

Yellowhead County Summer 2020 Newsletter

Yellowhead County's

Yellowheadlines

A newsletter for Yellowhead County residents, visitors, property-owners, and other stake holders that highlights municipal news, projects, and County services.



Visit the YoHo Museum in Yellowhead County

Take a walk through time at this open-air museum that explores the history of the machinery that helped build our region.

100+
vehicles and pieces
of farm equipment



Step back in time at the YoHo Museum!

Owners and curators, Bill and Isa Dixon are always happy to welcome new and returning visitors to their eclectic and unique museum.

The YoHo Museum in Peers is operated by Bill and Isabella (Isa) Dixon. Bill and Isa have opened their homestead museum since 1988 for families to come out and soak up some of the local Yellowhead County history.

The YoHo is named after Isa's mother, who came from Scotland when she was young, married and started a homestead. Isa's father died when she was quite young, but her mother and her siblings continued with the farm.



Bill is always finding new items to add to his already extensive collection.



If you grew up in a rural setting during the early to mid 20th century, you'll find something you recognize here.

Prepare to step back in time when you visit this hidden gem about 30 minutes northeast of Edson. With items from as far back as the turn of the last century, it's more of a time travel through the decades than a collection from when Bill Dixon started farming the land in the sixties.

When they had to create a brand for their cattle, they had to get creative in their naming choice as the homestead was called the Lambie Farm, but all the L names for branding were already taken. So they went with her middle initial, and they've kept it since.

Since that time, he has been scouring Alberta and outside its borders for fun and unique items that compliment his original homegrown collection. Some of the items you will find there include: a 1917 hand-built Cabin; clothing, furniture and collectables from the 1920s or earlier; over 100 vehicles and farm equipment including 32 antique cars and a Cochin-Saw (aka Jig Saw) patented in 1876.

A few of the larger farm vehicles and machinery look like they have been rusted out from the decades of exposure to the elements. But, Bill proudly points out all the ones that still run. And each one has a history and unique story that goes with it. One excessively large farm machine that Bill points out wasn't working at all, but a local 11-year kid took up the challenge to get it up and running and told Bill he could do it. Thanks to this boy's commitment, Bill promised the vehicle to him if he got it running - which of course, he did.

They have such a collection of antique vehicles and farming equipment all lined up in organized rows that you can see from the google maps view!



An ever-growing collection of baseball caps looks like an upside down wave of colour hanging from the ceiling of one of the many building at the YoHo Museum.

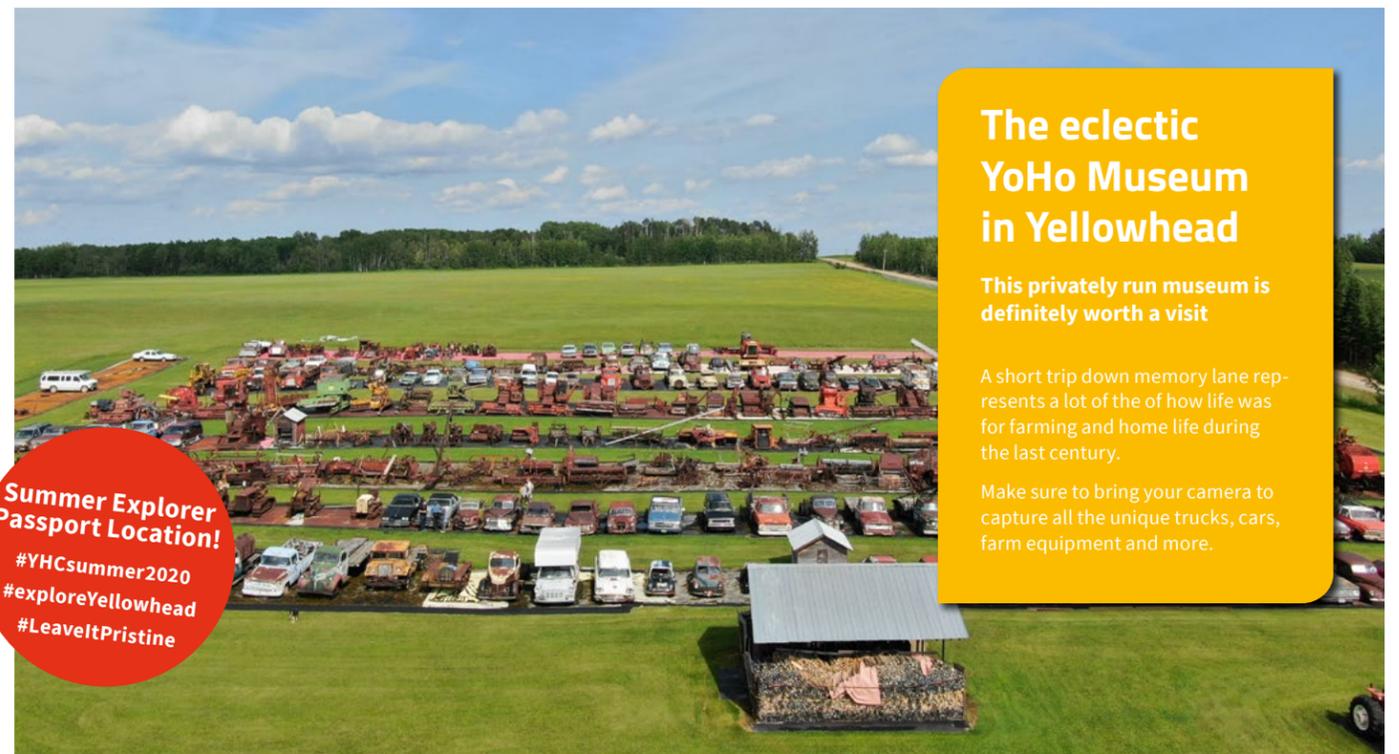


Bill shows one of the many pieces from his collection of household items that has survived the test of time.



The old cabin at YoHo Museum is a massive collection of antique items that will bring back memories of a pre-electronic era, where things weren't always so instant.

