County, and promote your own events Free! Send all you info to sfelsing@yellowheadcounty.ab.ca to have your event included or check it out at www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

Resident Survey

We are currently looking at redesigning Yellowhead County's website. Your input is crucial to how a new website should be developed. Go to www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca/webinput to get the questionnaire.



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

Jack Ramme

– Chief Administrative Officer

Barb Lyons

– Director of Corporate and Planning Services

Don O'Quinn

– Director of Infrastructure Services

Debbie Charest

– Director of Community and Protective Services

Yellowhead County

780-723-4800

1-800-665-6030

Fax: 780-723-5066

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Office Locations

Edson Office (Main)

2716-1st Avenue

Edson, AB T7E 1N9

Wildwood Office

5215-50 Street

Visit the Yellowhead County Website. It is a quick and effective way to get the information you need about our programs and services.

Visit www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca



RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO
YELLOWHEAD COUNTY,
2716 -1st Avenue,
Edson, AB T7E 1N9