Summer Explorer Passport Location!
#YHCsummer2020
#exploreYellowhead
#LeaveItPristine



The eclectic YoHo Museum in Yellowhead

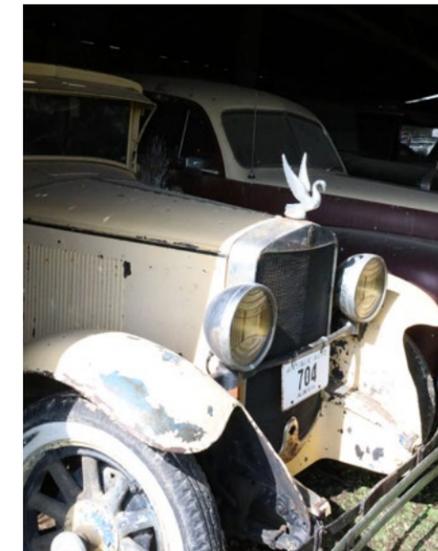
This privately run museum is definitely worth a visit

A short trip down memory lane represents a lot of the of how life was for farming and home life during the last century.

Make sure to bring your camera to capture all the unique trucks, cars, farm equipment and more.

Several covered areas hold everything from the tiny to the large, including old meat grinders beautifully presented in almost a shrine-like display, toys, and homewares set up in an old cabin.

Inside are toys, sewing equipment, and kitchen utensils all carefully displayed under glass to be preserved from dust and damage. Everything looks as if it had been left intact from half a century ago.



Another area is the kitchen and dining area, where the Dixons host local events and tour stops. In this area, you'll find a massive collection of over 500 truckers and ball caps, all in pristine condition, dangling like dozens of colourful bats hanging from the large hall's rafters.

Isa also caught the collecting bug, but instead of items, she collects history in the form of articles. She has a collection of photo al-



Cars, trucks and lots more!

In addition, to a massive collection of cars, trucks, and farming vehicles, you'll also find a collection of old signs, toys and other household items.

bums that document the history of the area through articles that have been cut out from the local papers over the decades. The YoHo Museum gets visitors from all over the world.

A recent visit from a group from England was happy to point out that the massive nearly symmetrical Union Jack flag hung up in one of the covered areas was upside down. As with everything else at the YoHo Museum, Bill will climb up himself to set it straight. YoHo Museum is located about a half-hour drive northeast of Edson, just north of Peers.

Direction to the YoHo Museum:

- You can head straight up Highway 32 from Highway 16,
- or take the Bear Lake Road (Highway 478 east) and then go 3 kilometres north on Highway 32.
- You'll see the sign and equipment at Township Road 554 and then head east for about 1 kilometre Twp Rd 554.
- Make sure to give Bill and Isa a call first to make sure they'll be around. You can reach them at (780) 693-2193.

Be part of the Grow Yellowhead Network

Consumers want to know where their food comes from and how and where it's produced. Grow Yellowhead helps local food producers, from small niche markets to large processors, get into new markets that are looking for locally sourced food and related products.

If you're looking for locally grown products that represent some of the best products Alberta has to offer, look no further. Yellowhead County offers a wide range of locally sourced and locally made goods available to purchase for local consumers.

Research tells us that in Alberta 78% of consumers made at least one purchase at a farmers' market in 2016. The value of food purchased at farmers' markets and farm retail exceeded one billion dollars and accounted for about 10% of Alberta's annual household food expenditure. And we want to have this as part of the culture in Yellowhead County, whether it's at traditional Farmers' Markets, direct farm sales or other venues.

The Grow Yellowhead Local Food Initiative is a joint project between Yellowhead County and Community Futures West Yellowhead. The goal of the Yellowhead Local Food Initiative is to ensure that a wide range of local food options are readily

available to consumers across our region, from local farmers markets and grocers to other markets throughout the County and beyond!

Previously, there was no documented inventory of food producers and processors in the West Yellowhead region. A number of associations such as the Alberta Food Processors Association, Organic Alberta and the Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association maintain lists of the entire province based on voluntary membership. Through this project, we aim to bring together the West Yellowhead region's products in one place for local marketing and promotion.



Who we're looking for:

- Direct to consumers sales (from beef and buffalo to flowers and more)
- Niche growers (non-beef and non-grain)
- Local processors (from beer to berries to bees)
- Regional distributors (such as large grocery chains)
- Identification of commercial and community kitchens for potential future use
- Farmer's markets
- Commercial greenhouses
- Food banks (for potential food wastage distribution)
- Community gardens
- Food artisans (such as cheese makers)
- Ag-tourism operators
- Any other producers and processors who develop food products in the region

www.GrowYellowhead.ca

County Pride Garden Contest 2020 Goes Online

This year's County Garden Pride Contents went online for both entry submissions and voting. There were a total of 17 entries from all areas of Yellowhead County and nearly 300 individual votes total and the submissions ranged from the rustic to the refined.



1ST



2ND



3RD

This project is not about the mature agricultural operations in the region; however, when opportunities arise to add their products to the local food market they will be included. Instead, this is a project about food. This project involves looking at ways that the West Yellowhead region can feed itself through local producers and processors while promoting our local products to our region and other markets.

One of our main goals for this upcoming year will be to increase the number of people who sign up and regularly engage with our Grow Yellowhead website and Facebook page, as well as increase awareness for Grow Local to both local consumers and producers.

Benefits for the For-Profit Partner:

- Increase sales of products or services
- Increase customer and brand loyalty
- Draw media attention and coverage for free
- Attract new business partners and relationships

If you're interested in finding out how you can be part of this local food network or you want to find out where to buy some amazing local food, go to www.growyellowhead.ca



Brule Community Hall Taking Shape

The Hamlet of Brule's community hall has faithfully served the remote mountain town for over fifty years and has seen generations of families grow up here.

And those five decades mark some monumental moments for Yellowhead County's east-most Hamlet. Originally a schoolhouse, the hall was re-purposed for numerous weddings, rodeo dances, concerts, and endless other community events.

The hall has certainly offered a meaningful place to celebrate the community. However, Yellowhead County council, along with the Community Services Department, recognized the need for new community hubs (halls) in many of our hamlets.

Brule's old hall would have required \$1M in repairs and maintenance costs, and would have continued to age out of use, while not meeting the evolving needs of the community. In 2018, council began considering a replacement on the same site.

The new hall, which began construction in 2019 and will be completed this fall, comes with a \$5.5M price tag and will accommodate up to 250 people for events like dances and concerts, and up to 200 people for seated events like weddings, live concerts, and theatre events. The county has made

every effort to hire local contractors and contribute to the local economy during construction.

The new hall has been designed with modularity in mind. The space available can be purposed for hosting groups of all sizes, and is meant to accommodate any event that stretches the imagination. It is a jack-of-all-trades venue that will serve the evolving needs of Brule's residents and visitors for generations to come!



The new hall, which began construction in 2019 is scheduled to be completed this fall.



The old Brule Community Hall has served the Hamlet of Brule for decades.

The building was originally used as a local schoolhouse by residents in the community, where it later became a hub for various community events and activities.



The new hall is a modern design that uses natural light and materials to showcase and reflect the beautiful scenery of the surrounding area. The large windows also give visitors a great view of the outdoors from inside the hall.



BRULE BIKE PARK

Also located in Brule, right near the Brule Community Hall, is the Brule Bike Park. A fun bike park for riders of all ages and skill levels.

Make sure to stop by, go for a ride, and snap a photo for our Summer Explorer Passport contest.

Summer Explorer Passport Location!
#YHCsummer2020
#exploreYellowhead
#LeaveltPristine

YOUR COUNCIL



Yellowhead County Mayor Jim Eglinski



Councillor Sandra Chermiawsky Division 1 Evansburg & Area



Councillor Anthony Giezen Division 2 Wildwood & Area



Councillor Penny Lowe Division 3 Niton/Carrot Creek Area



Councillor David Russell Division 4 Shiningbank/Peers Area



Councillor Shawn Berry Division 5 Pinedale/Wolf Creek Area



Councillor Wade Williams Division 6 Edson Area



Councillor Dawn Mitchell Division 7 Edson West



Councillor Lavone Olson Division 8 Robb, Cadomin, Brule & Hinton Area

The 2020 Yellowhead County Pride Contest winners, chosen by the online voting:

1. Bennet Property - John and Sonny
2. Marquis Property - Fred and Deb
3. Staal Property - Darrin and Lynne

Congratulations to our winners and thank-you to everyone who submitted photos of their beautiful gardens and yards!



YELLOWHEAD COUNTY DESIGNATES HISTORIC PROPERTIES THAT ARE ARCHITECTURALLY, HISTORICALLY, OR CULTURALLY UNIQUE.

New Heritage Designation



The Spanach Residence as it looked in the early 1980s.



George Spanach (r) , son of the original builders/occupants, with his grandson Jaxon (l), who is the fifth generation of "Mercolites" in his family.

The Spanach Residence is one of the few remaining structures in the former Town of Mercoal – once the mine closed in 1959, many of the local buildings were destroyed or moved to other communities.

The Spanach Residence is located southwest of the Hamlet of Robb in the former mining town of Mercoal.

The heritage value of the Spanach Residence comes from its association with the Spanach family who built the home and were influential in the building of the community of Mercoal. Robert (Bob) Spanach was a Yugoslavian who came to Canada at the age of 27 in 1928. He worked in various local Coal Mines before he started his own lumber business that grew along with the expanding coal mining and development in the area.

In 1941, Bob married Amelia Pankovich, a young Yugoslavian who came to Canada with her mother in 1931 to join their father in Mercoal.

Bob expanded his lumber business to the surrounding coal branch mines, opened the Mercoal café, a 12-room boarding house, a theatre, a gas station, and Mercoal Motors – a General Motors dealership.

Amelia and Bob had two surviving children, George and Diane. In 1949 an accident at the mill

took Bob's life. As Bob didn't have a will, his assets were seized by the public trustee for his two children. Amelia worked towards securing a loan to purchase her children's shares of the estate, but as Amelia was a young woman of only twenty-three, she faced difficulty in finding lenders or people who would work with her, as few believed in her ability to effectively run Bob's former interests. Undeterred, Amelia secured a loan from a family friend and was able to purchase her children's shares from the estate.

Amelia, with help from her office manager Steven, was able to surmount the obstacles and continue the multiple businesses until the mine closed down in 1959. Amelia then moved to Edmonton and started a construction company, where once again she faced obstacles given her age and gender. In 1976, Amelia removed herself from the business. Her son George, started his own business in 1977, retiring in 2007.

The house in Mercoal remains under the ownership of the Spanach family and is used as a seasonal recreational cottage for family and friends.

Character Defining Elements:

- Location overlooking Mercoal Creek
- Original wood frame windows
- One and a half storey, wood framed building
- Original wood trim and sills
- Partial above ground level basement and side entrance
- Original brick chimney
- Hipped gable roof
- Original wood side entrance door, single leaf with shaped panel and window



The Spanach Residence is one of the few remaining structures in Mercoal.



The character defining elements include a hipped gable roof, original wood frame windows and sills, original brick chimney, and original wood side-entrance door.

Fire Prevention Safety Week

Every year, Yellowhead County Fire Department hosts Fire Prevention Week events at our various fire halls. It's a great chance to get out to meet the local volunteer and full-time firefighters who are on call 24/7 to help you and your family when you need it.

It's also a great opportunity for you and your kids to learn some important fire and safety information and see some of the equipment and vehicles.



Who wants to be a firefighter!

Fire Prevention Week takes place every fall. Stay tuned to see what events are taking place this year.

Fire Prevention Safety Week means hands-on activities and fun!



STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE FIRE PREVENTION WEEK EVENTS THIS FALL!



County Farm Family Centennial Award



IN 2019 AND 2020, TWO NEW MULTI-GENERATION YELLOWHEAD COUNTY FAMILIES WERE AWARDED THE FARM FAMILY CENTENNIAL AWARD.

In 2019 and 2020, both the Ohl and Barrass families were awarded the Farm Family Centennial award. This award acknowledges their contribution through agriculture and what it provides to the economy and the community, and recognizes the families who preserve the tradition of farming throughout the generations.

The Barrass and Ohl farms have both been actively farmed by their respective families for over a century when they were first homesteaded in 1919. Each Farm Family Centennial Award recipient is awarded a steel powder-coated gate sign for their farm and certificate commemorating this 100-year milestone.



The Barrass family farm is a 660 acre cattle farm in north central Yellowhead County that was purchased by Arthur Barrass in 1919. It is currently being farmed by his grandson, Edward (Bob) Barrass and was previously operated by Clarence Barass, Bob's father.



The Ohl family farm, located in the eastern part of Yellowhead County, has been farmed by three generations of Ohls. Paul Ohl farmed it for 45 year from 1919 until 1964 when it was taken over by Carl and Irene Ohl who ran it for another 20 years and it is now run by Greg and Holly Ohl.

The Farm Family Centennial Award recognizes the families who have continued to farm on the same location over several generations for a minimum of 100 years.

Farm Family Centennial Award recipients need to show that:

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

TOWER COVERAGE

Internet and cellular coverage for residents, industry, and visitors increases each year as Yellowhead County continues to make communications a top priority.

One of the main priorities of Yellowhead County during the past decade has been the development of increased cell and internet coverage for emergency services, local industry, homes and businesses.

Over the years, several surveys and studies have shown that Yellowhead County residents felt this type of coverage is important for their quality of life and economic opportunities and growth.

Based on this feedback, Yellowhead County felt that providing broadband access to rural communities is a priority and would improve the quality of life in many areas: education, information, security, culture, and health.

In an effort to broaden rural access, Yellowhead County has increased communication tower coverage from the north-east tip of the County to the most western and southern parts such as Brule and Cadomin. There have been ten new towers built throughout Yellowhead County, with the three most recent towers recently developed for the central region of the County, Brule, and Aspen Heights.

To increase internet and cellular options for county residents and industry, Yellowhead County makes all the municipally-owned towers available for private

internet and mobile service providers. According to Yellowhead County director of protective services, Albert Bahri, the municipality has been working with local companies like Morad to increase the broadband coverage they currently have and increase internet coverage.

"It's open to support industry; it's open to support internet service and cell providers. They're very robust and they exceed any utility tower specifications that most manufacturers are building. We build them so we can put multiple entities on them - so it's not just for protective services, we can load them right up," says Bahri.

Yellowhead County also works with other municipalities to increase coverage and save costs. The Bunker Hill Tower was a joint project with the municipality of Lac La Biche to cover both sides of the municipal border.

Yellowhead County has been working to increase cellular and communications services to residents and increase economic opportunities for both existing small and large businesses and new companies interested in moving to the area. With the completion of these last three towers, Yellowhead County is at nearly 100 percent for protective services coverage and lots of opportunities for broadband and cellular coverage now and into the future.

Wildwood Tower

Fulham Tower

Obed Tower

Edson Area Tower

Aspen Heights Tower

Bunker Hill Tower

Emerson Tower

Brule Tower

Cadomin Tower

Peers Tower

"From a protective services side, it's giving us 98% coverage throughout Yellowhead County. We use the system, the Town of Hinton uses the system, and Grand Yellowhead Schoolboard - all their busses use the system."

Albert Bahri, Director of Protective Services



Transfer Stations are located all across the County

Go to yhcounty.ca for a list of locations, hours, accepted items. There is no cost for Yellowhead County residents.

Help us by doing your part and deposit all refuse, old tires, used oil, plastics and other recyclable items at your nearest transfer site. It's convenient and easy and you'll feel glad that you did!

Sani-Dumps Location Options across the County

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

Go to yhcounty.ca or www.sanidumps.com to see full details and locations for free and paid sani-dump locations across Yellowhead County.



New Dumping Fees for County Residents at Edson Landfill

Beginning last June 15, Yellowhead County residents are now subject to the Edson Landfill fees.

Although Yellowhead County residents and business are now required to pay full dumping fee charges for use of the Edson Landfill, residents can still take their garbage and other waste to any of the Yellowhead County Transfer Stations located across the county.

The free transfer station locations in Yellowhead County are Wildwood, Niton Junction, Peers, Parkcourt, Pinedale, Marlboro, Obed, Entrance, Brule, Overlander, Hattonford, Bear Lake, Robb, Cadomin, and Mackay.



Help protect our backyards

Using free and designated RV sani dumps helps keep our environment clean and protected.

Remember to dump at the designated spots.

A new park located at the Rosevear river crossing takes permanent footing

The previous location of the old Rosevear Ferry crossing is now a beautiful spot to enjoy the McLeod River and natural scenery.

Summer Explorer
Passport Location!
#YHCsummer2020
#exploreYellowhead
#LeaveItPristine

Several vessels and dozens of operators were part of the 101 year history



The Rosevear Ferry evolved from a manpowered to a motorized ferry with approximately thirty-one operators over its lifetime.

The early ferry was made of wood and used a hand-crank, and later a large wheel and eventually it was replaced with a motor-driven metal vessel.

Originally, the ferry operated 24 hours a day from the late spring to early fall before ice-up. In times of inclement weather, when the ferry couldn't operate, early ferry operators would use a rowboat to get people across, whether it be for supplies at the former community of Rosevear, or to help out in an emergency.

The crossing is used for the transportation of goods, locals, tourists and more.

The Rosevear Ferry – gone, but not forgotten

For many visitors and residents of Yellowhead County, the Rosevear Ferry was their sense of place. In honour of this long utilized

This new park is a reminder of the 101 year history of the Rosevear Ferry within the surrounding communities and how it connected them for over a century.

The Rosevear Ferry was built by the Alberta Government in 1914, in answer to the Rosevear district's request for a bridge across the McLeod River. The ferry's location along the river bend meant that the current would be slower, allowing the cable ferry to use the power of the current to propel itself across.

After a hundred years after the initial request for a bridge for the community, the province decided to finance the building of a permanent bridge that would allow year round access across the river.

With the long-awaited bridge becoming a reality, the Rosevear Ferry was removed from the site in March 2018; leaving us to relish memories of those quiet river crossings on the waters of the McLeod.



 EARLY FERRY VERSION USED A HAND-CRANK

 LATER VERSIONS USED A LARGE WHEEL TO NAVIGATE

 LAST ITERATION WAS REPLACED BY A MOTOR

Two five-hundred dollar bursaries available for post-secondary students



The deadline for submissions is August 31, 2020

Yellowhead County will provide two \$500.00 bursaries to students:

- Residing in Yellowhead County, and
- Enrolled or accepted in a postsecondary program related to agriculture or environmental sciences.

Successful individuals may apply year after year however priority will be given to individuals that have NOT received the award in the past. The Agricultural Service Board will be responsible for awarding bursaries and also selecting an alternate in case a successful applicant cannot attend.

Please visit the link below for more details and to apply for this bursary!

www.bit.ly/RecGrants20



KEEP YOUR DOG CONFINED OR LEASHED AT ALL TIMES.

Peace Officers routinely patrol the county, enforcing the animal bylaw and all other Yellowhead County bylaws.

Animal Control Bylaw for dogs and all pets

The Animal Control Bylaw has laid out specific regulations for owners in caring for their pets.

No owner is allowed to let their pets roam free or become a nuisance to their neighbours or passersby.

Dogs that have been picked up by Yellowhead County Enforcement Services under the Animal Control Bylaw or Animal Protection Act are taken to the Edson Pound.

Under certain circumstances, pets may be impounded and owners may face fines.

Dog owners are required to prevent their dogs from:

- Running at large
- Howling excessively or disturbing the peace of others
- Causing damage to public or private property
- Biting, attacking, threatening, chasing, or injuring any person or other animal
- Biting or chasing any vehicle

Post-secondary student?
Yellowhead County resident?
Apply for a \$500 bursary!

Subdivision Water Tanker Project Complete

YCFD water tank supply stations strategically located to refill fire trucks in remote areas of Yellowhead County.

In the past few years, Yellowhead County has been working diligently to develop a future-proof and agile fire department. And to that end, Yellowhead County's Fire Department (YCFD) has been progressively modernized; our new, agile apparatus fleet has replaced a number of aged-out vehicles, and now includes the proper tools for any emergency situation.

Yellowhead County has built a number of state-of-the-art fire halls to ensure that our members have a modern, adaptable station at their disposal—but more importantly, these halls have been built with longevity in mind, so that our residents can be protected for decades on.

We continue to train our mostly-volunteer fire department in world-class emergency response techniques. You may have even seen some of our recruits rappelling off of local bridges, scaling ridges and rooftops, and pulling apart vehicles—all with one goal in mind: To better understand how to rescue those in need. We've also built a one-of-a-kind modular training facility, which will familiarize our recruits with a plethora of emergency response techniques.

And finally, we've done something that will make a giant, albeit understated, difference in Yellowhead County. We have installed 13 water tanks across the county—these are crucial water supply stations that will refill our tanker trucks when a fire needs tending to in a remote area. Naturally, we cannot run water lines all throughout our massive region; that's why our solution was to build underground water tanks in strategic locations throughout the county.

We are proud to report that the water tanker project is now complete. YCFD strives to provide the most up-to-date services and maintain a high standard of protective services for all residents in the region—and to this end, we will continue to strive for excellence.



911 Certification – a first in Alberta

A new training certification developed by Yellowhead Regional Emergency Communications Centre (YRECC) for local 911 operators is a first in Alberta.

A new training certification developed by Yellowhead Regional Emergency Communications Centre (YRECC) for local 911 operators is a first in Alberta. Sometimes, seconds count when calling 9-1-1 and the operator's training may mean the difference between life or death for the person on the other side of the phone.

9-1-1 operators are vital to our region's emergency response system. The quality of their training and development helps set the precedent for the rest of the response, whether it's a fire, police, or ambulance call.

Yellowhead Regional Emergency Communications Centre (YRECC), the joint municipal emergency response team managed by Yellowhead County, has recently received Agency Training Program Certification from the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International. The certification ensures the training program for YRECC's 9-1-1 operators meets APCO standards regulated by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The training was developed by YRECC Dispatch Supervisor Angela Radcliffe. Radcliffe developed the thorough and intensive training program that ensures "citizens (as well as the responders) are getting the best quality of care."

YRECC is the only dispatch centre in Alberta to receive this certification, and the third in Canada. But the new training developed for YRECC by Radcliffe isn't only for the citizens calling in. It also addresses some of the emotional issues that 9-1-1 operators deal with on a regular occurrence at work.

"This training program is for the 9-1-1 operators, first-responders, and citizens. It looks at the technical side of how to respond and at the mental health of the dispatchers and responders. How do

you look after the responders when they're out in the field?" points out Radcliffe. "For instance, for a bad call, like the Columbia Icefields incident, how do you look after yourself after you've been immersed in a critical incident. That's part of the training program as well."



YRECC operators are required to deal with a wide range of calls that range from small to major incidents 24/7.

YRECC is required to follow 9-1-1 standards set out by the Province of Alberta, such as answering the phone within ten seconds. Still, there is nothing in the provincial standards that deals with mental health issues of the operators and responders, while this new APCO certified training developed

by YRECC looks at the big picture and considers all aspects of a 9-1-1 call - from the technical aspects of the call to after the operator hangs up the phone and ends their shift and heads home.

Radcliffe notices that many of these calls go home with the operators at the end of their shift, but this new training has the goal of assisting the caller and the operator taking the call.

It gives them the skills and strength to return the next day, ready to help anyone who calls into their dispatch centre.

"We're not just bringing in people and putting them in a chair, teaching them how to pick up a phone and work on a computer. We're looking after everything."

"The reason for doing it, ultimately, serves the citizens. They're getting the best of the best."

Angie Radcliffe, YRECC Dispatch Supervisor

New firefighter training centre at Station 12

Yellowhead County firefighters are called on for a wide range of safety and rescue operations - vehicle fires and extractions caused by motor vehicle collisions, search and rescue operations, emergency health calls, building fires, and forest fires

These are just some of the services that our local volunteer and full-time fire firefighters provide as part of their around-the-clock services in all types of weather conditions.



As we all know, firefighting is an endeavor that holds a risk of injury. Our firefighters go through a wide assortment of very intensive training and the more life-like and realistic that training is, the more prepared they will be when approaching the real-world version of that situation. Since hands-on training attempts to replicate real life firefighting operations, it holds true that there is a level of risk involved during training as well. Statistics from the National Fire Protection Associations (NFPA) show that more than 6,600 firefighters across the United States are injured during training each year.

In order to provide realistic and worthwhile training while operating under the safest conditions possible, Yellowhead County strives to provide policies and procedures that will ensure the use of this facility in the safest way possible.

The tower is gearing up for the finishing touches of the first phase of this project and will soon be ready for use by our firefighters and will be ready for use this summer.

The tower, built specifically for use by Yellowhead County, the Town of Edson, the Town of Hinton, and local industry partners will be used for a variety of training, including rope and ladder training, aerial apparatus usage, confined spaces training, propane burn props for realistic fire training in a controlled environment, and potentially a burn room with live controlled fire.

The project is a joint project with the Town of Edson, with additional funding from Repsol, who contributed \$10,000 towards the project.



Training centre a great resource for firefighters

The experience gained here will translate into a better firefighting service

Both paid and volunteer firefighters and industry partners will be able to develop their skills at the new YCFD training centre located in Edson. The more realistic the training, the more prepared and safer they'll be when up against the real thing.

YCFD Fire Cadet Program



BECOME A JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER.

The Fire Cadet Program is a unique initiative meant to guide teens towards a prospective career in the field of protective services; but more importantly, the program aims to teach teens crucial life and career skills.

The Fire Cadet Program is for high-school students to learn about the Yellowhead County Fire Department (YCFD) while developing life skills needed to become a firefighter.

If you're 16-18 and looking for a new challenge and want to learn some new skills and earn school credits at the same time, there's room for you here at YCFD in the Junior Cadet Program.

Joining with YCFD is a great way to support your local community or even prepare for a paid career in the fire and rescue service.

We're always looking for young people from a wide range of backgrounds and skill levels.

If you have ever thought about becoming a firefighter or just helping in the community, now is your chance to make it happen.

Applications are accepted until August 31st. Select applicants will be interviewed in September, and successful candidates begin the program in October.



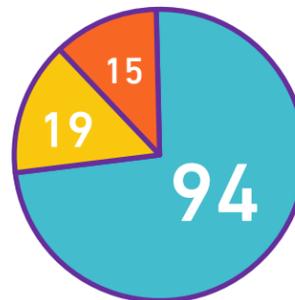
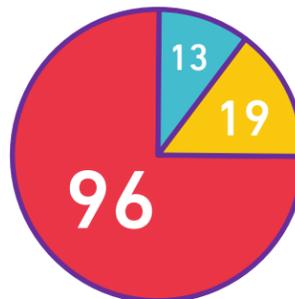
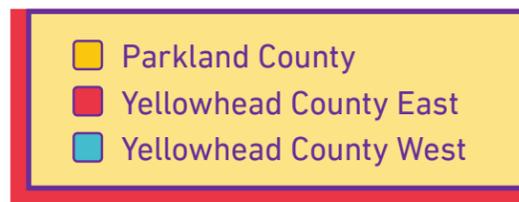
Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)

Brought to you by Yellowhead County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Department.

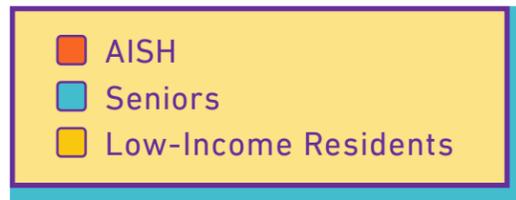


The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) helps local residents get their taxes done for free! Here's a breakdown of how this program, staffed by volunteers, has helped residents from Yellowhead and Parkland County for the 2019 tax season.

Which areas got help with their tax returns?



Which demographic groups were helped?



How has the program helped communities?

With only a \$1,000 FCSS investment in CVITP, the returns are...



Neighbourlink Friendly Caller

This year, Yellowhead County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Department launched a unique pilot program.

The FCSS Department identified a way to support those who may be feeling increasingly isolated during the pandemic.

The program is simple: FCSS set out to create a network of volunteer "Friendly Callers" who would schedule phone visits with those who are feeling lonely. These check-ins prove to be valuable, especially to our more-remotely located residents.

The pandemic has forced many of us to take shelter at home, and to stay put! For those of us whose social network is already removed, the quarantine restrictions can quickly take a toll on our mental health—without any support, we can go from feeling lonely to feeling discouraged and stressed.

Our social circles keeps us grounded and can help us get things in perspective. That's why we put effort into maintaining our social circles and making new friends. And with the pandemic in tow, we're all feeling a little bit more isolated, and this brings challenges and discomfort.

The Neighbourlink Friendly Caller Program is your answer to feeling reconnected once more! If you would like to chat with a friendly caller, don't hesitate! Pick up the phone and call 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935 to speak to someone who will happily listen to you.

Together, we can stay connected—after all, our community bonds continue to strengthen as we all work to combat the pandemic! Call today, and find your friendly caller.

Interested in Volunteering for this program? Want to volunteer to make the friendly calls? We provide you with training, and will match you with a person. All you need are some free minutes in the day, and a criminal record check (we have that paperwork for you).

Those interested in volunteering with the program, and are aged 14+, are also invited to call the number above. Volunteers will need to complete an application package complete with a criminal record and vulnerable sector checks as well as an orientation to the program.

FCSS continues to support our communities

COVID-19 has changed the way Yellowhead County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is working, but we are still available by phone and in-person in offering some services and supports, in a modified way. Here are some of the services and supports that we are offering during this time.

Service Referral and Navigation: Unsure where to turn? Never used any government services before and no idea where to start? We can help you out, to find where you need to go, and who you need to speak to when looking for services related to Provincial government programs, Federal programs, and local services. We also support the provincial 2-1-1 line that anyone can call twenty four hours a day, to find social services that are available for whatever need you may have.

NeighbourLink Friendly Caller Program: If you, or someone you know, is isolated or lonely, and would like to be matched with someone to do regular check-ins and a friendly chat, please contact our office and we can match you with a volunteer. More details in the main article on this page.

Supportive Listening: If you are just needing someone to talk to for a short period of time, we are here for you as well. Call our office and we will put you through to someone that you can speak with.

The FCSS program is also able to provide supports and guidance to non-profits and individuals seeking volunteer opportunities at this time. We are posting information, challenges, and mental health tips and tricks on the Yellowhead County Facebook page. This includes an opportunity to contribute to a Community Cookbook, weekly family challenge, and a chance for children to contribute to a local storybook by drawing pictures about the featured stories.

FCSS is also developing plans to best provide preventive social services to the communities of Yellowhead County throughout all the stages of the pandemic. Our mission is to support communities to come out of the pandemic stronger than ever. You can contact the FCSS office at 780-325-3782.

Family and Community Support Services is a jointly funded program from Yellowhead County and the Government of Alberta. Its mandate is to enhance the social well-being of individuals, families and community through prevention.



YC Road Construction Guidelines & Standards

There's a lot that goes into the roads you drive on every day. All new road construction for a municipal road must meet the minimum requirements in the *Yellowhead County Road Construction Policy*, as well as the *Design Guidelines and Construction Standards* that was adopted by Council in March 2007.

Once it's been decided that a new road will be built, the drainage on and around the roadway is the most important design factor to consider. Proper drainage is obtained by having a good design and using the correct materials.

Drainage includes:

- Crown: Having the correct crown on the road. The crown of the road is the downward slope from the centreline to the shoulder of the roadway. This is to prevent standing water on the roadway.
- Culverts
- Ditches

A good road design will look at factors such as:

- High or low traffic volumes
- Is the traffic going to be mostly residential, industrial, or both?
- What type of surface is the road going to be built on (e.g. clay, rock, muskeg)

Roads are generally built in three distinctive layers (from the bottom toward the surface):

Subgrade

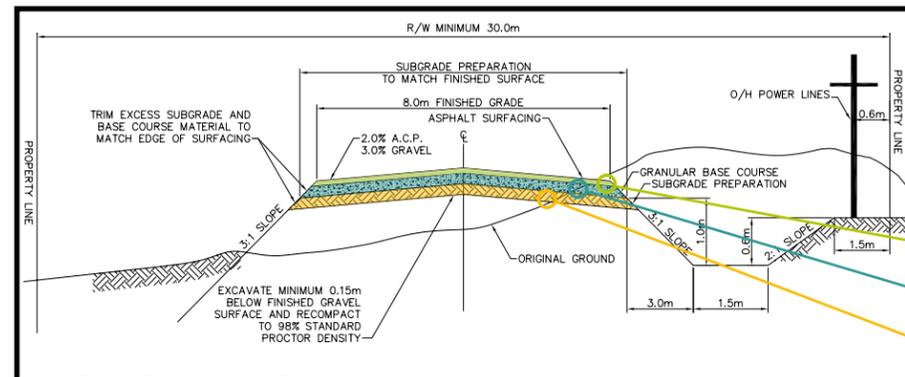
The soil surface that higher layers are built on. The topmost part of the subgrade layer is dug up, shaped (with the proper crown), and compacted. The thickness of this compacted layer for Yellowhead County roads varies from at least 150 mm to 300 mm depending on the intended use of the road.

Base

Constructed of compacted gravel with the properties to allow drainage of water and to absorb the high stress of the surface layer and remain stable.

Pave (or Surface)

The topmost layer on which traffic drives. For paved roads this is either an asphalt or concrete layer. For gravel roads it is a surface gravel with properties that allows it to form a crust to keep the material together.



Typical rural road cross-section of a residential access/local road showing finished grade, base and subgrade preparation.

Road Building 101

While road building projects are massive undertakings that can cost millions of dollars, there are some basic fundamentals and standards that must always be used in both small and large jobs.



Drainage, Usage & Materials

Who will use the road and how much will it be used?

In addition to the technical requirements in the County's Road Construction Policy and the Design Guidelines and Construction Standards, new paved and gravel roads need to consider types of traffic, traffic volumes and construction surface.

Future vehicle and connectivity also needs to be considered when new plans and designs are being done for an upgrade or new road build. All new county roads (even gravel) are built to the 8 metre width standard so the road is ready for potential future paving project if needed.

Road Anatomy

Roads are generally built in three distinctive layers:

Pave (or Surface)

Base

Subgrade

Land Use Bylaw Update

Land Use Bylaws (LUB) are used by all municipalities in Alberta to regulate development on private land. A new LUB update will focused on removing barriers to business in the county while also protecting valued rural lifestyles.

Yellowhead County's Land Use Bylaw was last reviewed in 2013. This year, we have set out to review and rewrite the Land Use Bylaw to best serve today's and tomorrow's residents. You're probably unfamiliar with this crucial tool of municipal development, that's why Yellowhead County's Planning and Development Department is here to answer your questions.

How does the Land Use Bylaw work?

The Land Use Bylaw classifies all the land in the county into specific categories called Land Use Districts. Each district has its own list of land uses which are permitted to operate in that district.

For example, the Hamlet Residential Land Use District allows for single detached dwellings, second-

We're also striving to provide Development Officers with a greater ability to vary regulations, so they can work with residents and business owners to find a compromise that works for everyone. We're examining our regulations for gravel pits, secondary suites, home-based business, worker lodgings, parking and landscaping, unsightly properties, and many others.

We also want to trim down the 250-page document to make it more accessible to residents and business-owners.

How can I get involved?

Public input is incredibly valuable for information-heavy projects like this one. It helps us identify problem areas and understand the impacts of various developments and uses of land.

COVID-19 Update:

Given the ongoing situation around the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person public engagement events for this project have been paused. During the Issue Identification stage of this project, the project team has been evaluating the current Land Use Bylaw based on research, best practices and comparison to neighboring municipalities. Until clearance has been granted by public health officials, the project will collect resident feedback via interactive online surveys, email updates, social media posts and mail-outs.

What are the next steps?

As the project moves ahead (it's expected to be completed in 2021), there will be opportunities for residents to give more feedback. Upon clearance from the Government of Alberta, a public open house will be planned to gather input from residents about the topics and changes that they think are important to consider moving forward.

For more information on how you can get involved, visit the Yellowhead County website or Facebook group or contact the Yellowhead County Planning Department directly!



The Land Use Bylaw classifies all the land in the county into specific categories called Land Use Districts.

How does the Land Use Bylaw impact me?

If you're planning to construct a building, start a business, subdivide your land, add onto your home, place a sign, or establish a secondary suite in your basement or above your garage, the Land Use Bylaw will provide the applicable rules and regulations you'll need to consider.

To do most of these things requires a development permit from Yellowhead County. This allows county staff to examine whether the proposed building, subdivision, or business meets the regulations set out in the Land Use Bylaw.

Why is this regulation necessary?

Provincial legislation requires each municipality in Alberta to have a Land Use Bylaw. The main goal of the Land Use Bylaw is to assist in the orderly development of land by mitigating impacts of various forms of development.

For example, the Land Use Bylaw is the document that stops someone from opening a large metal working shop in a quiet residential area, or building a slaughterhouse in a rural subdivision. It's also the document that says how tall buildings can be, how much parking they should have, or how many signs they're allowed. This helps make Yellowhead County a more attractive place to live, work, and play.

ary suites, townhouses and some home occupations, amongst many others. Gas Station is not a listed use in this District. Anyone wanting to build a Gas Station on land zoned as Hamlet Residential would have to apply to county council to change the Land Use District. There are currently over 40 Land Use Districts in the existing Land Use Bylaw.

What's going to change?

The main goal of the Land Use Bylaw Rewrite is to make the regulations more flexible. We're want to broaden the definitions of uses and compress the amount of Land Use Districts, so that more development that's of a similar level of impact can operate in each Land Use District.



New Two-Year Recycling Pilot Program for Electronic Items

Recycle your electronics and small household appliances! An updated electronics recycling pilot program is coming this fall with an expanded list of accepted items. The Edson and District Recycling Society expects the two-year pilot program, set out by the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA), to begin on September 1st.

and are therefore encouraging residents to bring their electronics to the Edson depot, Hinton Rowan Street Recycling center or the Parkcourt, Peers or Wildwood transfer sites for recycling. The items will be stockpiled at the Edson depot until the program begins this fall.

Currently, the electronics recycling program accepts items such as TVs, computers and printers; the expanded program will continue to accept those items as well as approximately 600 new items!

The new items fall into the following categories:

- Small home appliances
- Audio and video equipment
- Cell phones and other wireless devices
- Power tools
- Gaming equipment
- Toys (with batteries or power cords)
- Musical instruments
- Solar panels

Questions?

Visit ARMA's website for a list of FAQs and additional information.

www.albertarecycling.ca/recycling-programs/electronics-recycling-program/expanded-electronics-recycling-program-pilot/



Toxic Round-Up Taking Place in Yellowhead County this Fall

The Toxic Round Up is an opportunity for County residents to conveniently drop off items that may not be normally accepted at transfer stations.

Unfortunately, due to health and safety restrictions and recommendations caused by the Coronavirus, the Edson and District Recycling Society (EDRS) did not hold a Toxic Round-Up this spring, but does have one scheduled to happen this fall.

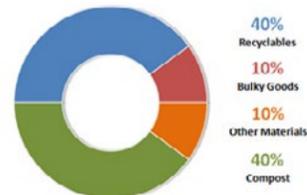
Toxic Roundups are planned for Evansburg at the Recreation Center parking lot, the Edson and District Recycling Depot, and the Hinton Rowan Street Recycle Center.

The Toxic Roundup usually takes place twice a year for items that may not normally be accepted at many of the drop-off locations.

This will be a time for residents to bring down all your paint, household hazardous waste and electronics. New this year is the inclusion of over 600 new electronic appliances and gadgets!

Items available for drop off include:

- Spray Paint Can
- Paint & Empty Paint Cans
- Used Oil, Oil Filters, & Empty Oil Containers
- Hazardous Household Waste (cleaners, etc)
- TVs and Computer Equipment
- Tires



Fresh Idea Blossoms into a Community Garden

Community members and dignitaries were on hand on July 10, 2020, to mark the 4th Annual Opening of the Evansburg Thrive Community Garden and celebrate the results of all the hard work by the local gardeners.

The Thrive Community Garden was created by the Thrive Committee to improve the health outcomes of residents in the Evansburg area.

An initial grant was accessed from Alberta Health Services to get the community garden underway. In addition to the purchase of outdoor exercise equipment, plans were made to develop a lot in Evansburg into a community garden.



Since 2017, the lot has expanded from 6 to 19 plots and a communal area with strawberry plants, raspberry bushes and cherry trees.

The Lobstick Literacy and Learning Society has overseen the community garden in Evansburg for the past three years, but, due to shifting mandates and capacity, Yellowhead County has taken over the day-to-day management of the garden.

Community Gardens are important in that they can be financially accessible sources of fresh produce, and encourage people to be involved in the production of their own food and building community.

In one particular study, "the social organizational underpinnings of gardens give rise to a range of social processes, including social connections, reciprocity, mutual trust, collective decision-making, civic engagement and community building, all important processes associated with improving individual health and strengthening neighbourhoods."

Yellowhead County is proud to support the community to continue to offer this resource to Evansburg and area residents.



Asphalt fun for all wheel types!

We hope to see you and your family safely enjoying these remarkable all-wheel-welcome playgrounds!

Asphalt pump tracks are an entirely new phenomenon across Canada – Yellowhead County is one of the first municipalities in the province to construct them. The layout of each pump track focuses on the natural features of each allotted community space—and that makes each pump track unique to its community.

Summer Explorer Passport Location!
#YHCsummer2020
#exploreYellowhead
#LeavItPristine

New County Pump Track to be built in Robb

The newest installment in the cross-county pump track network is in Robb, and its building comes courtesy of a Community Benefit Agreement between the county and Trans Mountain. This generous industry partner has allotted a \$140,000 investment for the pump track's construction.



Tons of fun for all skill levels!

Yellowhead County chose to work with Velosolutions, a global leader in pump tracks and trail building, resulting in a several top quality, on-of-a-kind tracks!

Fun for all ages and skill levels. New pump tracks are a hit!

The county's pump track network became a reality some five years ago, when council and the Parks and Recreation Department staff identified an opportunity to offer our communities a new and unheard-of recreation opportunity.

Unsurprisingly, it has been met with applause across all of the county's communities, and even from other municipalities that are considering building pump tracks of their own!

Today, no matter which Yellowhead County community you visit, you're bound to see kids (and even some young-at-heart adults) happily cruising on these asphalt tracks. Watching riders use their body's natural momentum makes for a unique sight, as one can lap the tracks without a push or pedal of the foot. What's more, the track is accommodating of the gamut of riders, from BMX bikers to skaters and scooters!

Yellowhead County is happy to announce we'll have pump tracks or a new bike park in nearly all of the county's hamlets from east to west!

Send in your summer photos or post and tag us on social media!

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

Yellowhead County
Photo Contest!
Summer Explorer Passport



Summer Explorer Passport Location!
#YHCsummer2020
#exploreYellowhead
#LeaveItPristine
Find the red dots in this newsletter for more locations!

More details on YHCOUNTY.CA/SummerPhotos



Yellowhead County

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

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

Office Locations
Edson Office (Main)
2716 - 1st Avenue
Edson, AB T7E 1N9

Hours of Operation
Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wildwood Office
53404 Rge Rd 92A
Wildwood, AB

After-Hours Emergency

Utilities, Bylaw, Transportation: 780-723-3221

Visit the new Yellowhead County website at www.yhcounty.ca

